

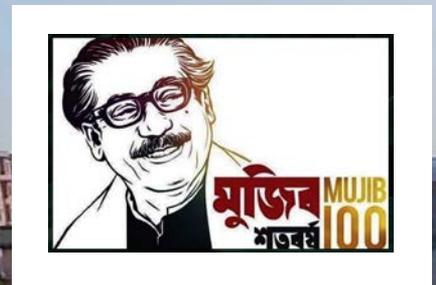
June 2020

CONNEXION

Tech ♦ Service ♦ Development ≡

Mobile tower radiation exposure not harmful for human health and environment

-BTRC





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>> Editorial Board

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Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.)

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The new coronavirus or COVID-19 has put Bangladesh in a difficult situation like the rest of the world. But life does not stop, our path does not halt. Limited movement and work are going on from inside the house. Those involved in the mobile industry are working day and night to provide telecommunication services to the people of the country. In the meantime, the AMTOB newsletter ConneXion has been published. In it, we have highlighted some contemporary issues.

The country's mobile telecom industry has been facing some difficulties for quite some time over the so-called harmful aspects of mobile tower radiation. A misconception has arisen among people that the electromagnetic waves generated from the antennas of mobile networks are harmful to the human body and the environment. While this rumour is not entirely new, its impact has grown significantly recently.

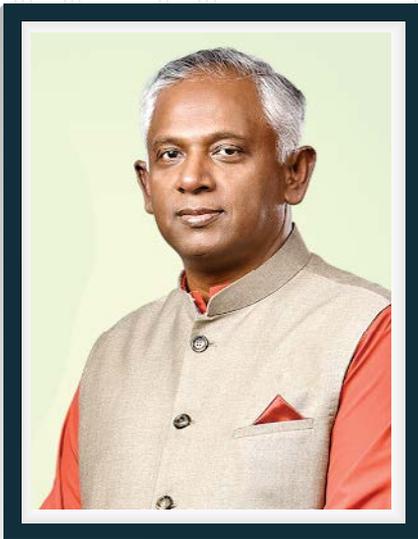
Addressing the issue AMTOB organized a discussion program at the initiative of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in which senior officials of the regulatory body, academia and other experts in the field took part. BTRC recently conducted a nationwide survey on tower radiation levels. We expect that misunderstandings will come to an end and people will use the best aspects of technology.

In this issue of ConneXion, we have discussed in detail the non-ionized nature of mobile radiation, which we hope, will benefit the policymakers and those involved in the telecommunications sector. There are presentations on mobile sector budget proposals; Besides, other regular items including interviews of leading personalities of the sector have been covered.

Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.)
Secretary General, AMTOB



AMTOB President's Message



"Bangladesh is going through a unprecedented time now. On behalf of the country's mobile telecom industry, our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives on COVID-19 infection in the last few months. And I wish that those who have been physically or financially affected get quickest recovery.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, mobile services in Bangladesh have become the driving engine for all types of digital communication. Employees working at all levels of the mobile service operators have been working relentlessly to ensure the telecommunication and digital services reach uninterruptedly to the 'self-quarantined' people. As AMTOB President, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every employee working in this sector.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the Government for declaring the telecom sector as an emergency service, a timely initiative. Without this decision, it would be difficult to deliver mobile services to the doorsteps of the customers. However, many customers are experiencing difficulties for mobile top-ups. I hope there will be no such problem in future.

It is true that the infection of COVID-19 has put various negative effects on the mobile sector. In addition, the sector has long been overwhelmed by various unresolved issues with the Government and Regulatory Agencies which include additional taxes, audit objections etc. This is the time to focus on solving the identified problems. Otherwise, the uncertainty that is weakening the entire mobile industry might have a devastating impact on other sectors of the economy."

Mahtab Uddin Ahmed
President, AMTOB

>> AMTOB Board

Mahtab Uddin Ahmed

Managing Director and
Chief Executive Officer
Robi Axiata Limited

Erik Aas

Chief Executive Officer
Banglalink Digital Communications
Limited

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Chief Executive Officer
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Mehboob Chowdhury

Chief Executive Officer
Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited
(Citycell)

Md. Shahab Uddin

Managing Director
Teletalk Bangladesh Limited

Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.)

Secretary General, AMTOB

>> About AMTOB

Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB) is a national trade body representing all mobile telecom operators in Bangladesh. AMTOB has emerged as the official voice for the Bangladesh mobile Industry for interacting with relevant government agencies, regulators, financial institutions, civil society, technical bodies, media and other national and international organizations. It provides a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas between the stakeholders and industry actors for the development of mobile telecom industry through public private dialogue. AMTOB facilitates an environment which is conducive for its members and industry stakeholders with a view to establish a world class cellular infrastructure for delivering benefits of affordable mobile telephony services to the people of Bangladesh to eliminate digital divide.



Mobile tower radiation exposure not harmful for human health and environment

- BTRC

Mobile tower radiation has created a kind of confusion and panic among the people in the country for quite some time. Their concern is that the rays emitted from the antenna of the tower is harmful to the human body and the environment. But a high-tech antennas do nothing but produce the same amount of heat as a 100-watt electric lamp does. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and AMTOB jointly organized a discussion styled- 'Tower radiation measurement and recent survey' conducted at a city hotel on February 17, 2020. The discussion brief has been illustrated here for our ConneXion readers.

Md. Aminul Hasan

Commissioner, Spectrum Division, BTRC

“We have already conducted the mobile tower radiation survey and examined its effect in many places of the country and the survey will continue in future. You all know that the radiation that emits from tower has been found to be very satisfactory, which we regularly publish on the BTRC website. If you want to get better services in the future, there is no option to set up more mobile sites.” There is a lot of ‘rumor’ about tower radiation which is completely baseless. We have already confirmed to the government, private companies or building owners about not to be afraid, he said.



Dr. Satya Prasad Majumder

Professor, EEE, BUET

The BTRC is conducting a survey on mobile tower radiation across the country and it is found below the international standards, which is very satisfying. The rumor which is already created regarding the tower radiation needs to be controlled. Because we have to move forward with technology. There is nothing to fear about it.

He called on the BTRC to continue the survey and take appropriate steps to eliminate public misperception. The misconception will remove if the survey continues and publish the report regularly.

Dr. Majumder said that people who are spreading the rumor against the tower radiation are not supported by any survey.

Brig. Gen. Md. Shahidul Alam

Director General, Spectrum division, BTRC

The level of radiation that is transmitted through mobile networks in the country is far below than the national and international standards. It is safe. The radiation that spreads through mobile networks is not harmful to the human body or the environment.

