

ICT BULLETIN

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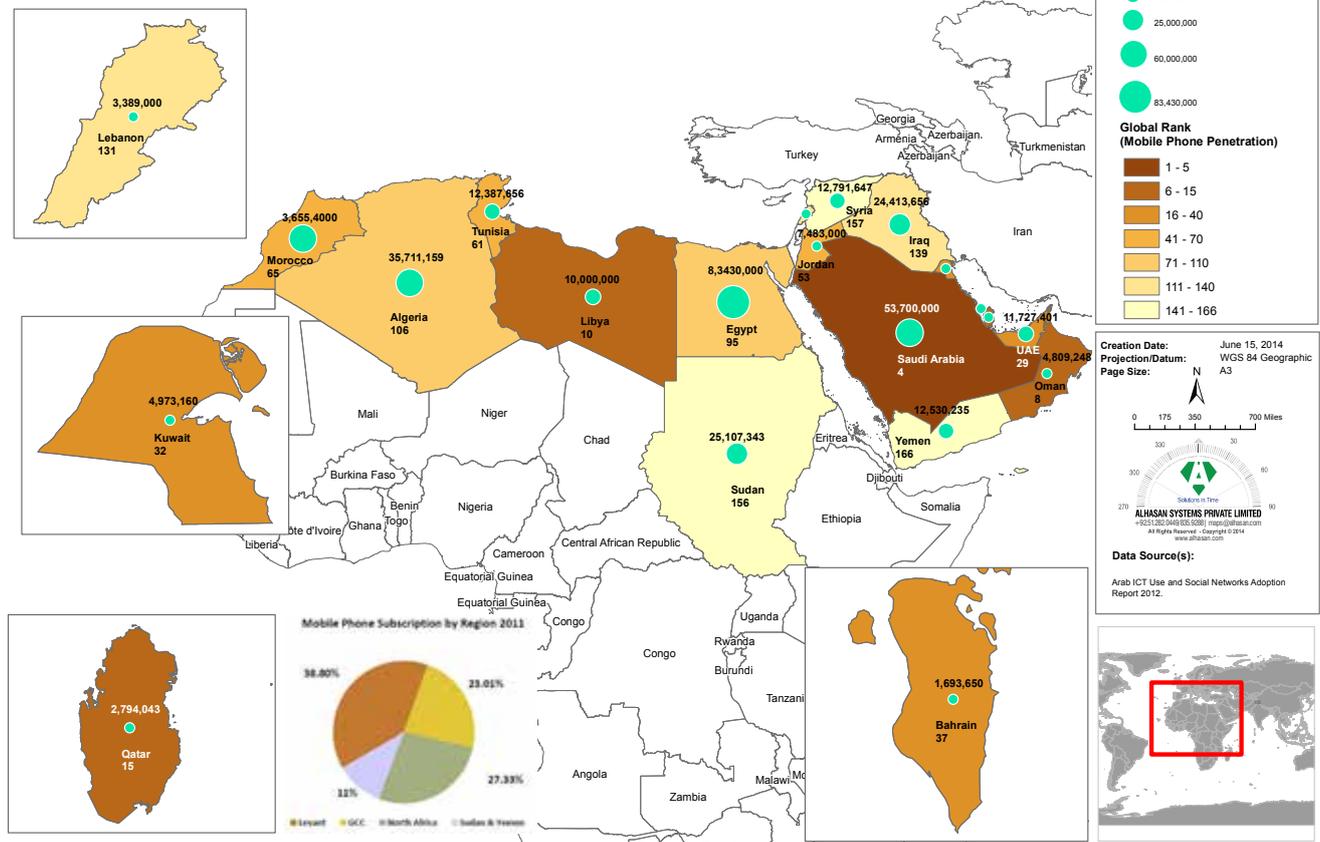
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ARAB WORLD MOBILE PHONE PENETRATION RATE



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Because Information Matters
www.immap.org



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METADATA

- Monthly Price Indices for October, 2013
- Monthly Advance releases on Foreign Trade Statistics for September, 2013

Both reports are available at <http://pbs.gov.pk>

INFOGRAPH

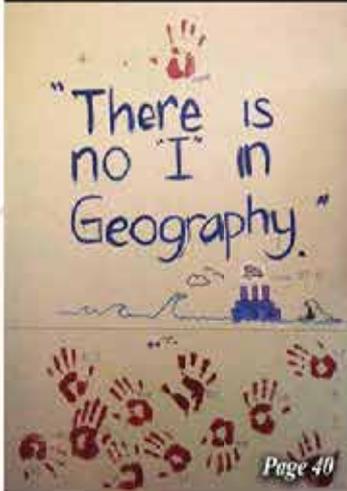
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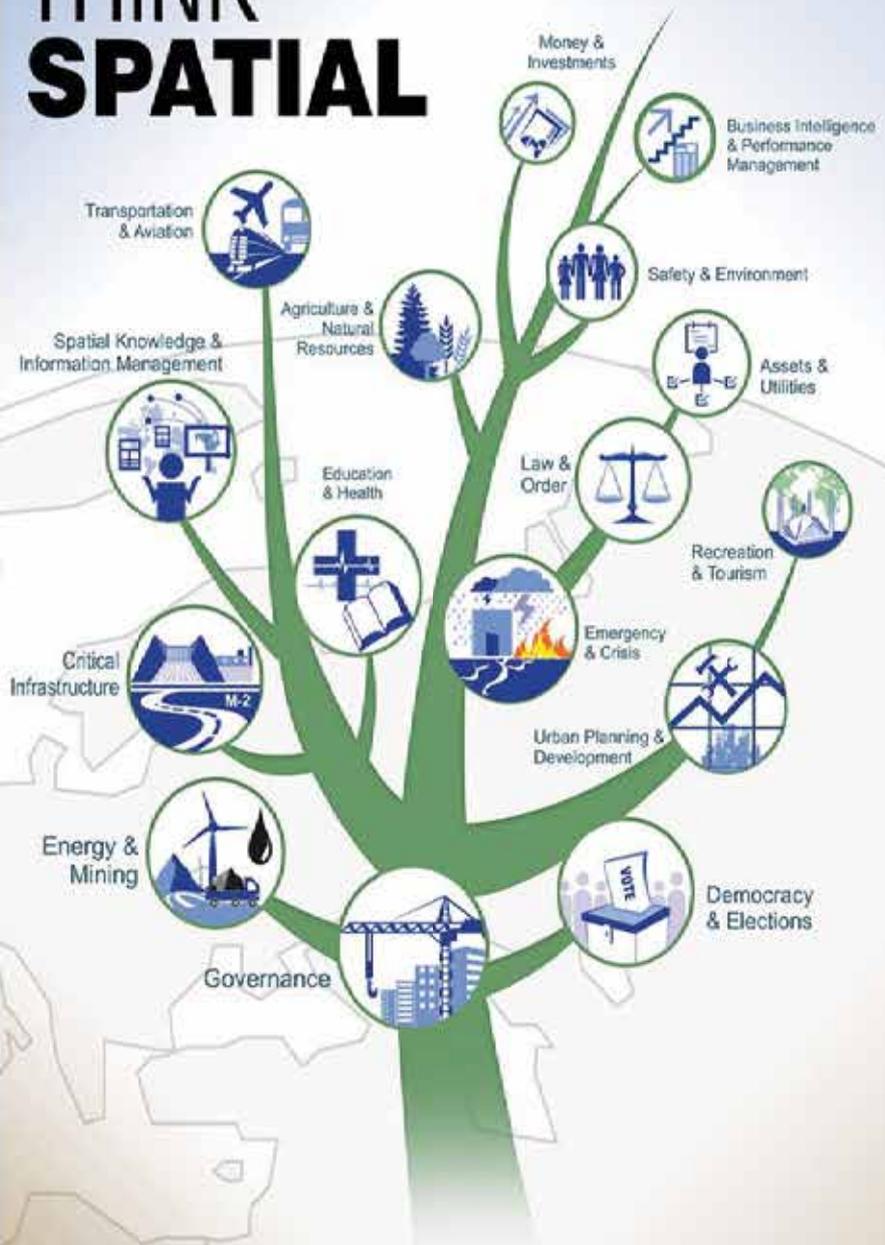
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INFOTAINMENT



THINK SPATIAL



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NEWS HEADLINES

Shifting to 3G/4G: Telcos yet to resolve technical issues

The Nation, June 29, 2014

Mobilink, NUST launch Business Plan Competition

Daily Times June 28, 2014

Mobilink facing technical snags to launch 3G commercially

Daily Times June 28, 2014

DETAILS

ISLAMABAD: After the launch of 3G/4G services, the people, who are not even using internet services, are suffering due to distortion in normal cellular services as the telecom companies are still unable to resolve all the technical issues involved in shifting from 2nd generation technology to 3rd generation or 4th generation technology. As per market sources, the people who are not using internet services are reporting complaints about call disconnections. The sources said that when they call the customer service centers of their concerned cellular service, they admit that there is a problem at the moment due to shifting of technology and that will be resolved in few days. But the sources said that when a customer has to reconnect his/her call that cost extra charges and the company take no responsibility for that financial loss. A user Arslan said that he is facing signal dropping problem for many days that disconnects call. He said that when he called the customer service center of his cellular company, they admitted that there was a problem and they were trying to resolve it.

People using 3G enabled phones are suffering from other kinds of problems. Some companies have offered a limit of 3G internet facility to its subscribers for a certain period of time. Though it is a facility the company is offering but at the same time it is costing the customers in a sense that when the limit ends, they do not receive message from the cellular company and unknowing exceed the given limit and then they have to pay for the extra charges for the internet use. Almost all the companies have set the price of 3G/4G internet very high so after exceeding the limit if an individual is using prepaid connection, he/she finds a rapid drop in balance. Otherwise, if he/she is using postpaid connection then receives huge bill. Sources believed that the companies should resolve these problems as soon as possible, and in case of financial loss of subscribers the companies should take responsibility as the law bounds them to do so.

LAHORE: Mobilink in collaboration with the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has launched Mobilink Discover-NUST Business Plan Competition 2014. The competition is organised on a national level and is aimed at encouraging students to introduce innovative business and entrepreneurship ideas. Around 2,500 students from 70 universities are expected to be a part of Mobilink Discover-NUST Business Plan Competition 2014.

Omar Manzur Director Corporate Communications Mobilink said, "Corporate as well as individual patronage has always been one of the core motives of Mobilink. This Plan provides the youth with the opportunity to showcase their skills and play their part in bringing innovation to the business industry".

KARACHI: Pakistan's largest cellular mobile operator Mobilink has been experiencing severe technical snags, resulting shutdown of Islamabad and Karachi Call Centres on Thursday night while the Company by the Regulator was not being allowed to start 3G commercial service, it has learnt.

According to reliable industry sources, Mobilink Pakistan's key customer services help line in Karachi as well Islamabad Call Centre were shut down due to anonymous reasons on Thursday night leading to sheer complications for customers. Services at Karachi Centre were restored on Friday morning while Call Centre of the Islamabad station remained shut down till Friday evening, according to the sources. Moreover, sources said the Mobilink technical department has been facing complications to provide direct 3G provisioning on individual numbers due to which the Company was not being allowed for commercial launch of 3G services by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) as the PTA is not satisfied with Mobilink's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in keeping view Quality of Service standards. This is the reason why Mobilink withheld the commercial launch of 3G services despite having above 50 percent roll out of the 3G network across the country while the Company is working strongly to resolve the issues, sources added. It said customers are experiencing difficulties to activate 3G service on their handsets while in this regard complaints of customers are not being resolved in due course of time due to shutdowns of call centres and incompetence of the technical department. Company has not been able to launch 3G services commercially despite the fact all other three 3G licensees have commenced commercial services of 3G. Resultantly, in a bid to keep customers content, the Company has been bearing huge financial losses by continuing its 3G free trial in Karachi, Faisalabad, Multan, Quetta, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar till to date while other companies had stopped free trial a month back, said sources.

According to the details, with the only Lahore Call Centre being functional, customers experienced sheer complications-facing delay to contact Customer Service Representatives as the immense load of calls from across the country was being shifted to Lahore Centre. The incident not happening first time as the call centers of Mobilink Pakistan got shut down several times in the recent past due to overloading servers, but this recent blackout was unique in term as the Company faced complete stoppage of its system in two main cities including biggest station Karachi. On the other hand Mobilink's official categorically denied the occurrence of any shutdown across the country during the said period and said all help lines of Mobilink Pakistan in three major cities were being operational on Thursday night and also on Friday. In the response to a query regarding 3G commercial launch, he said Mobilink would launch its 3G commercial services soon while he was unable to give any accurate date besides he refused to inform about the expiry date of free trial. He was unaware about any restriction for 3G

World Bank keen to invest \$45 million in MoIT project

Business Recorder, June 26, 2014

commercial service launch made from PTA.

The World Bank (WB) has indicated its willingness to invest up-to \$45 million in Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT) project on establishing technology parks in Pakistan, however Letter of Intent (LoI) is awaited. This was indicated in a one-year performance report of the MoIT, wherein the contributions made during the 2013-14 in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field were pointed out. The report states that the concept of ICT parks has been approved by the Planning Commission of Pakistan and the MoIT is in the process of preparation of PC-II in consultation with the World Bank Office in Pakistan.

Ministry of IT is in the process of shifting from small software technology parks (housing just software related firms) to holistic "ICT parks". The proposed ICT parks would be developed with state-of-the-art infrastructure aiming to bring together world-class technology in a multipurpose environment. The parks would promote academia/industry collaboration to mitigate gaps between academia and IT industry, boost IT exports and provision of cloud based ICT infrastructure. According to the report, one of the ongoing challenges confronted by MoIT is grey telephony which leads to significant revenue losses to the national exchequer. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) jointly conducted a total of 37 raids across the country since September 1, 2013, where 22 were arrested, and 170 illegal gateway equipment were confiscated. In addition, mobile numbers involved in illegal call termination (Grey Traffic) were being identified and blocked through various means including heavy caller data, call centre reporting etc. Consequently, a total of 115,153 SIMs have been blocked since September 1, 2013. The grey traffic surge is also attributed to the controversial ICH policy made during the previous government, the report states. The government generated \$1.12 billion from 3G/4G spectrum auction, which was above the budgeted targets set in previous years. The auction has fetched three times more price for per MHz spectrum as compared to 2004 auction due to professional and thorough deliberations at the Ministry and PTA, the report claims. Report further mentions that the long stalled matter relating to the issuance of new Long Distance International (LDI) licence to CMPAK has been resolved by the Ministry and PTA. Around \$0.5 million was issued by World Bank as a grant for Institutional Development Fund that was being used to review the long-expired telecom policies of Pakistan. An international consultant has been hired for advising and assisting MoIT in finalising the integrated telecom sector policy framework and contract negotiations have been concluded. The Ministry hopes to complete the policy by the end of June, 2014. The report further states that an expert group comprising representatives from Ministry of IT, Ministry of Law, PTA, NTISB (Cabinet Division), Internet Service Providers of Pakistan, Pakistan Software Export Board and external lawyer finalised the draft Prevention of Electronic Crime Bill. After detailed consultations with all the stakeholders, the draft bill was finalised and had since been submitted to the Prime Minister for placement before the Cabinet for approval.

Ministry formed National Information Technology Board (NITB) by merging Pakistan Computer Bureau (PCB) and the Electronic Government Directorate (EGD) as both of these institutes had failed to deliver over 13 projects over the years. The ministry would establish 500 telecentres as a pilot project. These telecentres (across Pakistan) will have SIM verification solutions, registration of birth, death, marriage, divorce and other relevant services, broadband internet access to general public and other services for the provision of ICT to masses.

PTCL acknowledges its most loyal customers with awards

Daily Times June 26, 2014

KARACHI: Pakistan Telecommunications Company Limited (PTCL) has initiated a customer loyalty programme to acknowledge the Company's most loyal customers. This aims at recognising customers and appreciating who have been with PTCL for more than 30 years. A ceremony in this respect was held in Islamabad. Customers were presented with Life Time Relationship awards. The Company also provided one-year complimentary usage of broadband services and one-year complimentary usage of smart television services to appreciate long-term loyalty of these customers with PTCL. Our customers are the core of our business and we always try to find innovative ways to reward them, said Jamil Khawaja Chief Customer Care Officer PTCL. Through this loyalty programme, PTCL expresses its gratitude for the trust that customers have placed on PTCL services.

Shahid Mahmood Executive Vice President North PTCL, Naeem Siddiqui GM Customer Care PTCL and Nadeem Awan RGM Islamabad Telecom Region along with other officials and customers attended the event. The loyalty programme will also be held in all the telecom regions of PTCL.

LG hits one million webOS TV sale

Daily Times June 25, 2014

KARACHI: LG Electronics (LG) announced more than one million units of its webOS-enabled Smart plus televisions (TVs) have been sold since the launch of the lineup in March 2014. Featuring an intuitive user experience unmatched by any smart TV platform on the market today, LG expects sales to reach 10 million units by the first half of 2015.

Reaching the one million mark in just three months is a significant achievement in the TV industry, said In-kyu Lee senior Vice President and head of the TV division at the LG Electronics Home Entertainment Company. Rather than continuing to add more and more functions into our smart TVs that few people will ever use, we have decided to focus on simplicity with our 2014 Smart plus TVs with webOS. Consumers seem to share our view that this is the right direction for the evolution of smart TVs going forward.

5,000 Afghan SIMs blocked in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The roaming facility of five Afghan mobile phone companies has been blocked due to which more than 45,000 Afghan SIMs have stopped functioning in Pakistan. A TV

The News, June 25, 2014

Pakistan scores low in mobile broadband infrastructure

Daily Times June 24, 2014

channel quoting sources reported that the SIMs were blocked due to their use in terror activities and cases of abduction for ransom. The respective operators have also submitted a report to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), which had issued orders for blocking these SIMs for an indefinite period.

It merits mentioning here that Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had issued directives to the PTA on June 21 to block the Afghan SIMs in Pakistan. Security agencies had also given recommendations to the premier for blocking the Afghan SIMs.

KARACHI: Pakistan scored low ranking in mobile broadband infrastructure despite higher use by subscribers. The country scored 2.09 out of 10, ranking 25 out of the 26 developing telecom markets in mobile broadband connectivity, Nokia study revealed. For measuring the score, the study 'Connectivity Scorecard 2013' took into account key criteria such as consumer infrastructure, consumer usage and skills, business infrastructure and business usage and skills, public sector infrastructure and public sector usage and skills to measure the level of mobile broadband connectivity in Pakistan. The study results were shared at Nokia 'Connected Pakistan-3G, 4G Perspectives' conference. Danny Atme General Manager Networks Nokia Pakistan said, "The study shows mobile broadband users in Pakistan increasingly demand high-speed mobile broadband and significantly improved network coverage across the country". The number of Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) subscriptions in Pakistan will overtake Global System for Mobile (GSM) subscriptions by 2019, and there will be 103.4 million WCDMA subscriptions in Pakistan by the end of 2019, representing about 58 percent of the mobile market, according to Ovum forecasts. It forecasts the adoption of 4G will be more modest than for 3G for the foreseeable future, with the number of Long Term Evolution (LTE) subscriptions in Pakistan reaching about 6.6 million by the end of 2019. Matthew Reed Practice Leader Middle East and Africa Ovum said, "Although Pakistan is a late-comer to mobile broadband, the rollout of 3G services that is now underway in the country following the recent award of new licenses, combined with the increasing affordability of 3G-enabled devices as well as demand for Internet access and other data services, means that there is likely to be a substantial shift in Pakistan's mobile market from 2G to 3G over the coming few years." Dr Ismail Shah Chairman, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority said, "The government is committed to enabling the operators to take the mobile broadband subscription base to a new high. Together with players such as Nokia and its advanced 3G and 4G mobile broadband technologies, we are confident Pakistan will be able to provide high quality mobile broadband services on a par with leading services around the world."

IT exports can touch \$5 billion mark by 2020

Daily Times June 24, 2014

KARACHI: Information Technology (IT) industry of Pakistan could touch exports of \$5 billion mark by 2020 if proper business strategy, required infrastructure and talented human resources are made available to local companies in the coming years. Haris Naseer Director at Infotech Group said Pakistan's IT exports were presently estimated at \$2 billion with quite good pace despite many challenges and issues to industry players. No doubt, Pakistan is a country with a huge population and services sector is a catalyst to robust economy if their relationship is tied wisely with technology. But we need to invest in our young to convert them into a marketable service providing human resource. IT and IT-enabled services require investment only in development of Human Resources (HR). It does not require land or water, or tube wells or other typical physical requirements of traditional sectors. With an investment of a few hundred million dollars, we can generate significant streams of revenues including foreign exchange, taxes to government and enhance productivity and performance of private and public sector companies. The annual requirement of HR is 25,000 resources per year as far as demand of fresh blood is concerned in IT industry. But the educational institutes having capacity to train high-class professionals for IT industry is limited to few like FAST, GIKI and LUMS. The tier two universities are indeed producing a lot of tech graduates, but their quality is somewhat questionable. All these students have great potential and there is no lack of commitment, but the need of the hour is for tech educationists and the tech industry to come together and collaborate in terms of teaching and training, Naseer added. InfoTech is working with a couple of institutes to help them develop some courses for their undergraduate programmes. There is a need of more interaction between academia and industry, not only in IT sector but also in general. Some of the leading universities in the West have study-work-study programmes they offer, where students are placed at full time jobs during the course of their studies. And these are not internships. These are short-term jobs. Naseer pointed out the biggest challenge the IT industry facing currently was the global perception of Pakistan as a country. We are increasingly being identified as low-skilled and religious fanatics. Due to this reason, international companies are hesitant to go into longer-term contracts with Pakistani companies. We are doing the best to increase their awareness about our competencies and are making significant investment in bringing them to Pakistan to cement a positive image of our country. To overcome this issue, our trade policy should definitely include ways to improve lives of businesses and professionals trying to work globally. This can be achieved by having smart trade officers in our foreign missions.

Govt likely to earn Rs56b from next 3G/4G auction

The Nation, June 24, 2014

ISLAMABAD: The government would once again hold the auction of 3G/4G telecom licences during upcoming financial year 2014-15 as Finance Ministry has kept Rs 56 billion in non-tax revenue in budget that would be generated from auction of telecom licences. Sources in Finance Ministry informed The Nation that government would start the process of the telecom licences after getting approval from the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. However, the government has kept Rs 56 billion in non-tax revenue in the budget, which would be fetched through the selling process of licences. The government has two licences, 4G and 2G,

Speakers for strengthening agri extension system thru ICT

Business Recorder, June 24, 2014

Balochistan schools to be linked with GPS, GIS

Business Recorder, June 23, 2014

Online property trading possible in Pakistan'

Daily Times June 23, 2014

to offer for the auction during upcoming financial year 2014-15. One licence of 4G with a base price of \$210 million and another licence exclusively kept for a new entrant (2G) with a base price of \$291 million. Therefore, the government is expecting to generate approximately Rs 56 billion through this process. The overall revenue to be generated from telecom licences would reach to Rs 167 billion after government completed second phase of the auction that is much higher than the expectations of Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar who was expecting Rs 120 billion. The government has fetched Rs 111 billion in the first phase and would generate Rs 56 billion in second phase making total at Rs 167 billion. The government in April 2014 had held the first ever auction in the country, as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had offered three bands for the 3G spectrum - with a total available frequency of 30MHz - and two bands for the 4G spectrum. Out of the four competitors participating in the auction, only Zong managed to secure licences for both 3G and 4G spectrums; the other three - Mobilink, Telenor and Ufone - secured only 3G licences. The \$1.112 billion (Rs 111 billion) that the country has earned from the sale is just \$17 million or 1.6pc higher than the reserve price of \$1.095 billion for these licences. The mobile companies have started giving 3G services to its customers in the country. The introduction of 3G/4G technology would generate over 9 million jobs besides providing other facilities.