Often we receive complaints about the installation of the tower from many people.

They say that they are having various problems due to mobile radiation. Some people do not allow them to put towers on the roofs of their houses. We tell them there is nothing wrong with the tower. You can be sure that it will not harm you.



Dr. Shamsuzzoha

Deputy Director

Engineering & Operations Division, BTRC

Radiation is of two types - ionizing and non-ionizing. Ionizing radiation is harmful to health that includes nuclear waste, ultraviolet rays of the sun, gamma-rays or x-rays. They are capable of modifying DNA levels in the body.

On the other hand, mobile radiation is non-ionizing. Its strength is very low, so it has no health risks. There are national and international specific standards regarding the EMF radiation of appliances used in mobile towers, and we have found that radiation of mobile towers in the country is below the minimum prescribed limit.

We have conducted surveys in many areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sundarbans, Feni, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Rangpur, Jamalpur, etc. and so far, there has not been much radiation more than the standard limits.

If there would have been sufficient numbers of well-planned towers, it will scatter the radiation of low energy which is much safer. We hope that the public confusion over this tower radiation will be removed. I saw bird nests on several towers while surveying. These birds have been there and started breeding for a long time. Many gardens have been there on the roof and are producing good vegetables.

S. M. Nazmul Hasan

Director, Marketing
Huawei Technologies
(Bangladesh) Limited

We ensure international standards and do thorough testing accordingly. Furthermore, we are provided certifications from various international standardization organisations. Internationally we provide the same equipment for any operator. The planning and on field deployment is orchestrated by the operator abiding by the rules of the land, i.e. regulation.



Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd)

Secretary General, AMTOB

We will require more sites when 5G will be introduced.. So, there is no reason to halt technology just by being scared; then we will fall far behind.

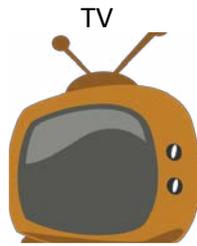
It is very frustrating to spread the rumor that there is a harm to human health via radiation exposure from mobile phone set and mobile network tower which is not true at all. Some people feel that their health is at risk due to the rooftop towers and some of them are asking for removing those. We assure them that the radiation of the mobile tower does not do any harm. Mobile operators of Bangladesh use the same technology used in mobiles all over the world.

Non-Ionizing Radiation

It does not contain enough energy to break the structure of the molecule
 Most of its energy is reflected in the body or passes by

Do the mobile towers and phones emit electromagnetic radiation?

Yes, they do. All other electronic devices emit electromagnetic radiation



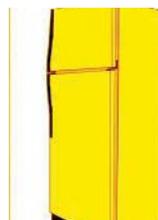
TV



Laptop



Air cooler



Refrigerator

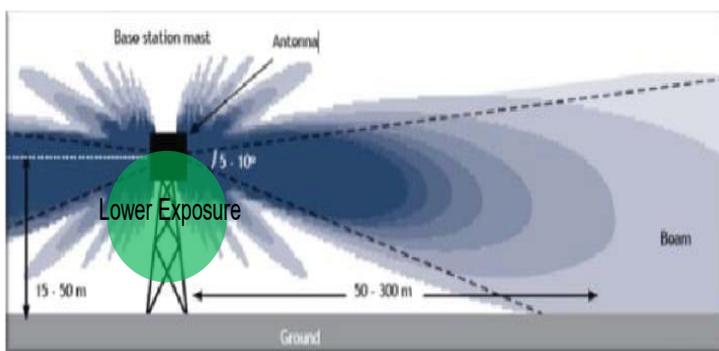
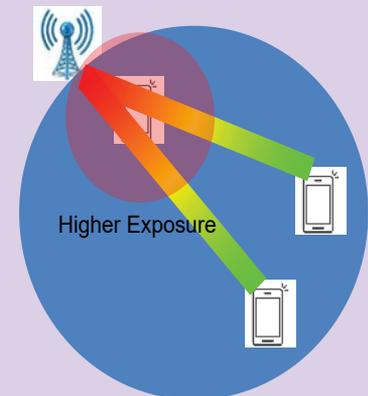
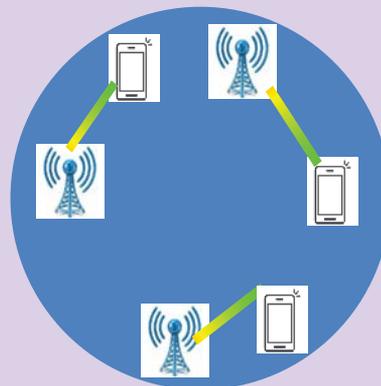


Router



Is reducing the number of towers the real solution?

No. This may even create the possibility to emit higher levels of radiation than needed



Propagation of "main beam" from antenna mounted on a tower or roof top

Is the building where tower is installed emit more radiation?

- No. Rather, the building below the tower emits very low levels of radiation, considering the antenna's signal propagation, height and distance.
- So, removing towers from hospitals, offices, homes, etc. is not a solution, but it will create network problems.

Slide courtesy : BTRC

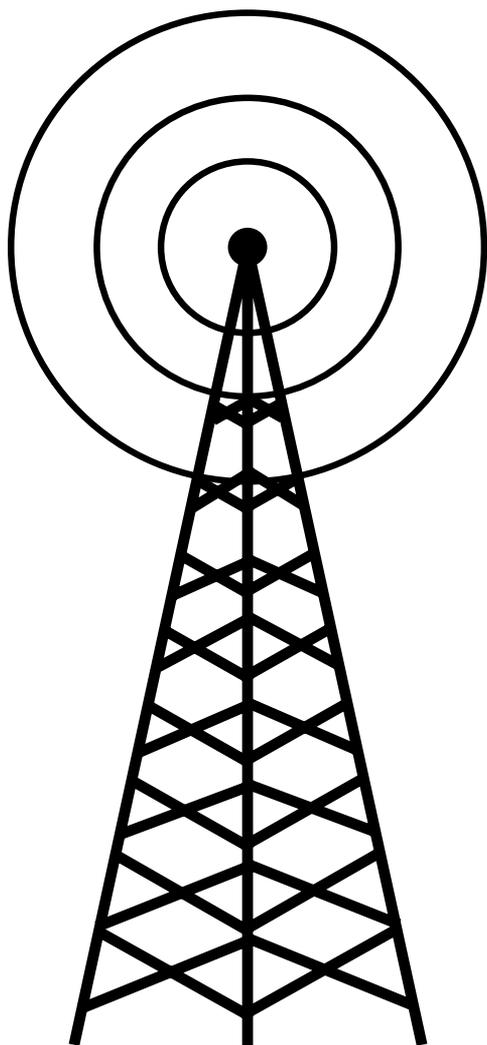
Fact Sheet

Although many studies have examined the potential health effects of non-ionizing radiation from radar, microwave ovens, cell phones, and other sources, there is currently no consistent evidence that non-ionizing radiation increases cancer risk in humans— EU Committee