FAISALABAD: Speakers at an international workshop on Monday called for strengthening agricultural extension system through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), resulting in increasing productivity and reducing poverty. The international workshop on "ICT in extension and e-Pak" organised by Institute of Agri Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Addressing on the occasion, UAF Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, said the effective agri content, through text message, radio and other communication tools, is imperative to raise the adoption of latest agricultural practices among farming community. He lauded Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif for initiating ICT Programme worth Rs 150 million that will prove hallmark on the horizon of agriculture. The UAF was playing its due role in the programme. Director General Punjab Agri Extension Dr Muhammad Anjum Ali said that the Punjab government is taking all measures to increase production through ICT. He said that as many as one million farmers from 23,000 villages across the province are being connected at the agricultural SMS services. Besides, database of 135 market committees are being maintained and given access to farming through websites so that they can get the information about rates of different commodities at their home or workplace etc. He said that foolproof system of monitoring the extension workers had been kicked off through android phones. He said the Punjab government had kicked off a project worth 150 million aimed at increasing productivity with the usage of ICT. He said that as many as 6 million hectares of land is facing the salinity and water logging. Dr Mark Andrew Bell from University of California Davis, USA said that ICT is the powerful tool in extension. He urged the extension workers to implement the ICT for the dissemination of information based on easy to access and implement. He said that if the message is not interesting, it will fail to bear results. He said that in the United States, 90 percent of extension work is being done by private sector while remaining 10 percent work is being carried out by public sector. Institute of Agri Extension and Rural Development Director Prof Dr Tanvir Ali said the extension work was initiated in 1914 in US. Now, it has completed its cent year. He said the low per acre production was the challenge. The usage of ICT will help in boosting up production. He said that UAF in collaboration with the Punjab government has set up websites Zairaibathak; and fertilizer model to provide experts' suggestions to the farming community about their agricultural issues. Director External Linkages Prof Dr Ashfaq Ahmad said the UAF in collaboration with the Punjab government was bringing early warning system for the farming community. He said that the UAF is also working on remote sensing and climate changes mitigation. Director Agricultural Information Punjab Muhammad Rafique Akhtar and Dr Babar Shahbaz also spoke on the occasion.

QUETTA: The Balochistan government is going to link its schools with GPS and GIS system to monitor the attendance of teachers and students at educational institutions. This was said by Advisor to Chief Minister on Education, Sardar Raza Muhammad Baraich while speaking at a "Single School Teacher" seminar organised by non-governmental organization, Center for Peace and Development (CPD) here. He said that reforms were being introduced in education system of Balochistan. "We are going to install GPS, GIS and Finger Prints Reading systems at government-run schools to monitor the attendance of teachers and students," he said adding that E-Learning Programme through video conference would also be introduced at schools. He said that presently 1.1 million children were enrolled at schools while 2.2 million children were still out of schools. He said that only 58,000 students out of total 1.1 million studying at schools reached Matriculate level and remaining left their schooling. He said that stakeholders and the community would have to jointly play their role to overcome the issue of dropout of students from schools. "Only 30,000 teachers out of total 57,000 of Balochistan professionally are trained. Therefore, the Balochistan government decided to arrange their professional training courses during summer vacations," he said. National Party MPA, Dr Shama Ishaq, National Party leader, Dr Ishaq Baloch, Rahat Malik, Executive Director CPD, Nasrullah Khan Baraich, Additional Secretary Education, Muhammad Tayyab Lehri and Saira Aata also attended the ceremony.

KARACHI: With the increasing use of Internet for various purposes with arrival of 3G technology in the country, there is a huge opportunity for businesses to go online to connect with customers of the targeted market not only at local but at international level. But it depends

how much a business could provide customers a friendly platform that caters their demands and needs of commodities, services and immovable properties like real estate. The classified website of properties provides a window of information to users about the market trend. It also connects buyers from sellers and vice versa saving time and cost while providing insight of investments at the finger tips. Yes with the rising internet usage, more and more businesses are shifting online. Down the road, website portals/mobile apps will be the first choice for consumers, searching for properties as it provides convenient searching from the comfort of your home and allows you to easily evaluate the market before going out in the market, said Saad Arshad, Lamudi.pk Country Director. I see a bright future for online business model as hundreds of thousands real estate agencies have come on board with different classified websites and Lamudi.pk as well showing the improving level of confidence of realtors towards online websites. But these websites do not work on transactional model. These are classified portals where real estate agents are connected with potential buyers. So, it generates quality leads for agents trying connecting them with the end users. This model gives end user a chance to inspect the properties, negotiate over prices and finalize their purchase. The revenue generation model of the property webportals is simple but successful due to frequent visits of the buyers on the websites and availability of space for advertisers Google AdSense, local realtors, builders and property traders. Normally, these websites do charge the real estate agencies and developers for posting their ads. Then an after-sales team collects the listings and pictures of the properties and these materials are sent to the content team who write their descriptions and upload them along with the pictures on the website. Property trading websites such as Lamudi adopts aggressive marketing strategy. It has a dedicated online marketing team which ensure to fully market these properties via all channels, be it social media, Google ads, website banners etc. In addition, it also has an offline marketing team and PR to create awareness about our brand and market it via the traditional channels, Arshad said. We started off with the 3 major cities of Pakistan: Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi and fully exhausted these by bringing in listings from all over the city. After that we expanded to Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi with more to follow soon, he added. In mature economies, this transition is complete. Since, we are a developing economy, moving at a faster pace to catch up with the rest of the world, I think 5-6 years will be needed for such transformation. With 30 million internet users, 15 million smart phone users, introduction of 3G & 4G internet services, e-commerce businesses are on the rise. Pakistan's real estate market has a huge potential and seeing such mushroom growth is an eventuality. But in long run when market consolidates few players with proper financial backing and professional expertise would sustain. In our case, we have a strong backing from Rocket Internet which has been building online ventures since a long time. Currently, Pakistan is going through a real estate boom with foreign direct investment flowing in, rupee stabilization and new housing societies springing up which is attracting buyers and investors. With online media, our supplier properties get a chance to get exposure not only from Pakistan but also from international buyers and this adds a huge value for whosoever planning to post ads via us, Lamudi.pk country chief said.

PTA told to block Afghan Sims

Daily Dawn, June 22, 2014

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to block anti-state and criminal activities of terrorists in Pakistan using foreign Sims, the government has directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to disable roaming facility on Afghan Sims. A statement issued by the Prime Minister House on Saturday said the directive was given on a request by law-enforcement agencies. The premier said the task should be completed in the next few days, the statement said. The government believes the decision will help impede communication between terrorists and reduce crimes involving kidnapping for ransom, extortion and acts of terrorism. According to a source in the PTA, the roaming facility for Afghan mobile phone companies, widely available in Pakistan, is being misused, particularly in tribal areas. The use of Afghan Sims has become a significant threat to Pakistan's security. Saturday's decision is likely to assist the Pakistan Army, which has launched Zarb-i-Azb operation in North Waziristan, in preventing militants from maintaining contacts among them. The PTA official said that between 40,000 and 50,000 Sims of Afghan telecom companies were functional in Pakistan and most of them were used in acts of terrorism, kidnapping for ransom and extortion. The official explained that in border areas near Afghanistan, Afghan Subscriber Identification Modules (Sims) were operational because of the signals available there. However, in urban areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the signals from Afghan mobile companies weakened and service of Afghan mobile network was not available except for the roaming facility. The matter of blocking of roaming service of Afghan Sims in Pakistan was taken up time and again by the Senate and National Assembly committees on information technology and telecommunications. Members on various occasions requested PTA Chairman Dr Ismail Shah to discontinue the service, which was believed to be misused by the kidnappers and extortionists alike. He had also been informed that in the case of Pakistan and India there was no mutual roaming agreement and under an understanding both countries had not allowed their telecom operators to erect telecom towers in areas near the border. However, Dr Shah said on all the occasions that such decisions were outside the mandate of his office. He had informed the committee members that the decision to discontinue or block roaming service of Afghan companies could only be taken up at the government-to-government level. The PTA chairman had also argued that if roaming facility of Afghan Sims in Pakistan was blocked, Afghan government might reciprocate and Pakistani Sims might become non-functional in Afghan territory. None of the local mobile operators had been directed by the PTA to block roaming facility on Afghan Sims.

Intel hosts second Intel(r) Channel Symposiums

Intel in Pakistan hosting second Intel(r) Channel Symposiums (ICS) for this year here on Friday showcased the latest range of desktops, mobile devices, servers, devices enabling Internet of

Business Recorder, June 21, 2014

Mobile banking making money wireless

Daily Times, June 21, 2014

Things and security devices based on Intel processors at the symposium in addition to conducting training sessions for its Intel(r) Technology Providers(ITP). Experts from Intel(r) discussed product integration techniques, sales and marketing best practices with the Intel(r) Technology Providers to help enhance customer experience and identify growth opportunities for their businesses. The symposium witnessed discussions around the channel achievements and partnership highlights of 2013. About 100 ITPs attended the event and the group deliberated on the future roadmap and focus areas of Intel(r).

Mobile banking is not a new concept in Pakistan. With 130 million mobile users in the country and the prospect of 3G going live anytime now, many businesses will be looking towards mobile commerce with an eye on Pakistan's forthcoming consumer culture as well as the future of mobile banking. In fact, since the introduction of branchless banking through cellular technology, Pakistan has seen a boom in the number of mobile banking users. From 2011 to 2013, there has been a 327% growth in the number of branchless banking transactions; and the value of these transactions has grown by almost 400%. According to State Bank reports, in terms of mobile banking, the number of transactions has increased by almost 130%, whereas the value of these transactions has risen by 381%. These numbers not only illustrate the need for mobile banking in the country, but also the demand that continues to be on the rise. Lack of infrastructure in Pakistan has made mobile banking a practical and viable solution for the under-banked. And with banking penetration at only 12% in a country of 180 million people, now is the time to innovate and increase financial inclusion as the numbers demonstrate, wireless technology is the ideal solution for inclusive financing. This idea of technology and financial inclusion via mobile commerce has not been lost to banks in the country. In a sign of hope; last month, many big names in the industry met for the 7th International Mobile Commerce Conference in Pakistan, where future technological solutions for financial inclusion were discussed. However, one overlooked part of the industry is Pakistan's growing online retail market. With smartphone penetration already reaching 10% of the mobile market and with the introduction of affordable smartphone brands such as Qmobile and Voice, the Pakistani consumer is being exposed to new shopping platforms. In India, for example, a SAP study showed that more than half of the country's mobile consumers were purchasing entertainment services, with other key purchases being clothes and footwear. For such trends to emerge in Pakistan, it's necessary that banks make it easier for retailers to sell their products through mobile technology, while also easing the process of online transactions. Currently, consumers have a number of hurdles to cross when making online purchases. For instance, most banks do not allow online transactions unless one makes a call to the bank beforehand. While this is seen as a safety feature by the banks, it is cumbersome for consumers and a waste of time as well as technology. Moreover, most banks in Pakistan demand that a consumer know their account number to make online transactions, as opposed to the number on their VISA and/or ATM cards – a task which is difficult and uncommon in most parts of the world. Such practices and policies make it very problematic for consumers to buy anything online; if they want to purchase something, they must pay cash on delivery since they are limited in their usage of plastic cards online. The cash on delivery system leads to higher shipping and higher business costs. Plus, at the end of the day, retailers will never know if they have a fake customer or a genuine one. This is just one of many problems retailers face online. Another would be Citibank-winding up its card processing in the country, leaving no local payment gateways, leading to online retailers using international payment gateways – a loss for banks in Pakistan, as well increasing costs for local businesses. However, there are still online retailers in the country who are making it work. Daraz.pk for instance, is one of the few businesses in the country spearheading mobile commerce with great gusto. More than 20% of transactions for Daraz take place on mobile devices. Considering the hurdles consumers face in making online and mobile transactions in the country, such a high number is indeed promising. The argument that banks make online shopping such a chore is due to security concerns on the consumer's part is flawed from every angle; if not almost. Trust issues are not a problem for Pakistanis who shop online. From the data mentioned above to the facts and figures shared by businesses such as Daraz, from the select banks which allow online payments, almost all their clients will use the card option as a form of payment. Hence; it is strongly believed that if banks open up their mindsets just a little and ease the online transaction process, more people will move to online payments. As seen with retailers such as Daraz.pk and even food purchasing outlets such as Food Panda, as visible proof that mobile and internet commerce can do wonders in the country if only Pakistani banks lose their conservative streak and dive headfirst into the future.

Twitter restores access to blocked content in Pakistan

Daily Dawn, June 19, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Twitter has restored access inside Pakistan to dozens of tweets and accounts, after blocking them last month following official complaints about "blasphemous" content, in a move hailed by free speech activists. The microblogging site said it had changed its May 18 decision to restrict access to the material from within Pakistan in order to comply with local laws after the government failed to provide sufficient clarification. "On May 18, 2014, we made an initial decision to withhold content in Pakistan based on information provided to us by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority," the Internet company said in a statement posted on the Chilling Effects Clearinghouse website. "We have re-examined the requests and, in the absence of additional clarifying information from Pakistani authorities, have determined that restoration of the previously withheld content is warranted. The content is now available again in Pakistan.

"Chilling Effects is collaboration between several US law schools which monitors attempts to

Telecom sector unduly advantaged by ToU meters

The News, June 18, 2014

suppress online content. Twitter works in partnership with the site to publicise requests to withhold its content. Most of the offending material concerned anti-Islam accounts, but the accounts of three US porn stars were also listed.

Sana Saleem, a co-founder of the Bolo Bhi non-profit group that advocates free speech, said: "We're very glad Twitter has reversed its decision and not gone the Facebook route." "There was significant pressure and so we're very happy. We've also been talking with them. "Facebook earlier this month blocked the popular page of a liberal Pakistani band Laal at the request of the government, angering activists campaigning against censorship. Days later it reversed its decision. Saleem and other organisations have questioned whether the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has the constitutional authority to forward such requests to foreign Internet companies, and have called for greater judicial oversight. She added that the process was open to abuse and was used to suppress political criticism. "We have an extremely weak legal framework and it's used to limit dissent, or things like blocking Wikipedia pages on breast cancer. "

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has initiated proceedings on complaints that the telecom and cellular sector is taking undue advantage by the installation of time of use (ToU) meters, as they use constant load throughout the day, officials said on Tuesday. ToU metering involved dividing the day, month and year into tariff slots and with higher rates at peak load periods and low tariff rates at off-peak load periods, the officials said. While this can be used to automatically control usage on the part of the customer, resulting in an automatic load control, this also allows the utility companies to plan their transmission infrastructure appropriately, the officials said. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) in a communiqué to Nepra maintained that the organisations in the telecom and cellular sector and all offices had been unduly advantaged by the installation of the ToU meters, as no distinction could be made between off-peak and peak hours in such organisations due to the nature of the services provided by this sector. As they are availing of the benefits from the system, it has caused a negative impact of the average sale rates of the distribution companies, it said. Nepra has been reminded that these companies maintain a constant load throughout the day, weeks, months and year, as they are not capable of reducing the load during peak hours. Conversion to a ToU meter is only viable for consumers who are aware of the rules and are able to alter their consumption patterns to maximise the plan benefits. The distribution companies recommended to the Nepra that ToU metering should be discontinued on such connections. Meanwhile, Nepra has decided to hold a separate hearing for reconsideration of ToU meters installation for cellular companies, inviting and involving all stakeholders.

Telecom sector attracts US\$ 12bn investments in seven years

Business Recorder, June 17, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Telecom sector attracted more than US\$ 12 billion investments in the infrastructure and new technologies after deregulation during last seven years. Over 92 per cent of population has access to telecom services which has been possible due to expansion of telecom infrastructure all over the country by telecom operators. The telecom investment which was to the tune of US\$ 4 billion in 2007 has now reduced to US\$ 251 million during July-March 2013. A stats in the budget document has revealed that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in telecom has also shown similar patterns of overall investment in the sector. During 2006 to 2010, telecom sector attracted over US\$ 6 billion FDI which was almost 30 percent of the total FDI in the country. With regard to revenue, the data said annual revenue of telecom sector have reached to Rs. 411.4 billion during 2012, registering a growth of 13 percent over the last year. There was a significant increase in revenues compared to slow revenue growth in the last two years where total telecom revenue growth remained in single digit i.e. 5.4 percent in 2011 and 3.1 percent in 2010. Revenues of telecom sector during Jul-Mar 2013 have reached to Rs. 323 billion, registering a growth of 2.92 percent. Telecom sector has been contributing significantly to the national exchequer in terms of taxes, regulatory fee, activation tax and other charges. During 2012, the sector has contributed a record amount Rs. 133 billion compared to Rs. 117 billion last year. Major share of this growth has been through Federal Excise Duty (FED) and other taxes.

Huawei launches Ascend P7

The Nation, June 16, 2014

LAHORE (PR) In the latest development of its emerging consumer brand, Huawei unveiled the highly anticipated Ascend P7 at a Gala event in Dubai. The announcement marked the regional availability of the smartphone, which is now available from major retails in the UAE. Building on the success of its predecessor, the new 4G LTE-enabled smartphone redefines smartphone excellence with an array of innovative features, ultra-fast connectivity and easier navigation, all brought together in a new stunning design. Boasting a 5-inch full high definition display, incredible 8MP front-facing and 13MP rear-facing cameras and the latest intuitive Emotion UI 2.3, the Huawei Ascend P7 gives consumers an electronic edge.

"Today Huawei has continued to push the boundaries of what is possible. The Ascend P7 challenges existing industry standards by redefining smartphone design, camera experience and connectivity, providing consumers with a truly innovative and premium smartphone," said Ashraf Fawakherji, Vice President of Huawei Device Middle East. "We are confident that regional consumers will react well to the introduction of the Ascend P7 because of the host of incredible software and design features that are included in the device. Never have we been more proud of a smartphone that embodies our 'Make it Possible' mantra." Huawei completely redesigned the Ascend P7 from the inside out, significantly improving the performance of the smartphone's hardware and software to redefine user experience. Only 6.5mm in width, the Ascend P7 sets a new record as one of the slimmest 4G LTE smartphones in the market,

ON CAMPUS : Education boards' automation very much in sight

Daily Dawn, June 16, 2014

available in array of colors including black, white and pink. "Our brand recognition amongst consumers globally and in the Middle East continues to grow at a rapid pace, in fact we are now ranked number three globally in terms of worldwide smartphone shipments. We look forward to see how consumers react to our latest line-up." concluded Ashraf.

The nine boards of intermediate and secondary education in Punjab are heading for complete automation of their systems including registration, examination, assessment, preparation and declaration of results. Currently, the Lahore board is leading with almost 85pc automated systems in place followed by Sargodha and Multan boards having around 60pc and 55pc computerised systems in place. Meanwhile, a consultant firm National Institutional Facilitation Technology (NIFT) has installed automated systems including Optical Mirror Reading (OMR) technology in all the boards. The NIFT, a consultant firm of Dr Umer Saif, who is vice chancellor of the Information Technology University, will hand over the OMR technology hardware and software by Dec 31. Soon afterwards all the nine boards will be required to pay some Rs340 million to the consultant firm. The NIFT trainers will also give hands-on training to boards' staff concerned during the matriculation and intermediate supplementary examinations in October and November. Punjab Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan had last week chaired a meeting to finalise the automation of the systems in the nine boards. The minister had also constituted a five-member committee comprising chairmen of BISEs of Lahore, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi and controllers of examination of Lahore and Dera Ghazi Khan boards to give proposals and recommendations about the IT needs of respective boards. The meeting had also granted an approval in principle to create vacancy of Additional Controller IT in the nine BISEs of Punjab, which would be filled through deputation from the PITB. The committee has been given a week's time to prepare proposals for the requirement of IT equipment for all the boards as well as professionals to handle the systems. The minister also assured that he would get approval for the recruitment of IT staff during the ban on recruitments. The Punjab government plans that all the new systems should be in place by the end of this year or by January next. The automation systems include online registration of candidates, supply of roll number slips with computerised photographs, allocation of gender-wise examination centres, OMR, secrecy and finance departments and one-window operation. The boards will also be required to ensure declaration of results with zero Result Late (RL). At the meeting, Lahore board chairman Dr Nasrullah Virk had also given a briefing regarding performance of the board highlighting improvements made in the reshuffling process of fictitious role numbers and evaluation of answer-sheets in 24 central marking centres in the areas under its jurisdiction. The meeting had also given approval to establish "cluster centres" in each district of the province and assigned respective BISEs to fund construction of multi-purpose halls in large public colleges. These halls will be used as examination halls during the matriculation and intermediate examination sessions, while during the rest of the years, these would be used as community centres. The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), UK, will be investing in the Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) through six scholarships for the CIMA qualifications and multiple professional development courses for faculty. Both the institutions signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) following an MoU signed in February this year. The MoA was signed by CIMA Regional Director for South Asia and Africa Mr Bradley Emerson and LCWU Faculty Development and Internationalisation Director Saima Asghar Riaz. According to the MoA the LCWU BBA and B.Com students would be allowed to avail up to eight exemptions from the CIMA professional qualification. The CIMA will additionally contribute towards the university library with books and journals. Later, CIMA's Bradley Emerson and Radley Stephen informed faculty and students about the new syllabi of CIMA 2015. Meanwhile, the LCWU students team has won Global Business Challenge (GBC) and earned cash prize of Rs60,000. This national level competition was organised by the CIMA in collaboration with Barclays in Islamabad. The LCWU team has also won the "Best Business Report" award with a cash price of Rs15,000. All the four members were awarded with scholarship of two-week business course in London School of Business and Finance, UK. The winning team will also be going to compete in Mumbai, India, for Global Final 2014 in August this year. The Beaconhouse has launched a chain of colleges "Concordia Colleges" to offer blended learning aimed at inspiring institutes to use technologies for education and teaching. This announcement was made by Beaconhouse Chief Executive Kasim Kasuri at a news conference at a local hotel this past week. The Beaconhouse has opened 14 colleges including eight in Lahore to begin with and began admission process. Mr Kasuri says the institute had started working on the project three years ago and spent a lot of time on research and development. He says the colleges will use more educational technology to accelerate the learning process in the days to come. "This is the first time in Pakistan that such an advanced learning system is being introduced at college level," Mr Kasuri asserts. He says the process of admissions has begun at Concordia Colleges in FSc Pre-Medical and Pre-Engineering, ICS, I.Com and FA disciplines with more to follow. He says the master's and bachelor level programmes will be introduced next year. Stating that the colleges have seasoned faculty members, he adds that Virtual University Vice-Chancellor Dr Naveed Malik had been the educational consultant for this project. He says scholarships will be available on a "means and merit" basis.