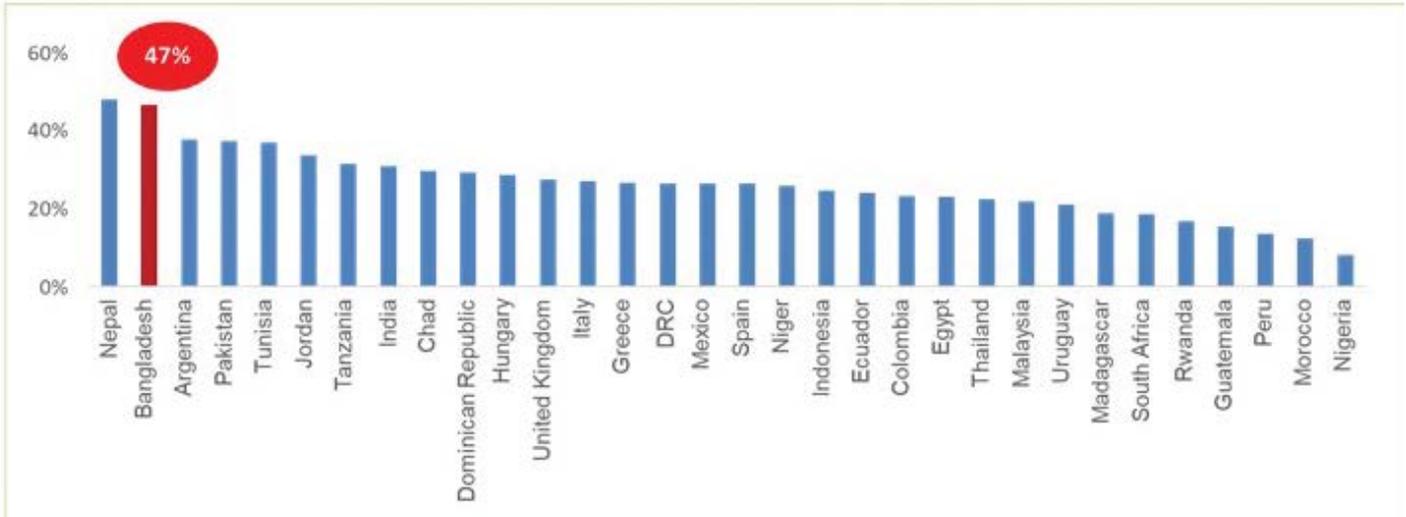
The only consistently recognized biological effect of radiofrequency radiation in humans is heating.....There are no other clearly established effects on the human body from radiofrequency radiation
— NCI, USA

Studies performed to date have found little evidence of EMF effects on fauna at levels below ICNIRP's guideline levels
— WHO

Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects—WHO

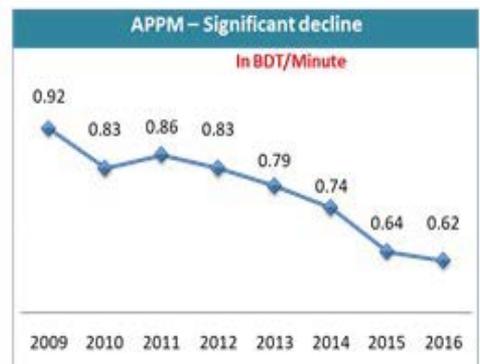
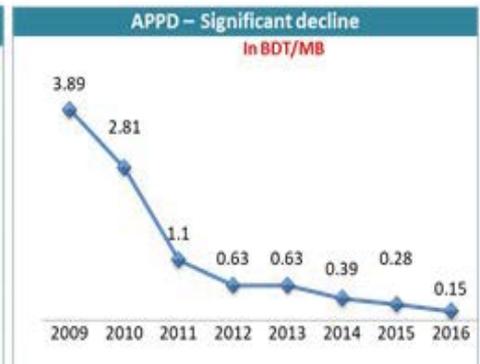
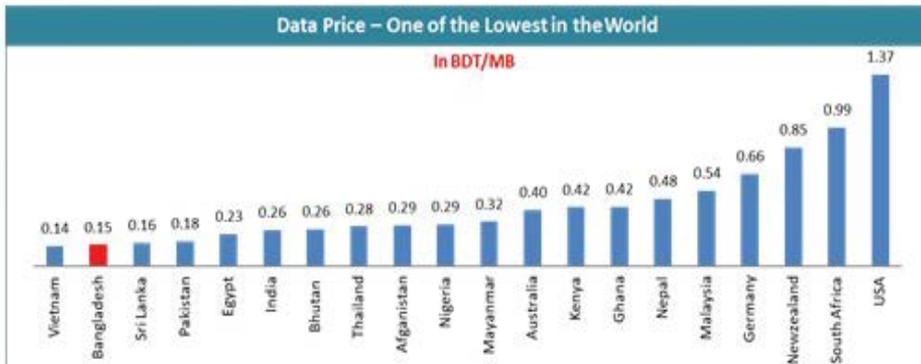


Mobile industry in Bangladesh: the world's top taxpayer



Mobile service providers pay 47% to 53% of total revenue to the government

But the average income and the cost of services are the lowest





Proper tax reform can increase MNO's contribution to GDP significantly

MNO's contribution to the GDP in Bangladesh is currently 7%, which may significantly increase with proper Tax policy reform. Recently AMTOB has placed its budget proposal to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, AMTOB President, said, "The whole country is facing unprecedented challenges due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and telecom eco-system is no different. In the situation, telecommunication has become the backbone of all sorts of communication, businesses, entertainment, etc. We promise to keep serving the nation during the crisis, and as we have done before. However, since the sector has already been going through multiple issues regarding Taxation, it is time to find solutions to them in encouraging the industry to add more value to the nation in the coming days"

Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.), AMTOB Secretary-General said, "Licensing segmentation of the MNOs over the period has narrowed down the growth opportunities; thus, it limits the growth opportunity for government's revenue stream as well. At the same time, imposing VAT deduction at source according to the VAT law of 1991 will also increase revenue. 4G penetration is still very slow in the country due to the high price of the compatible handset, which requires special attention."

S M Farhad also said, "To ascertain the consequence of COVID-19 is still difficult, but the mobile service will face huge challenges shortly if the regulatory, Tax and VAT related issues are not addressed immediately. The coronavirus situation is already negatively impacting the operators by substantial dent in revenue. We solemnly request the government to consider our proposals so that the industry can help the country with its full potentials and contribute more to the national GDP.

AMTOB requests NBR to consider the following major issues:

1. Elimination of SIM Tax: Current BDT 200 per SIM Tax is a major barrier for MNOs to take the service to the lower-income generating people. Elimination of the SIM tax regime will support mobile penetration in deep rural areas for the greater benefit of the national economy and the telecommunication industry.
2. Rationalization of Corporate Income Tax: Current corporate tax for the mobile industry in Bangladesh is 45%, which is 22% in India, 30% in Pakistan and Nepal, 28% in Sri Lanka, and 20% in Afghanistan. AMTOB requests to rationalize the corporate tax to 30%, the same rate as the standard for other companies in Bangladesh.
3. Eliminate Minimum Turnover/Corporate Tax: Minimum Turnover Tax is against the spirit of Income Tax. Operators who are incurring loss or generating profit less than 2% of their revenue, are paying this tax from the equity injected by shareholders. MNOs request to eliminate minimum turnover/corporate tax to foster sustainability of the industry.
4. VAT Exemption for government regulatory agencies, including BTRC: The new VAT and SD Act, 2012 do not have specific guidelines for VAT exemption for government regulatory agencies. Government agencies and regulators are not following the VAT regulation. Regulatory agencies are demanding or collecting VAT without registration and are not issuing any VAT Challan, which goes against the principle of VAT law. AMTOB proposes VAT exemption for government regulatory agencies to ensure consistency in regulation, which will reduce complexity, non-value adding administration, and avoid potential disputes for both parties, the NBR, and the operators.
5. Elimination of Double Taxation: MNOs of Bangladesh pay 5.5% of their gross revenue as Revenue Sharing and 1% Social Obligation Fund (SOF) to BTRC. At the initial stage, VAT is paid for the revenue, which is shared with BTRC. If VAT is paid again for the same revenue that is shared with BTRC, then it will be double-taxed, which is ultra vires of the VAT law. Revenue sharing should be VAT exempted from the ground of double Taxation, AMTOB proposes.



Connectivity key in tackling Covid-19 pandemic

Connectivity is becoming essential to fulfil the standards of the “New Normal”. CEO of Grameenphone Yasir Azman believes that connectivity is playing an important role in terms of conducting public lives during this Covid-19 pandemic. He recently discussed the Coronavirus situation and other relevant issues in an interview with Connection.

Yasir Azman said, “Bangladesh, similar to the rest of the world, is going through a turbulent time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has greatly affected our daily lives and is hampering essential daily routines such as grocery shopping; even children are not being able to attend schools. We are experiencing a new reality. However, impossible it may sound; we are adapting to these new habits quite rapidly. From performing office works to providing education to purchasing essentials, everything is now being conducted online. However, there are some major exceptions to these. Though, offices and schools might be operating at some level, but the livelihood of many people associated has not retained the normalcy. The marginal population of society is suffering the most. In contrast, the responsibilities of services falling under the emergency category have increased manifold.

When asked about how the telecom operators have responded to this situation, he said, “The telecom operators fall under the emergency service provider category. Our core challenge is to ensure constant connectivity. Similar to the approach to any other natural disaster, the operators are performing at their optimum to continue service provision. Needless to say, mobile telecom service is crucial to communicate with the loved ones in any part of the country and even outside the country. Also, 95 percent of the country’s internet accessibility is steered through mobile services. Apart from these, mobile data is being used to track the infected population along with conducting numerous other technical operations.”

He added, “The telecom operators, apart from their regular duties, have taken a forward stance to stand beside the people and the government. The operators are working tirelessly in partnership with various government divisions and organizations. For example, recently, I attended an online conference graced by the honorable Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mustafa Jabbar, Anir Chowdhury of a2i, senior officials of BTRC, chief executives of the four telecom operators along with others. This swift conference was held as a response to the COVID situation. All the telecom operators participated. And we are ensuring our best support.

Needless to say, no one was ready for this special situation. However, we have a very big scope to contribute to tackle coronavirus. Grameenphone has been working with various government and non-government organizations including A2i, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, BTRC, NTMC, WHO, UNICEF, BRAC from the very beginning to overcome this situation. We believe that if such a pandemic is to be truly tackled, then everyone must come forward together. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister has also said the same thing. There is no substitute of joint efforts to stand by the people. From the very beginning, Grameenphone has taken various steps as required with these organizations. As you may know, we have launched a BDT 100 crore assistance program through which we are assisting as per requirement at different stages. Public awareness is the most vital tool to deal with corona. We have created awareness regarding various campaigns of WHO and the government on the social media pages of Grameenphone.

Health workers are going through a difficult time not only in Bangladesh but all over the world. In the second phase of our activities, with the help of the Department of Health, we decided on how to help them; especially, those who are in ICU or serving patients very closely. As per the plan, we are distributing 50,000 professional PPE (full set) to government-designated hospitals. Another challenge is the availability of Corona test kits. We have promised to help the government with 10,000 kits, and we are working on it. We have more integrated initiatives through which we are helping other organizations as well.

We also identified that there are about 25,000 doctors certified by the DG Health providing treatment to the corona sufferers.

Additionally, during this time of distress, marginalized people across the country have lost the ability to afford food. The day laborers and the extremely poor of the society are suffering the most. With this in mind, we started communicating with different organizations and individuals. As I said before, this is a dilemma that can’t be dealt with alone. Therefore, Grameenphone has



provided financial assistance of BDT 15 crore to BRAC's Emergency Food Assistance Fund, which will reach 1 lakh affected families, each receiving BDT 1500. With this money, a family of four will be able to buy emergency food for at least two weeks. Through this initiative titled 'Dakche Amar Desh', we are appealing to all the individuals and organizations who can afford to extend a helping hand. In this time of crisis, we will be able to reach a larger number of people together; those who need help the most at this moment. You will be happy to know that several organizations in the country have extended a helping hand to us in this endeavor and many more have pledged to come forward."