Punjab government allocates Rs 7393 million to promote IT culture

Business Recorder, June 15, 2014

The Punjab government allocated an amount of Rs 7,393 million for the promotion of IT culture in the proposed Punjab budget of 2014-2015. As per budget document, major thrust of the investment in the public sector would be on Development of Management Information System for the improvement of governance leading to improved service delivery to the public. Capacity Building for Human Resource Development projects will also be implemented to attract Direct

Foreign and Local Investments, create Job opportunities and help foreign exchange earnings through establishment of Software Houses and Call Centers in the Information Technology Parks. According to the budget documents to accomplish its vision of making Punjab the hub of Information Technology, the government has focused on the initiatives during FY 2014-15 which includes IT based solution for improvement of various business processes in key departments including Police, Health, Transport, Education and Public Prosecution Departments, etc, as well as Lahore High Court. Government will focus on implementation of "Lands Record Management Information Systems project in all Districts and Tehsil of Punjab" as well as new scheme titled "Automation of Stamp Paper (E Stamping)" has been proposed. These projects are part of the broader vision of Government of Punjab, ie to provide better quality services to citizens through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in order to provide security of title to the landowners in the province. Incubator Centers and Tech Hub Space at Arfa Software Technology Park for IT start-up firms to provide IT Training, manpower development regarding latest tools and technologies are to be adopted in international business and marketing with the help of IT awareness. The government is considering to introduce Citizen E-Services and IT Centric Intervention and Smart Monitoring Under Punjab Public Management Reforms Program (PPMRP) aiming at smart monitoring, accessibility of reports and automation of service delivery on service delivery centers of government. The government is also considering establishment of Video Conferencing Facility for efficient information exchange, speedy decision making regarding emergent circumstances and Policy updating. The dengue control campaign through "Larvaciding and Fogging/IRS Reporting System" enables data capture on the move, Verification via GPS co-ordinates/real time data entry into central server and online dashboards which will be accessible by all stakeholders. Government should take new initiative of telemedicine to provide disease evaluation, diagnostics and treatment coverage to the patients living in remote areas using modern technologies and state-of-the-art facilities through qualified professionals. Whereas, "District Health Information System" is meant for disease reporting, patients treatment and medication schedule, disease patterns as well as appropriate management of appointments' dates to facilitate general public for availing better health care. The government is considering initiation of evidence-based monitoring of Pro-Poor to effectively reach out the poorest of the poor to pour targeted subsidy. Government will develop process of initiating performance evaluation, monitoring system of Government departments, establishing KPIs of employees through Pilot Project of "IT Based Profiling of Government employees" for effective service delivery. According to budget documents Continuity of E-Governance applications already established under "Citizen Contact Centers" and "Citizen Feedback Model" in order to introduce transparency, efficiency and minimise corruption using E-tools. The allocations have been secured for major initiatives of Police Department like Computerisation of all Police Stations using modern technologies, ie Hardware, Software, Network Equipment (Active & Passive), Internet Connectivity in order to run the police business in an efficient manner. Punjab Police Integrated Command, Control and Communication Centre are being included in ADP to sort out terrorist activities and foolproof security of the Punjab Province.

Mobile inter-bank fund transfer service launched
The News, June 14, 2014

KARACHI: Telenor Pakistan and Tameer Microfinance Bank Easypaisa have launched the premier Inter Bank Fund Transfer (IBFT) service to enable their customers to transfer funds between a number of banks via the 1-link switch, said a press statement on Friday. Easypaisa brings this revolutionary, first of its kind innovative service, to both its mobile account holders and over-the-counter (OTC) customers. Easypaisa mobile account holders can now move funds from any bank account into their Easypaisa mobile account and vice versa conveniently and securely, thus overcoming one of the hurdles of getting funds into the branchless banking systems said the statement. Once the funds are in the Easypaisa mobile account, customers can proceed to use the most convenient and secured bill payment and money transfer or airtime recharge service in the country through the Easypaisa mobile account on their mobile phone. For the OTC service, any customer can walk into any of the Easypaisa shops and deposit cash directly into any bank account. With 40,000 Easypaisa shops in more than 750 cities and nearly six million unique customers using Easypaisa services each month, banked customers can deposit cash into their bank accounts without having to go into their bank branches. Customers will only need to approach an Easypaisa shop, provide their computerised national identity cards and their bank account number to use this service. This cash deposit facility will be available at Easypaisa shops, while they are open, often late into the night and even on weekends, said the statement. "It is great step in the branchless banking industry, a revolutionary development, which will act as a catalyst for the robust growth of the industry in Pakistan," said Nadeem Hussain, president and chief executive officer of Tameer Micro Finance Bank. "Easypaisa now connects the unbanked directly to the banking infrastructure by enabling them to send and receive money on their mobile accounts and through OTC services. Almost 80 percent of the population in this country is still unbanked and Easypaisa is working day and night to achieve financial inclusion of the unbanked people of Pakistan. In line with this ambition, Easypaisa's IBFT service provides a platform to the unbanked class to connect with the traditional banking infrastructure, which is likely to boost the mobile banking culture in the country." Expressing his view regarding this new service, Yahya Khan, chief financial services officer at Telenor Pakistan, said, "We are extremely proud of being the first branchless banking service in Pakistan to move towards interoperability and connect to the 1-Link switch for fund transfers." He said: "All the current closed-loop mobile money services in the country have to strive and move towards open-loop systems where customers can move funds between bank and branchless banking accounts and vice versa." "The opening up of Easypaisa agents for cash deposit into other banks is similarly a unique

Zong launches 'Super 3G' service for customers

Business Recorder, June 13, 2014

Telecos demand withdrawal of increased rate of Customs duty

The News, June 13, 2014

service we're introducing to meet an un-served need out there. We believe that banks and branchless banking services complement each other and can work in harmony to serve everybody in Pakistan."

ISLAMABAD: Zong on Thursday commercially launched 'Super 3G' service for customers in major cities of Pakistan. Zong is the only telecom operator in the country while winning 10 MHz of 3G and 4G each from the auction that held on April 23, 2014 and paid the whole amount, i.e. \$516 million (3G and 4G) to the government. Addressing the launching ceremony of Zong "Super 3G" Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Syed Ismail Shah said that introduction of new technology, i.e. 3G' 4G in the country would not only bring investment but create thousands of job opportunities. "Increase in net speed is a small benefit of this technology as it has many other positive things, however, it should be used for positive things", Ismail Shah added. Dr Fan Yunjun chairman and chief executive Zong said superior customer service is an integral part of the company business and could not be ignored. "Through our infrastructure, our people and processes are aligned to provide a differentiated customer experience as we keep the customer first in all that we do", said Yunjun, adding that "Super 3G" service is just another example of this commitment towards providing the best data solutions to tech-savvy customers. CEO further said that Super 3G service offers speeds of up to 42 Mbps while normal 3G offers speeds of up to 21 Mbps. Zong 'Super 3G' is twice as fast as normal 3G currently available in Pakistan. The initial launch targets the two major cities of Pakistan, i.e. Karachi and Lahore where Zong has the vast coverage and would ensure the fastest data speed available. In the second stage, the services would be expanded to other major cities; said Yunjun. He said that customers should look forward to superior 4G services in the months to come. All existing Zong SIMs are 'Super 3G' enabled so customers will not have to go through any inconvenience to get a new SIM. The tariff for 2G & 3G customers are the same so customers can start using Super 3G and enjoy fast data speeds at the same exciting rates as before. Services will be available simply by changing ones network settings. The unmatched speeds will give customers the freedom of uninterrupted streaming of their favourite movies, videos and more, lightning fast downloads, he added. Zong has the fastest growth in subscriber base in the industry and is now geared to provide the benefits of Super 3G connectivity across Pakistan to make a greater difference in the industry as a leading telecom player, Zong official added.

ISLAMABAD: Demanding the status of industry for the telecom sector, the cellular companies has asked the government to withdraw increased rate of Customs duty on imported machinery and abolish collection of registration on activation of phone sets introduced in the Finance Bill 2014-15. "If the government did not withdraw these increased taxation measures, than the industry will take all appropriate steps, including approaching the superior judiciary when the Finance Bill 2014-15 becomes applicable after approval by the parliament from July 1," representatives of the cellular companies told The News after holding a meeting with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) high-ups on Wednesday evening. When contacted, the FBR high-ups said that the cellular companies could not be given status of industries because they were not manufacturing anything in Pakistan. "The cellular companies are service providers so they cannot be treated as an industry until and unless they start manufacturing in the country," they added. The FBR, they said, proposed cutting down two tax rates in the Finance Bill 2014-15 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Technology, as the rate of advance tax on mobile phone bills has been reduced from 15 percent to 14 percent and the sales tax from 19 percent to 18 percent. However, the cellular operators say that the government has withdrawn certain sections of SRO 575 and slapped enhanced duty on imported telecom machinery in the Federal Budget 2014-15. "At a time when the cellular companies are set to import \$2 billion to \$3 billion machinery in the aftermath of 3G and 4G in Pakistan, the rate of Customs duty has increased to almost double in the budget," they added. They said that their business plan for rolling out 3G and 4G would be in jeopardy if this burden was not withdrawn by the government. "We will be left with no other option but to approach the superior judiciary to get relief," they said. On the demand for treating cellular sector as an industry, the cellular companies' representatives said that the Ministry of Science and Technology had granted them the status of industry in 2004. "Now the Ministry of Information Technology has also written a letter to the FBR to provide us the status of industry," they said. They also argued that the government introduced Section 3 (3b) in the Sales Tax Act through which the franchises have been assigned to collect registration fee of Rs250 on phone handsets. According to the Finance Bill 2014-15, the liability to pay sales tax at the time of import of cellular mobile phones or satellite phones will be on the importer and the liability to pay the sales tax at the time of registration of a new International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number for the first time will be on the cellular mobile operator who registers the IMEI number in his system. The cellular mobile operators will, if not already registered, obtain registration under the Sales Tax Act, 1990. No IMEI number will be registered by a cellular mobile operator without charging and collecting the sales tax. The cellular mobile operator will deposit the sales tax collected through his monthly tax return in the manner prescribed in Section 26 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, and the rules made there under. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority will provide data regarding International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers registered with other cellular mobile operators to prevent double taxation on the same IMEI number in case of switching by a subscriber from one operator to another, and to provide data regarding registration of International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers to the board on a monthly basis, according to the Finance Bill 2014-15. No adjustment of input tax will be admissible to the cellular mobile operator or any purchaser of cellular mobile phone against the sales tax charged and paid in

Telecom operators' funds need mechanism

The Nation, June 10, 2014

terms of this schedule.

ISLAMABAD: For infrastructure development of Information Technology and telecom in under-served and un-served areas of AJK and GB, the State Minister for IT Mrs. Anusha Rahman Khan called on the Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir.

The State Minister for IT apprised the Federal Minister that the telecom operators providing telecommunication services in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan are depositing USF contributions with PTA in accordance with their licence terms. This amount has to be utilised for provisioning of telecom services to un-served, underserved areas of AJK and GB. Mrs. Anusha Rahman apprised the Barjees Tahir that in order to use this amount, a mechanism needs to be formulated; however, despite multiple requests from MoIT in the past, this matter remained pending for the last many years. Hence the Federal Minister involvement is now requested to actively look into the outstanding issue for a resolution. PTA officials and Universal Service Fund Company also apprised the meeting that the main reason why this contribution has not been utilised. They said AJK and GB had to either incorporate a USF company or evolve some other viable mechanism for this contribution. Unfortunately, this has not been done to date, thus the funds remain parked with PTA, and requiring intervention at Ministerial level.

The Barjees Tahir regretted the neglect of those responsible in the past and assured his full support in helping expedite resolution of the matter so that this contribution could be used for the welfare of the people of AJK and GB at the earliest. A committee comprising of officials from Ministry of IT & Telecom, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and GB, Universal Service Fund Company and PTA was constituted with a direction to submit a report within 10 days for the formulation of mechanism in this regard.

Telenor imparts mobile repairing skills to PWDs

Daily Times, June 09, 2014

KARACHI: Aimed at empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to earn their livelihood, Telenor Pakistan has revamped the Mobile Repairing Lab at National Teaching Centre for Special Persons (NTCSP) with modern state-of-the-art equipment, Internet connectivity and a fulltime mobile repairing trainer. The newly revamped lab, which has been set up in collaboration with Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) under Telenor Pakistan's flagship corporate responsibility initiative 'Khuddar Pakistan', was inaugurated today by Sibghut-ur-Rehman, Director General, and Special Education. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Aslam Hayat, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Telenor Pakistan said, "With Khuddar Pakistan, we are striving to bring a positive change and lasting impact in the lives of Persons with Disabilities. The revamp of this lab is yet another endeavour on our part to unlock their potential and empower them with necessary skills to earn a decent livelihood in the society". Sibghut-ur-Rehman, Director General, Special Education also lauded Telenor Pakistan's commitment towards the inclusion of PWDs in the society and expressed his gratitude on successful up-gradation of the lab that will ensure a promising future for the PWDs. In the current batch, twelve students with different disabilities will go through an extensive six-month mobile repairing training, encompassing theoretical and technical aspects of the skill.

Samsung launches world's first UHDTV

Business Recorder, June 08, 2014

LAHORE: Samsung Electronics on Saturday launched world's first Curved Ultra High Definition Television (UHDTV) in Pakistan. Speaking at the new H-Series of TV/AV Samsung Pakistan Managing Director John Park said the young UHDTV market has great potential in Pakistan. Samsung's innovative technology converts lower resolution contents into UHD picture quality enhancing the details of video images, he said. "We are extremely delighted to launch a new range of innovative products. Samsung UHDTV displays the world's true colours through PURCOLOR, crystal clear images with optimized contrasts, that is suitable for UHD picture quality. Samsung's UHD dimming precisely adjusts the brightness levels to create deeper black and purer whites" he added.

HEC, PTCL sign agreement

Business Recorder, June 07, 2014

ISLAMABAD: An agreement signing ceremony between Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), for provisioning of wireless internet services (EVO) to talented students under Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, was held here on Friday. Anwar Amjad, Director General (IT) HEC and Muhammad Basharat Qureshi, Executive Vice President (Corporate Sales) PTCL signed the agreement, while Walid Irshad, CEO and President, PTCL and Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC were also present on the occasion. PTCL and HEC have agreed to establish and define a collaborative relationship, to provide white labelled EVO Wireless Internet Services to the students designated by HEC on special monthly rates. The provision of services shall be made on terms and conditions specifically customized for the said scheme. HEC shall purchase a total of 100,000 devices and make the payment against the device cost to PTCL as per agreement. EVO devices shall be delivered to HEC in batches within three months; however, same will be distributed to all eligible universities/institutes by PTCL. HEC shall issue these EVO connections only to designated students. PTCL has the right to block any devices found to be resold or available for sale in the open market. The device shall be activated within 72 hours from the time a request is submitted by the student at PTCL customer centres. The service shall be activated on default package; however, after completion of one month the device may be continued on default package or shifted to any standard EVO package with 20 percent discount. HEC shall provide all artwork for co-branding for both on the device casing and on packaging of the EVO devices. The package shall also contain guidelines for students telling them the procedure(s) for activation/reactivation of device, and a list of PTCL service centers available across Pakistan and AJ&K. Walid Irshad, President, PTCL said this initiative will empower the students of Pakistani universities and make them work more efficiently for a bright future. He

Smartphone makers to be encouraged

Daily Dawn, June 07, 2014

stressed that each and every clause of the agreement will be honoured, adding that quality of service will also be ensured. Walid said PTCL is always available to support HEC's IT and Telecom related endeavours. "We want HEC to prosper and benefit more and more students and researchers of this country". He added that as a goodwill gesture from PTCL side, all students under this scheme shall be provided three months' free internet service without any capping (i.e. unlimited downloads).

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said the government would provide incentives to local manufactures of smartphones and IT-related solutions during the next three years. Chairing a meeting with a group of Chinese investors in information technology sector, the finance minister said foreign direct investment (FDI) in IT sector would enjoy special corporate tax rate for the next five years if they complete their projects in three years time period, till June 30, 2017. He also informed that Pakistan has educated and skilled young labour force which can be used as export base to the whole region. Mr Dar also discussed the proposed budget which "provides special incentives for foreigners investing here". Lou Peide, Secretary General of Chinese Mobile Companies Association and head of the delegation, said they are here to explore Pakistan's domestic market which "presents a huge opportunity for manufacturing of smartphones capable of 3G/4G technology". He mentioned that with nearly 200 million population and high growth rate in mobile industry, there is a huge requirement for local manufacturing units in the country. Chinese companies owned almost 80 per cent of the global market and produced smartphones whose costs ranged from \$22 to \$600, he said. The group expressed its commitment to set up smartphone manufacturing industry in Pakistan. Mr Dar assured the investors that their concrete proposal prepared in consultation with the Ministry of IT and the Board of Investment (BoI) would be considered seriously to develop local mobile manufacturing units here.

Rock band's Facebook page blocked at govt request

Daily Dawn, June 07, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Facebook has blocked the popular page of a liberal Pakistani rock band and others that criticise the Taliban, allegedly at the request of the government. Rock band "Laal" was formed in 2007 and their Facebook page has more than 400,000 likes, with users frequently joining debates on issues ranging from feminism to the role of the army in politics. But it has been inaccessible to users from inside Pakistan since Wednesday. Other pages like "Pakistani.meem" which describes itself as pro-democracy and secularism and "Taalibansarezalimans" have similarly been blocked in recent days. "Facebook didn't even inform us. I realised when I noticed no activity on our page," Taimur Rahman, Laal's lead guitarist, said. Facebook confirmed the move on Friday, saying Laal's page had been blocked inside Pakistan at Islamabad's request, under an agreement to limit access to "material that violates local laws". A Facebook spokeswoman said: "While we never remove this type of content from the site entirely, like most internet services, we may restrict people from accessing it in the countries where it is determined to be illegal." "Before we restrict the content, we take significant steps to investigate each unique claim, consult with local counsel and other experts in the country, and will only remove content in the most limited way possible," she added. According to a page on Facebook that deals with government requests, 162 pieces of content were restricted for viewership inside Pakistan between July and December 2013. "We restricted access in Pakistan to a number of pieces of content primarily reported by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and the Ministry of Information Technology under local laws prohibiting blasphemy and criticism of the state," the page says. Pakistan blocked YouTube in 2012 following the release of a film that was critical of Islam. Websites for Baloch separatist movements are also banned. Shahzad Ahmad, director of the Bytes For All organisation that campaigns for free speech, said: "This is a mass murder of free speech in Pakistan." Yasser Latif Hamdani, a lawyer, added: "This is a grave mistake by Facebook. Also for the Pakistani government to make such requests is illegal and unconstitutional." Pakistan's agreement with Facebook came to light last year when a senior official from the PTA was summoned by the Lahore High Court in a case concerning the YouTube ban, but its terms have not been made public. When called for comment on Friday, Khurram Ali Mehran, a spokesman for the regulatory body, denied the existence of such an agreement, saying Facebook had acted alone. "We have no agreement with Facebook whatsoever, it's a pack of lies," he said. "We have not closed the page of Laal. Facebook has its own terms of reference and it closes pages that seem indecent to them," he added. Rahman, the musician, said the blocking of the page was indicative of diminishing space for liberals in the country. "If you have progressive or liberal views you will be gunned down or silenced but if you have extremist views and take up arms Pakistan will give you the status of a stakeholder in power and negotiate with you," he alleged.

Illegal sale of SIMs biggest hurdle for crime-fighters: IGP

The News, June 07, 2014

Karachi Believe it or not, the blanket bans on cellular networks do have their uses at least for the police. This is because the continuous illegal sale and use of SIMs is not only among the major reasons for unabated criminal activities in Karachi, but also increases the workload of the understaffed police force by several times, explained Sindh IGP Iqbal Mehmood. During a tete-a-tete with The News, he explained how most of the criminal activities involved the use of cell phones having unregistered and prepaid SIMs making it really hard for the police force to first track down the right suspects and then nab them in the act. "For example a trader receives a call from extortionists. When we track down the number and pull out the identification card number on which the SIM had been bought, it turns out that the person is not even using the number... it's someone else," he said. "We then trace the most-recent calls made using that number and pick up that man who after time and effort leads us to the real culprit. Once we even caught a suspect with 300 SIMs." Add to the equation, the problem of an acute shortage

Pak telecom sector has huge potential for investment: Mamnoon
The News, June 07, 2014

Govt wants to make smartphone accessible to

of on-duty policemen who are already overburdened. A simple blockade of all prepaid SIMs can lighten the workload of law-enforcers by many times. According to the IGP, the case of post-paid services was not problematic since customers had to visit the telecom franchise to get their services activated or changed, leaving little chance of someone misusing their identities. The solution? Mehmood suggests a blanket ban on all prepaid and illegal SIMs throughout the province and asking subscribers to visit the franchise to have their connections activated after biometric identification. "The Sindh police have repeatedly requested the government to take this step but the officials seem reluctant to be on the bad books of big telecom operators," he lamented. On the other hand, he said, there were dealers in the market who sold illegal SIMs and had the equipment for pulling out somebody's identification from voters' lists. "The traders who come to us complaining about extortion threats also know about these dealers and yet let them operate right under their noses... they too have to realise that letting such dealers operate actually contributes to their problems and worsens the law and order situation," he said. The illegal sale might cease to be a problem from July 1, when a new policy of the federal government, all SIMs will be issued after a biometric identification of the user. "But what about the SIMs already in use? How will we filter through them unless they aren't blocked?" asked Mehmood. In April, the Sindh Assembly passed a unanimous resolution to shut down the transceiver stations of all telecom operators in the province if no progress was witnessed with regards to blocking illegal and unregistered SIMs. Understaffed police force Talking about the capabilities of the present police force, the IGP said there had been no proper recruitment in the past 10 years and that was why the force was incredibly short of personnel on duty. However, he said, this would be remedied pretty soon by opening up 10,000 vacancies and beginning recruitment from the constable level. But the influx of officers would also mean double the efforts required to train them, especially when the training of present officers with regards to investigation leaves much to be desired. In this regard, said the IGP, police were being helped by foreign NGOs to provide them with training, besides modernising the investigation methods used to catch criminals.