Regarding Grameenphone's initiative, The CEO said, "The current situation is posing a big challenge for Grameenphone. The government has already declared the telecommunications sector as an emergency service. We are trying to be very careful and efficient and so far, we have been able to maintain the quality of the network. Our main goal during this time is to keep the network services up to date, ensure quality customer service and keep the distribution channel functional. Additionally, Grameenphone has planned to give maximum benefits to the customers during this crisis. We have to be mindful that, if we can't keep the network active and ensure quality service, many businesses will be threatened. Also, Grameenphone plans to offer maximum benefits to its customers during the pandemic. During this ever evolving situation, we have seen that many of our customers could not recharge in April, or many of them did not have a minimum balance. We have given ten crore minutes of free talk time to one crore such identified customers. This initiative will help valued customers in emergency communications with their loved ones. Moreover, as an emergency service provider during this crisis, the minimum call rate for all customers from 8 am to 12 noon has been 48 paisa per minute. Grameenphone has assessed the potential data requirement in case of a prolonged shutdown. Since, the country's major economic activities, businesses and emergency services are operating based on the internet, we have announced a 100 percent bonus on all weekly data packs purchased from the MyGP app. Apart from these, we have initiated free balance transfer and extended account validity time period.

Considering the situation, we may bring more benefits to the customers. We always want to serve customers according to their needs. And through this, we have gained the confidence of seven and a half crore people. We feel that our greatest responsibility is to stand by our customers in these difficult times. At the end of the day, the

customer's trust is the driving force of Grameenphone.

Telecom operators are using technology to help the government. In this context, he said, technology has the opportunity to play the biggest role in combating coronavirus. Mobile operators are working in collaboration with a2I, DGHS Ministry of Health, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, BTRC and MNCs. Corona outbreaks can be easily diagnosed using mobile data analytics. It is also possible to know the commuting information of the affected people using Big Data. Field level health workers are conducting tests by screening the two hotline numbers (333/16263) of DG Health. Social networking data is being used to identify areas where the number of victims is high.

Telecom operators are working behind this initiative of a2I as mobile data analytics is helping to find if the prevalence of the virus is increasing or decreasing in accordance to time and location. Based on these information, various social security measures are being taken to identify the person affected by Coronavirus."

Regarding spectrum and the government's help, Yasir Azman said, "Firstly, Grameenphone has never disagreed regarding acquiring spectrum from the government. Spectrum is a national resource and the government should get revenue from this at a reasonable price through a transparent process. Everyone in the telecommunications sector agrees that the price of spectrum in Bangladesh is very high and that is why Grameenphone has been talking about allocating spectrum at an affordable price. The current situation will see a massive expansion of digitization in the new world. We see how the world is working on home-office based solutions through digital services. Internet use is on the rise, on a both personal and commercial level. We are now seeing the initial effects of that. Like the rest of the world, Covid-19 will have a detrimental effect on the economy of Bangladesh, and we need to find a way out of this situation quickly where digitization will play a very important role in economic recovery. There will be many changes in our life after Covid-19. Our skills will change, which will have to be internet-based. Every business will increase the use of Internet-based platforms to sustain business growth. So, the use of the internet will increase a lot. The affordable spectrum will help mobile operators to meet the potential needs of customers. As a result, the revenue contribution of the telecommunications sector to the economy will increase, and the



government will reap the real benefits. In this time of crisis, we are assessing the real need for the telecommunications sector. If investment in this sector can be encouraged through policy reforms, the revenue in the government treasury will increase.

We need to bring more people under the mobile services. Inclusion in mobile financial services should bring everyone into social security measures so that digital services can be ensured among all. However, SIM tax is still a big hurdle here. We believe that reducing the SIM tax will not reduce the revenue of the government, but if the number of customers increases with the reduction of tax, the revenue of the government will increase much more at the end of the day. As mobile subscribers grow, so do economic impacts. Therefore, SIM tax should be reduced in the interest of overall economic growth. Grameenphone has been providing telecommunication services in Bangladesh for a long time. We think that now is the time for the government and the mobile services sector to come forward together to overcome all obstacles, prepare for the future and contribute to the development and recovery of our beloved country."

Regarding the post-corona future, he said, "It's hard to say right now. But I can say that Bangladesh needs to come back stronger. A lot will change. Many new things need to be accepted naturally in our lives."

The effects of corona are not limited to low income population and those living below the poverty line. Many sectors such as airlines, hotels, tourism, energy, housing, garments, entertainment and many more will face the crisis. Innovative measures are required to overcome the future crisis. The skills we need will also change. We have to be ready in a new way. What is normal in today's developed world will become normal in our digital Bangladesh as well. We need to think positively regarding all these aspects.

Many things will not go back to the previous state. So many of us are now forced to think about how to adapt to this new normal. However, those who do not have the ability to accept the change, they too have to fall inline; otherwise, our post Covid efforts will be ineffective.

The new changes must be accepted collectively, not excluding anyone. With mobile technology, innovation, digital governance, private-public partnerships, along with our youth and their innovative energy, we need to prove that it is good for us to accept these changes naturally.



Huawei is continuing its efforts in building Digital Bangladesh

Zhang Zhengjun, Chief Executive Officer, Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Limited

Huawei is fully committed to the customers in terms of bringing digital to every person, home, and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world. And as Huawei provides end-to-end solutions like system, chips, CPE/smart devices in telecom networks, IT and cloud services across the world, it has turned into the leading global ICT solutions provider.

2019 was an extraordinary year for Huawei. We ensured our supreme position in bringing 5G technologies and its rollout. We shipped 240+ million units of smartphones in 2019 and gained 17.6% of the total global market share, cementing Huawei's position as the world's second-largest smartphone maker.

Not only that! Huawei's has put forward The Seamless AI Life strategy. Huawei Mobile Services (HMS) service ecosystem has attracted over 1.3 million registered developers. And more than 55,000 applications connected to HMS Core. This ecosystem has covered more than 170 countries and regions, serving 600+ million Huawei device users.

This kind of significant contribution to the ICT industry helped us to be ranked in top 10 as 2020's Most Valuable Global Brand with 65 billion USD Value.

And now if look into Bangladesh, for the last few months, the telecom industry was slightly sporadic. However, things are heading towards a positive direction now and I believe this positive trend will open up the doors for potential growth in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, we have been working closely with the ICT industry, telecom carriers and local partners in the past 21 years as a localized leading global ICT solutions providers. We witnessed and participated in transformations from 2G, 3G and 4G networks.

Data center services to our different kinds of government and non-government customers, providing IP cameras and equipment for free WiFi zones under Digital Sylhet Project, full stake solutions to country's leading mobile financial services are some important engagements from our part in this business market.

Our AI-based cloud service has been launched here as well. Moreover, Huawei also has provided virtual desktop solutions to many educational institutions including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University (BDU) to build up smart classrooms to educate the future generation. We are also working in the power sector. So, in a holistic view, we are trying to contribute to Digital Bangladesh in many ways.

ICT has a big influence. It can be directly connected to SDG goals like Quality Education; Gender Equality; Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; Sustainable City and Community; Climate Action including Good Health and well-being and so on. Being a Global ICT

solution and equipment provider, Huawei certainly finds its roles to contribute to meeting SDG goals.

For example, to fight COVID-19, Huawei is providing technological services in artificial intelligence (AI), video conferencing, wireless network coverage and smartphones across Asia Pacific countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh. It is helping on-ground communication challenges, ensuring connectivity and supporting essential services.

Under a partnership government and another stakeholder, we are working in bringing ICT training to around 65,000 girls of remote areas by Digital Mobile Training Bus and it will be continued.

Huawei is also working with Bangladesh Government's 'Info-Sarker' project to ensure network coverage in the whole country up to union Level. And to ensure a safe and sustainable city concept we are here with smart city solutions which have already been introduced in Sylhet.

But to me, the most important mechanism for a country is how its new generation is growing up with access to knowledge and increased capacity. So that they can contribute to the country in the long run.

Huawei is also trying to create value here. For the last five years, university students of different universities are getting the opportunity to get training at our Huawei University and research and development centers situated in China. Under this project, titled 'Seeds for the Future', students are getting the opportunity to have knowledge of the world's next technology.

The world is changing very fast. Huawei publishes different reports and whitepapers which represent global trends and future growth. So, we have already identified some areas in which we are working to play the role.

Cloud will technological advancement with superior data analytics and intelligent transformation at low cost but high agility on time to market. Thus, this year we have already brought our cloud services to Bangladesh. Our Enterprises from Bangladesh can do 85% of their applications on the cloud.

On the other hand, I want to emphasis again on youth talent development. This year Huawei officially released the Huawei ICT Academy Program 2.0. Through this program, Huawei aims to develop 2 million ICT professionals and popularize digital skills over the next five years by collaborating with universities. Huawei will set up the Huawei ICT Academy Development Incentive Fund (ADIF), with a total investment of at least US\$50 million over the next five years. In Bangladesh, we are working with universities to take forward this project. We believe this will empower the country long term significantly.





AMTOB elects Robi's Managing Director and CEO Mahtab Uddin Ahmed as new President



The apex trade body for the country's digital industry, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB) has elected Robi's Managing Director and CEO, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed as its new President. Mahtab replaces Grameenphone's outgoing CEO Michael Foley.

The association also elected Banglalink's CEO, Erik Aas, and Grameenphone's CEO, Yasir Azman as the new Sr. Vice-President and Vice-President respectively. The election was held at the Annual General Meeting of the association yesterday (Tuesday) at a city hotel.

Assuming the new role, Mahtab said, "It is an honour and privilege for me to lead an industry that is the key enabler for the implementation of Digital Bangladesh vision. I am particularly excited to note that we are going to complete the noble mission of transforming the country into a full-fledged Digital Bangladesh by 2021. Post-2021, AMTOB will have to take the lead in creating the infrastructure and ecosystem to further advance Digital Bangladesh. The industry has indeed come a long way; having connected the country, we are now in the process of laying the foundation of digital society and digital economy in order to pave the way for our passage into the era of the fourth industrial revolution."

He added, "As the President of AMTOB, I look forward to engaging with the Government, the civil society, the media and most importantly the people of the country to make

sure the country's digital journey ahead is in tune with the spirit of this great nation of ours."

Erik Aas said, "I feel really glad to take the role of AMTOB's Sr. Vice-President for this term. Bangladesh is a country of immense possibilities and the telecom industry is doing its best to transform it into a digitalized society, despite the pile of tax and regulatory challenges. AMTOB looks forward to working with the Government and the regulatory bodies to set a clear strategy to address those opportunities and challenges for further development of the country."

Yasir Azman said "Telecom industry is playing a pivotal role in building Digital Bangladesh. As a team, AMTOB will work together to unleash the potential of Govt.'s digital Bangladesh vision."

The outgoing President of AMTOB, Michael Foley was presented with a memento at the event. Yasir Azman was also welcomed as the new Director of the apex trade association for the digital industry in Bangladesh.

Teletalk's Managing Director, Md. Shahab Uddin, AMTOB's Secretary General Brig. Gen. S M Farhad (Retd.), Ericsson's Country Manager, Abdus Salam, Huawei's CEO, Zhang Zhengjun, Nokia Solutions and Networks Bangladesh's CEO, Rashed Haque, Banglalink's CCRAO, Taimur Rahman, Grameenphone's CCAO, Ole Bjorn, Robi's CCRO, Shahed Alam, and Teletalk's DGM, Md. Mamunur Rashid were present on the occasion.

Banglalink to distribute relief among 14,500 households across the country in association with Bangladesh Sena Kalyan Sangstha and Bangladesh Army