ISLAMABAD: President Mamnoon Hussain Friday said that there existed huge potential for investment and profitable business ventures in the telecom sector of the country, especially the manufacturing of 3G/4G compatible mobile handsets in wake of new opportunities created after the successful launch of these services in Pakistan. Talking to a delegation of IT companies headed by Fan Yunjun, CEO China Mobile Pakistan here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president invited the foreign investors especially the Chinese companies to take advantage of the these IT opportunities. He said that Pakistan offered the most liberal investment policies in the region where 100 percent equity was allowed and investors could repatriate 100 percent of their profit. The Chinese delegation evinced keen interest in further exploring business opportunities in the country in the telecom sector. The Chinese delegation included among others Lou Peide, Secretary-General, China Mobile Communication Association (CMCA), Chan Hoi Shu, CEO, Matsunichi Digital Development (Shenzhen) Company Limited, Xie Shouyang, General Manager, Asia Markets, Yulong Computer Telecommunication Scientific (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd., Zhang Shaolin, Chairman, Shenzhen Wave Multimedia, Kang Zhen, CEO, Shenzhen Hi-Tech Electronics Co., Ltd., Sun Jingchun, CEO, GuoDing Networkspace Security Tech Ltd., Liujiping, President, Oriental Unicont Technology (Beijing) Co. Ltd., Wang Tao, CEO, Wuhan Ke Yuan AnXin Technology Co. Ltd., Steven Kang, CEO, Hitec Technology Group Co. Ltd., Jason Sun, Guoding Cyberspace Security Technologies Co. Ltd. and Simon Xie, Coolpad Group Ltd. Anusha Rahman Khan, Minister of State for IT; Ahmad Farooq, Secretary to the President; Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar, Secretary IT; Mudassar Hussain, Member (Telecom) and Press Secretary to the president Saba Mohsin Raza were also present during the meeting. Meanwhile, President Mamnoon conferred Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam upon the outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Dr Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Ghadeer during a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The citation read on the occasion said that Ambassador Dr Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Ghadeer worked tirelessly to strengthen Pak-Saudi bilateral relations. He took proactive measures to enhance people-to-people contacts and bring the business communities of the two countries closer to each other. Ambassador Al-Ghadeer also coordinated activity of the Saudi Fund for Development which provided soft loans for several important development projects. In the aftermath of 2011-2012 floods, Ambassador Al-Ghadeer played an active role in coordinating relief assistance from the Kingdom. He personally led field campaigns and Saudi volunteer teams to support the flood affected people. The campaign office working under him built schools, hospitals and rehabilitated drinking water supplies and other important projects. "In recognition of his long-standing a meritorious service to Pakistan, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has been pleased to confer on Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Ghadeer, the award of 'Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam', said the citation. On this occasion the president observed that Pakistan highly valued its brotherly ties with KSA and desired to strengthen them in all fields. He wished the outgoing ambassador good health and every success in his future assignments. He also conveyed best wishes and prayers for the good health and long life of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah as well as for progress and prosperity of the people of the Kingdom. Dr Abdulaziz-Al-Ghadeer thanked the president and the government of Pakistan for the award and also for the support and cooperation that he had received during his tenure as Ambassador. Later, Dr Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, calls on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ISLAMABAD: Government wanted to make a smartphone accessible to a common man at a low cost and this target could only be achieved if mobile phones were manufactured locally.

all at low cost'*Daily Times, June 06, 2014*

Minister of State for Information Technology Anusha Rahman on Thursday discussed local mobile manufacturing prospects in Pakistan with a high level Chinese delegation comprising heads of leading telecoms. Talking to the delegates she said after 3G/4G spectrum auction, we invited potential telecom manufacturing companies to come forward and invest in telecom equipment mobile hand sets manufacturing to help in building the eco system in our rapidly thriving telecom market. Anusha Rahman said Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP) had been making landline phones for Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited. Government intends to use the skilled labour and facilities of TIP for local manufacturing of mobile phone. TIP is equipped with advance machines, which can be used, effectively in local mobile manufacturing. We invite telecom-manufacturing companies to partner with Pakistan when embarking on this new era of technological advancements. Government is ready to facilitate investors by offering tax relaxation and others lucrative incentives as the government has recently reduced taxes of telecom services and also incentivised new manufacturers through reducing corporate tax by over 10 percent in its recent budget announced on June 3, she said. Chairman BOI Ismail Mufta talking to Chinese delegation said telecom sector in Pakistan has huge potential for investment especially after 3G/4G and government has already announced many concessions including 10 years tax holidays to the foreign investors. He said China mobile was a success story in Pakistan and other Chinese companies by learning from their experiences, could invest in local mobile manufacturing confidently as Public Private Partnership. Government of Pakistan also has a free trade agreement with China. Head of the Chinese delegation Lou Peide and Secretary General China Mobile Communication Association (CMCA) appreciated the investment friendly policies of the government and expressed keen interest in local manufacturing plan. While sharing his experiences he said China telecom industry had started its journey from zero about 20 years back and now it's leading the world with 80 percent mobile manufacturing share. Pakistan is a drastically growing market in telecom sector and its pace would be further geared up with its local manufacturing industry. Minister of State for IT has appreciated the spirit and keen interest shown by the Chinese telecom companies for their investment in local mobile manufacturing in Pakistan and assured them the utmost cooperation of Ministry of Information Technology and government of Pakistan in this regard.

Telecom sector indicators show positive growth*Business Recorder, June 03, 2014*

ISLAMABAD: Telecom sector indicators showed positive growth as teledensity improved to 78 percent, revenues reached over Rs 345.5 billion and total investment reached \$ 576 million during July-March 2013-14, revealed the Economic Survey 2013-14. Telecom sector is one of the highest contributors to the national exchequer in form of taxes, with on average Rs 119 billion annual revenue for the last five years. During fiscal year 2013, telecom sector contributed Rs 124 billion to the national exchequer. According to the survey, with 188 million population and 136 million cellular mobile subscribers, Pakistan's telecom sector provides enormous opportunities to foreign and local investors. International telecom companies have significant presence in Pakistan and these companies are successfully doing business all over the country. Telecom sector of Pakistan has attracted substantial foreign investment after the deregulation. During the period of July-March 2013-14, over \$0.53 billion have been invested in the telecom infrastructure and new technologies. This increase is solely due to an increase of investment by cellular mobile operators during July-March 2013-14. Investment in telecom sector is expected to increase in near future due to left over spectrum auction and network up-gradation. The country's telecommunication sector continued its growth trend as the overall teledensity reached an all-time high of 78 percent in July-March period of the fiscal year fiscal year 2014, up by three percentage points compared to 75 percent as of June 30, 2013. PTA encourages use of telecom-based solutions and applications for other sectors in the economy, for example, mobile banking, e-education, e-health etc. Productive use of these services can greatly enhance growth of the overall economy. The first 10 months of FY2014 remained significant for the telecom sector that took a giant leap forward in the world of technology by conducting next-generation mobile services (NGMS) license auction that earned the country more than \$1 billion, according to the Economic Survey.

Tele-density at 78pc*The News, June 03, 2014*

ISLAMABAD: With the new investment in the telecom sector, tele-density has been recorded at 78 percent during 2013-14 against 75 percent in the corresponding period last fiscal year. The country's telecommunication sector continued its growth trend as the overall tele-density reached an all-time high of 78 percent in July-March period of the fiscal year, up by three percentage points as compared to 75 percent as of June 30, 2013. Revenues reached over Rs345.5 billion and the total investment reached \$576 million during July-March 2013-14. The first 10 months of FY14 remained significant for the telecom sector that took a giant leap forward in the world of technology by conducting next generation mobile services (NGMS) licence auction that earned the country more than \$1 billion. The auction of 3G and 4G mobile spectrum would create 900,000 new jobs in the country; increase data penetration by up to 10 percent during the next three years and increase GDP growth by 1.5 percent to 1.8 percent. The telecom sector is one of the highest contributors to the national exchequer, putting Rs119 billion per annum on an average for the last five years. During fiscal year 2013, the sector contributed Rs124 billion to the national exchequer.

Manufacturing mobiles*Daily dawn, June 02, 2014*

Would anybody believe that countries like Ethiopia and Zambia have established their own mobile-phone manufacturing facilities? India is presently manufacturing ten top brands of mobile phones. Pakistan imported cell phones to the tune of \$516 million during the first 10 months of the current year. Why can't we produce these phones in cooperation with a reputable international firm whose phones are being sold worldwide? The whole world is doing

Video trial and error
Daily Dawn, June 02, 2014

it. One wonders why such opportunities have been escaping the attention of our planners. To attract investment in this field, we should cut import duties and corporate tax rates and provide fool-proof security for the investors. We should also provide free land for the manufacturing plants of these phones. In my opinion, the best place for establishing a mobile-phone manufacturing factory would be PAC Kamra, District Attock. The retired, highly qualified and experienced technical manpower from Kamra Avionics and Radar Factory could be straightaway deployed on this job. Cheap and qualified manpower is our strength which should be taken up immediately.

WHEN freakish happenings are the order of the day, technology must also conspire with other forces at work to throw up a few instances here and there. On Saturday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was all set to carry out its first experiment of trying an accused by video link, but just then the lights went out and the proceedings had to be put off. Wapda was doing its job suspending the electricity to the Peshawar area's judicial complex where the anti-terrorism courts are located, thus cutting off the video link from the latter to the city's central jail where the accused facing charges of terrorism is detained. It is understandable that Wapda couldn't come to the rescue of the authorities on this one, for Wapda works by its own schedule and the distress caused to the consumers is not its headache. The mystery is why those involved in arranging the video link were unprepared for the shutdown. Eyes were focused on an innovation that experts say could greatly influence the trial process in the country, and the organisers could have averted the false start by having an alternative plan, such as one including the services of a power generator, ready. These small things matter even more when disillusionment is rife and the people's belief in the system lies shattered. The organisers of this trial unnecessarily contributed to the growing public sentiment against officials who appear to take their work non-seriously. Experts' police, lawyers and other close observers of the legal system have long been calling for the introduction of trial by video link. The option does not only enable the police to avoid the tricky task of transporting dangerous undertrial prisoners whenever necessary, it is considered to be a cheaper choice saving police resources. But even this seemingly simple method needs practice to run as smoothly as possible. The sooner the glitches are overcome the easier it will be to silence the doubters who predict that nothing ever works in Pakistan.

GB people demand 3G, 4G internet fa
Daily Dawn, June 02, 2014

GILGIT: The people of Gilgit-Baltistan have been left high and dry as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has not allowed launch of 3G and 4G internet facilities in the region. According to the licence description available on the PTA website, mobile companies have been asked not to provide Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir the next generation mobile service (NGMS), as PTA considers the two regions outside of Pakistan. PTA's licence description for different NGMS modes states that the licensee is to establish, maintain and operate the licensed system and to provide NGMS in Pakistan, excluding AJK and GB. It states that licensee shall provide NGMS, including the mandatory services, throughout Pakistan except AJK and GB. It further says that the license does not authorise the provision of telecommunication services in AJK and GB. The decision has attracted criticism by the GB people, particularly students, of PTA. The PTA decision shows that GB is not part of Pakistan and that the people of the region cannot have the right to avail the 3G and 4G facility,' said Fazal Abbas, who is doing MSc in economics at the Karakoram International University. Talking to Dawn he said that a backward region like GB should not be deprived of the fastest internet facility which has been launched across Pakistan. Sajjad Hussain, another student, said that the region had already been facing communication issues as Special Communication Organisation was the sole internet service provider in the area, which wasn't satisfactory. In this context, the decision of PTA has greatly disappointed us because we would be unable to get easy access to fastest internet for accomplishment of our research work,' regretted Mr Hussain. Nadeem Ahmed, who is doing PhD at the KIU, said, 'We were hoping that 3G and 4G services would help overcome internet speed issue in the region, but the PTA move has disappointed us'. He demanded of the concerned authorities to review the decision.