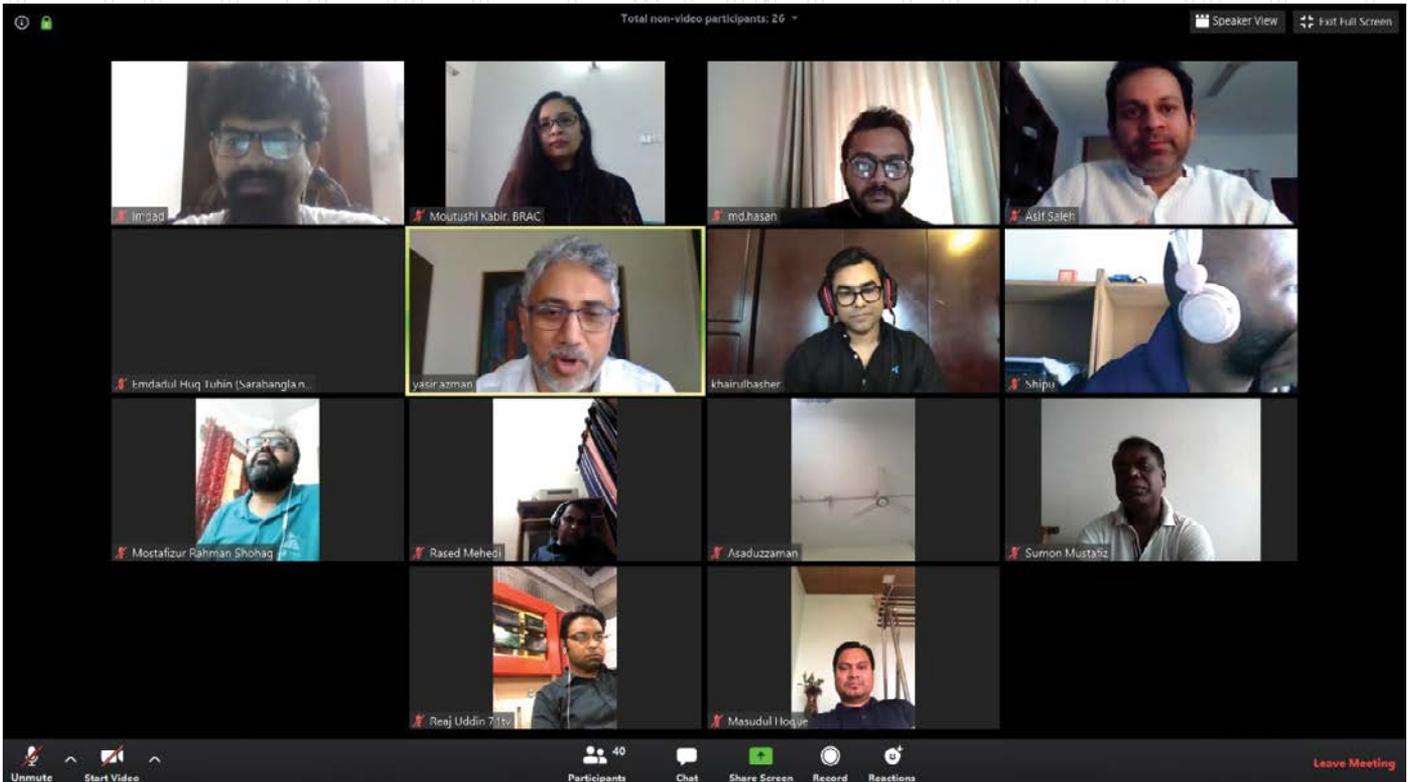



জালাবে সুখে থাকো বাংলাদেশ
 #StayHome #StayWell

Banglalink ও TutorsInc
 এর সাথে
এখন ক্লাস চলুক ঘরে বসেই



Banglalink teams up with TutorsInc. to provide students with free access to online study materials during Covid-19 crisis



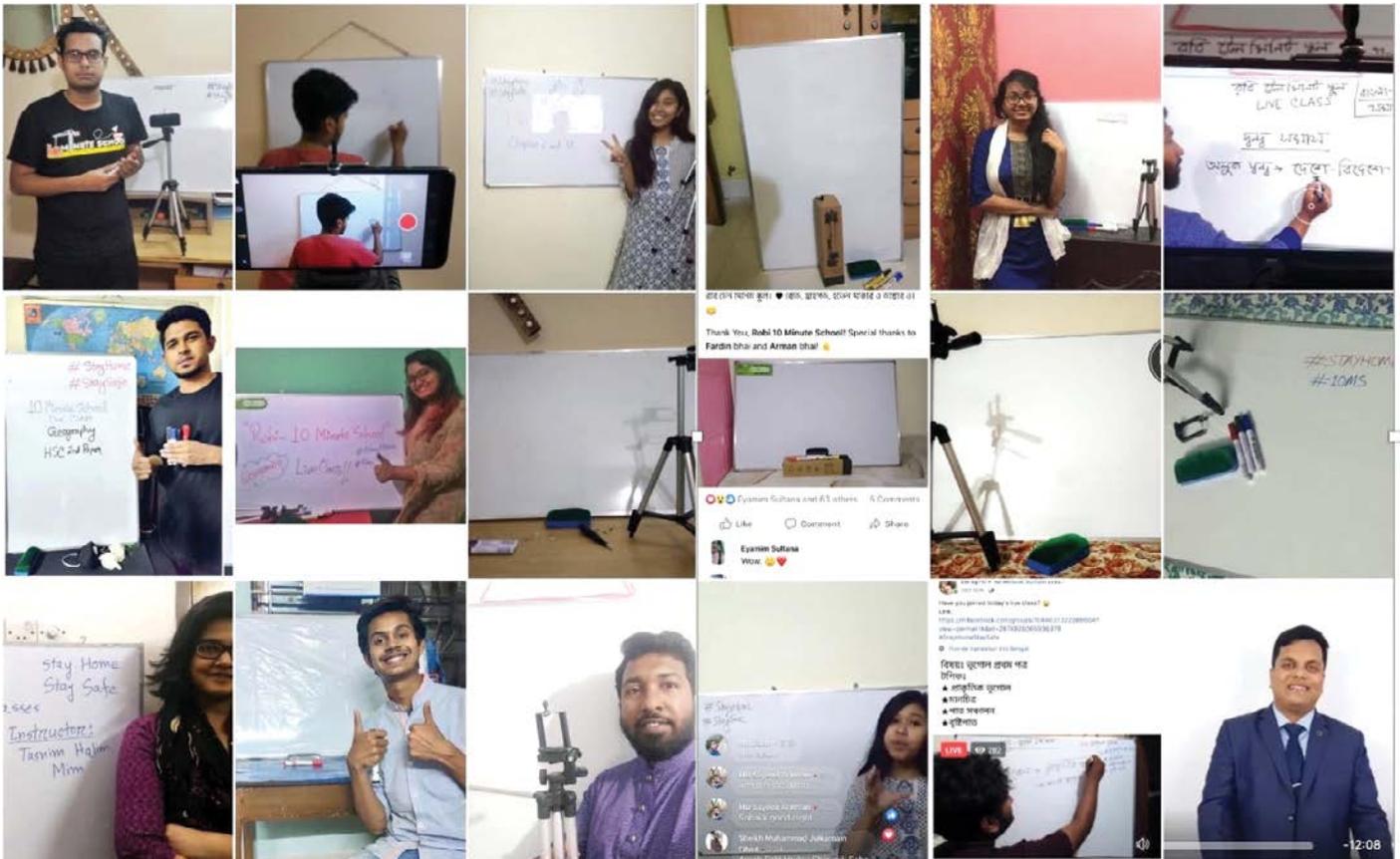
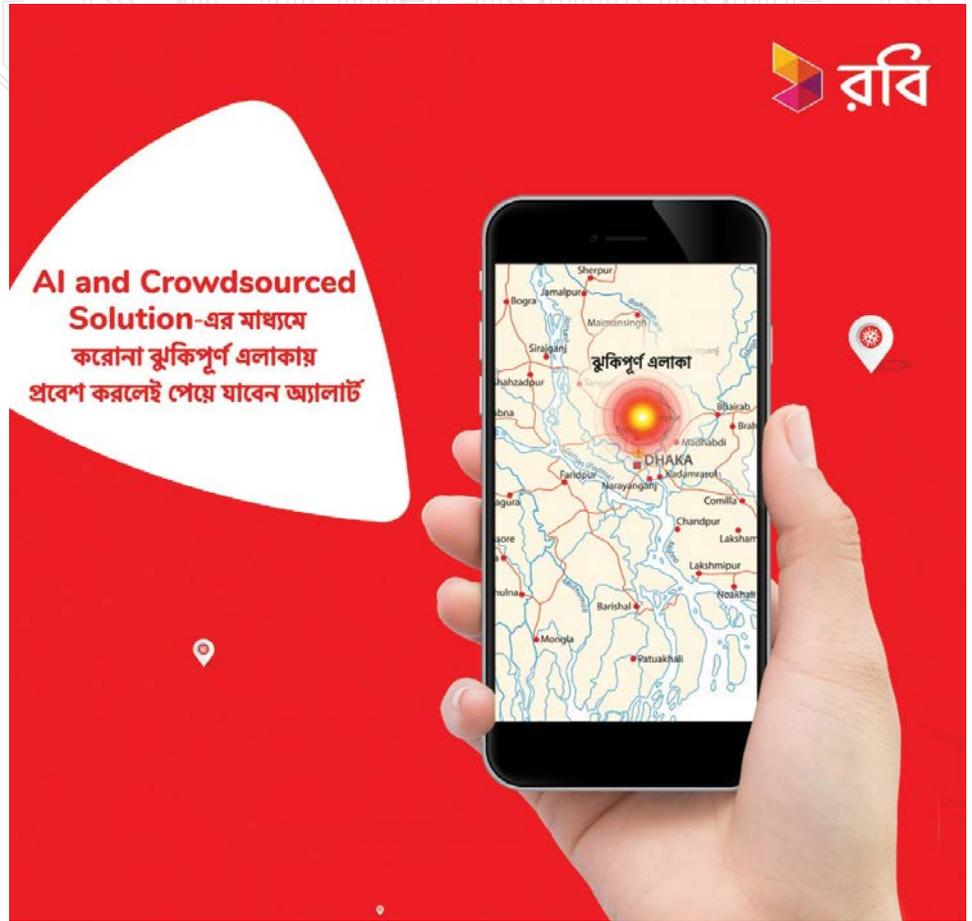
Grameenphone and BRAC launch 'Dakche Amar Desh', a joint venture to provide emergency food aid to 1 lakh families affected by COVID-19



Grameenphone announces to stand by doctors, customers and affected retailers in the fight against COVID-19. The amount of initiative promised in various activities stands equivalent to BDT 100 crore.

**AI and Crowdsourced Solution-এর মাধ্যমে
করোনা ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ এলাকায়
প্রবেশ করলেই পেয়ে যাবেন অ্যালার্ট**

Robi's real time SMS-based Corona alert service in all over the country helping to trigger a heightened mental awareness among people who are having to move around



Robi-10 Minute School, the country's largest online school is regularly broadcasting Live classes from its various digital platforms to engage the home-bound students amid the Corona pandemic situation



Hon'ble Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mustafa Jabbar with Managing Director of Teletalk Md. Sahab Uddin at the Countdown Ceremony of the Centenary of the Birth of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Md. Sahab Uddin, Managing Director of Teletalk Bangladesh Limited delivered his speech at a workshop in Bangladesh Public Service Commission.



A glimpse from the panel session on IoT & M2M blockchain at Digital Bangladesh Mela where Abdus Salam, Country Manager & VP Network Solutions, Ericsson Malaysia, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka shared his views at the forum.



A view of Ericsson pavilion at Digital Bangladesh Fair 2020.



The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh is getting video conferencing system and AI solution from Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Limited to tackle 'COVID-19' more strongly.



Recently, Bangladeshi medical experts exchanged experiences with Chinese medical experts through video conferencing on coronary heart disease. Huawei provided all the technical benefits of the event, including video conferencing solutions

The Nokia logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font on a white, arrow-shaped background pointing to the right.

Nokia has donated EURO 23,000 to the Bidyanondo Foundation and is working to set up an online learning facility, solar power and funding education for students at an Orphanage in the Bandarban district which is about 50 km away which does not have regular transportation, electricity, medical, and other basic facilities. The “Megher Bari Orphanage “ is a setup of the Bidyanondo foundation where about 120 indigenous children and 10 staff are residing. Nokia has also funded another orphanage at Ramu, Cox’s Bazar.

The Nokia logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font on a white, arrow-shaped background pointing to the left.

Red Crescent Society Bangladesh is a world renowned organization working on pressing social issues and in this crisis time Nokia has joined hands with them in the fight against COVID-19 spread by funding EURO 10,000 to buy chemicals, equipment and bear logistics expense for Disinfecting public hospitals across Bangladesh (64 districts). RCS BD is a reputed organization, which has presence of volunteers in all the districts of the country and performing this duty very efficiently.

The Nokia logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font on a white, arrow-shaped background pointing to the left.

*Image could not be provided due to COVID-19 lockdown situation



Newly elected President of AMTOB Mahtab Uddin Ahmed handed over a memento to the outgoing President Michael Foley at the association's council meeting. Other leaders of the association were also present.



AMTOB Secretary General Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.) conducts a panel discussion at Bangladesh Smart City Expo held at Bashundhara Convention City

COVID-19 related initiatives by the Mobile Operators of Bangladesh

As a government declared emergency service Mobile telecom operators in the country are ensuring uninterrupted telecom services at the doorstep of the people during COVID-19 situation. In addition to providing the services, carriers have taken several social responsibility initiatives in a difficult time.

Provide financial and food assistance



Internet

The price of the Internet has been brought down to half in some cases

Bonus on data packages duration



Awareness-raising

Awareness through dial tone of mobile

SMS Based Corona alert service



Technical assistance

Using AI, various ministries and departments of the government have been given the opportunity to update the Corona situation.



Mobile voice Service

Call rates have been slashed and call duration have been increased

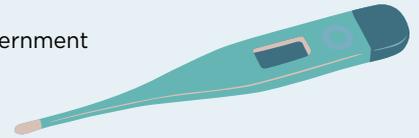
Those who could not top-up have been given talk time & data balance, and extended accounts duration



Medical supplies

Professional PPE for Doctors and health workers

Corona test kit to the government



Free services related to COVID-19

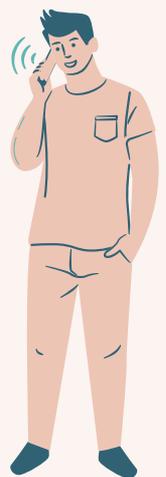
Toll-Free number facility

Free SMS

Free doctors service

Free talk-time to doctors

Free e-learning and online class



 **AMTOB**
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