FRAMEWORK NEWS IN ICT SECTOR

Groopic, founded by four students and researchers from LUMS,
www.telecoalert.com
 June 24, 2014

Groopic, a Pakistani technology startup founded by four students and researchers of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), has just closed a US\$ six figures investment from Kima Ventures, the seed stage fund that also financed Shopistan recently. Based on details of the funding disclosed by Groopic, the investment is in the form of a debt convertible to equity with a maturity of 18 months that can value the company at US\$ low seven figures at conversion to equity assuming a qualified financing event takes place. The company is also bringing on board a seasoned and very successful US based business development partner who will be working with the founding team in exchange for an undisclosed share of equity in the business. Groopic started its journey at the Startup Weekend organized by LUMS back in February of 2012. The team of four Ali Rehan, Amer Zaheer, Murtaza Taj and Abdul Rehman, all computer scientists conducting computer vision research at LUMS under the supervision of Dr. Sohaib Khan won the competition and even managed to woo an investor at the event although they didn't accept his investment offer. The company's first product, an Android and iPhone photo app, called Groopic that allows the photographer to be a part of any picture he/she takes has received a lot of media coverage in local as well as international press including CNN and TechCrunch. In October, the team started work on their second product that aims to disrupt the video advertising market. Pre-roll, post-roll and banner advertisements on video content have typically been considered intrusive by the consumer. By employing their combined 30+ years of research in the field of computer vision at LUMS, the team has developed technology to solve this problem and allow for content producers and publishers to monetize the video content through non-intrusive advertisements. Talking about the investment, Ali Rehan, CEO of Groopic said, "There is a lot of investment interest in Pakistani startups, both from local as well as international investors. We actually had offers from multiple interested parties, a couple of them introduced by the LUMS Center for Entrepreneurship, but decided to take the offer from Kima Ventures because it provided best overall value addition to the company aside from the capital injection."

"This is excellent news for the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Pakistan. Recent investments in Popinjay, Shopistan, Zameen.com and now Groopic are testament to the increasing interest and confidence of investors in local startup businesses," said Khurram Zafar, Executive Director of LUMS Center for Entrepreneurship, who has been advising Groopic during their fund raising. The company intends to use the capital to build out the development team (yes, they are hiring!), improve the product, and engage in marketing and sales activities in the international market.

Data Plug Allows You to Develop Data Gathering Apps in Minutes
www.propakistani.pk
 June 24, 2014

Due to the progress in the development area of the world, new technologies have been introduced in the market and their progress can be tested by the formation of applications by individuals that perform simple functions. There are numerous such software development kits available in the market, DataPlug is one best among them, specifically if your niche is data gathering. It is basically a platform initiated by Punjab information and technology board for the build out of new apps, and it is developed with the help of researchers from ITU information technology university funded by World Bank and UK aid. DataPlug platform is a plug and play platform with which one can make new application in mere 5 minutes due to its simple to carry out procedure and working i.e by dragging and dropping. The most astonishing feature of this data plug program is that the newly evolved or developed applications are highly dynamic. The inspiration for DataPlug Platform comes from UW's Open Data Kit (ODK). The main objective behind the creation of this platform is to provide the developers with a chance to expand their ideas of new mobile applications. Punjab Government previously faced a problem to monitor its work-flows and the outcome. Thanks to DataPlug platform, it was able to develop award winning apps such as Dengue Activity Tracking System, Crime investigation Reporting System, Punjab Spot Pricing, Tracking of Agriculture Extension Workers, Tracking of Education Monitoring officers etc. NGO's and other organisations can rely on DataPlug to get newly designed developments from their field workers. Punjab Government has introduced almost 30 different apps using this platform and everybody is allowed to use it. After a bird's eye view we can say that all in this platform has so much opportunities to offer to young developers to evolve new apps for the users.

Mobilink and OLX Bring Free Internet to Customers
www.propakistani.pk
 June 23, 2014

Mobilink in collaboration with OLX has launched Pakistan's first sponsored internet offer. This initiative will provide 24 hours of free Internet to Mobilink customers using the Opera Mini Browser. Speaking about the offer Aamer Manzoor, Head of Data Mobilink said, "Mobilink believes in bringing innovation as we continue to enhance our bouquet of mobile internet offers. Sponsored internet is one such initiative and will play an integral role in opening new avenues for Mobilink to partner with some of the leading global brands in Pakistan and provide them with a platform for promoting their products and services." Sponsored Internet provides instant access to high speed Internet to the customers using Opera Mini browser. Customers simply have to visit webpass.opera.com and become a part of this limited time offer. The campaign, sponsored by OLX, will provide free internet to the first 100,000 subscribers.

Twitter blocks the access of the objectionable contents provisionally. MOIT

Ministry of Information Technology has given its clarification regarding a news item published in print media on 19th June, 2014 under the caption "Twitter restores access to blasphemous content". The spokesperson of Ministry of IT said that the news item does not portray the actual picture of the state of affairs. All Social Media websites like Twitter has provisions to process the requests of governments for removing/withholding the objectionable content

www.telecoalert.com
 June 22, 2014

Volume of Financial Transactions via Internet Banking Increases 16% in Pakistan

www.propakistani.pk
 June 20, 2014

according to the laws of the country from which the complaints are originated. To the extent of such requests from Pakistan, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) liaises with the Twitter Management. Accordingly, Twitter removes/withhold the content, which violates the Twitter rules & Policies and the Pakistani laws. Twitter is compelled to reactively withhold identified content in specific jurisdictions around the world. Consistent with the policies Twitter provides notices to all of the affected account holders and published the actioned takedown requests on "Chilling Effects Clearinghouse" to maximize transparency. On the basis of urgency of the matter, Twitter first blocks the access of the objectionable contents provisionally and engages with relevant governments if permanent suppression is required. Recently, Twitter has requested for some more information regarding the objectionable links reported by PTA after public and other requests. While the company as per its policy provisionally acted on the request, it's a matter of usual practice to seek clarifications from requesting governments. Same relates to instant case and the actions are neither unusual nor Pakistan centric.

State Bank of Pakistan has said that total transactions in Pakistan carried through internet banking showed an increase of 15.7% in volume and 7.0% in value of transactions during January to March 2014 quarter. State Bank in its quarterly review said that Internet banking constituted a volume share of 4.4% and a value share of 2.1% of overall financial transactions in the country. Review said that as of 31st March 2014, 24 banks are offering internet banking services, 13 are offering mobile phone banking and 22 are offering call centre/ IVR banking facility to the customers for bill payments, fund transfers and other banking services. During the current quarter, 68 POS machines have been added in the network bringing the total number of POS machines to 33,802. According to the report, 393 new ATMs were added to the network (growth rate of 5.1% compared with that in the previous quarter) bringing the total number to 8,077. ATMs remained the preferred channel for cash withdrawals accounting for 81.2% of the total amount transacted via this mode. Total ATMs transactions constituted a volume share of 63.8% and a value share of 8.1% in total e-banking transactions. Moreover, total transactions carried through ATMs showed an increase of 5.9% in volume and 6.2% in value of transactions compared with that in the previous quarter. Pakistan Real-time Interbank Settlement Mechanism (PRISM), a large value payment system, showed a mixed trend of transactions settlement over the last five quarters. During the current quarter, total transactions settled in PRISM showed an increase of 10.2% both in volume and value compared with that in the previous quarter and an increase of 28.7% in volume and a decline of 1.6% in value of transactions compared with that in the same quarter of the previous year. Internet banking constituted a volume share of 4.4% and a value share of 2.1%, mobile phone banking constituted a volume share of 1.6% and value share of 0.2% and call centers/ IVR banking constituted volume share of 0.2% and value share of 0.03% in total e-banking transactions. Moreover, total transactions carried through internet banking showed an increase of 15.7% in volume and 7.0% in value of transactions, total transactions carried through POS showed an increase of 7.7% in volume and 10.4% in value, mobile phone banking transactions showed an increase of 14.1% in volume and 13.3% in value of transactions and total transactions carried through call centre/ IVR banking showed a decline of 1% in volume and an increase of 4.1% in value of transactions compared with that in the previous quarter. In the composition of plastic cards, debit cards have the highest percentage share of over 90.6% followed by credit cards with 5.5% and ATMs Only cards with 3.9% share as of quarter ended 31st March, 2014. The total number of plastic cards showed an increase of 8.6 % compared with that in the previous quarter and a growth of 11.7% compared with that in the same quarter of the previous year.

Consumer Rights Protection Council Raises concerns Over Increased Taxes on Telecom

www.propakistani.pk
 June 20, 2014

Consumer Rights Protection Council (CRPC) raised its concerns over tax reforms in budget for 2014-15. Mr. Shakeel Baig, Chairman CRPC, addressed a press conference here at a local hotel, where he shared his reservations on major issues related to telecom sector and the impact on telecom consumers. Increase in Customs Duty The proposed increase in import duty of telecommunication equipment will slow down the rollout of 3G services in the country to eventually deprive the customer of 3G and 4G services, Shakeel Baig, chairman of CRPC, said. According to details mentioned in Federal Budget for 2014 -15, the import duty on imported machinery is doubled from previous 5% to a 10% value now. This increase in duty will be applicable from July 1st, 2014. In addition to increase in custom duty, the Finance Bill 2014-15 also nullified the Statutory Regulatory Order 575(I)/2006, which used to facilitate import of telecom equipment on reduced duties as opposed to the standard customs tariffs. Under the said SRO, telecom sources say, the telecom industry used to avail a tax rebate and paid mere 5% customs duty on import of selected telecom equipment, which, as proposed in the new budget document, will increase to 10%, 15% and even 25% in some cases. According to stats made available to ProPakistani, telecom industry paid Rs. 670 million (approximately) in customs duties on the telecom equipment imported last year. Calculations suggest that if a similar quantity of telecom equipment is imported this year then the total custom duties to be paid by operators will increase by 43 percent to reach at or around Rs. 968 million. This equation, if translated with consumers' viewpoint, will mean that telecom operators will be able to deploy only half of the network they had planned at the time of 3G auction, because budgets have already been approved and allocated for network expansions by almost all operators and they can't be revised. After reviewing the bill in detail, the cellular mobile operators (CMOs) have termed the budget 2014-2015 unfriendly that negatively impacts the telecom sector's growth. Government has proposed to reduce withholding tax (WHT) on telecom services from 15 percent to 14 percent, which was increased from 10 percent to 15 percent just last year. Federal government reduced GST from 19.5 percent to 18.5 percent but

Twitter Restores Blasphemous Content in Pakistan It had Blocked Last Month

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June 18, 2014

Mobilink Offers Unlimited 3G for Six Months with Ascend P7

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June 17, 2014

Breaking: Pakistani Government Withdraws ICH

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May 17, 2014

this reduction is only applicable for customers in Islamabad, Balochistan and KPK because other provinces didn't follow the federal government and didn't reduce GST on telecom services. Telecom sector has remained poised over past few years due to such high-taxes. Various studies have shown that 3G penetration is slower in countries with higher tax burden and in the long-run it also impacts the government revenues adversely. With advent of 3G in Pakistan, industry sources say, it is expected that mobile data penetration will directly impact gross domestic product (GDP) growth in future. The imposition of Rs 250 sales tax to be paid at the time of registration of a new International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number has jolted the telecom sector, as a new type of sales tax has been imposed through Finance Bill (2014-15) without any consultation with the telecom companies. In addition to Rs. 500 tax imposed on handsets last year – government of Pakistan now wants to collect Rs. 250 on each new handset that is registered on cellular networks in the name of "New IMEI Registration Tax". This tax of Rs. 250 is intended to be collected from customer for each new handset that is connected to cellular networks. Moreover, mobile phone companies are declared as tax collecting agents and they have to ensure that tax has been collected for each new handset registered on any of the five networks. One handset that has been registered on one network and has paid the tax will not be liable to tax again even if it is used on any other network. PTA has been held responsible for maintaining a centralized data of IMEI numbers registered on network, so double taxation on the same IMEI number by more than one operator is prevented. Mobile phone companies are directed to not to allow any calls/SMS or any other telecom facility without collecting Rs. 250 from customers that registers new handset with new IMEI number. Telecom industry has shown its utter disappointment on the move by saying that this new tax will not only nullify the 1% cut in WHT, but in fact the collection of tax against registration of new IMEI is practically impossible. Telecom companies have categorically said that they will simply not collect taxes on Government's part. They said that they have not invested billion of dollars in this country to become tax collectors for the government. Consumer Rights Protection Council (CRPC) requested the concerned authorities to take necessary measures to address these demands of telecom sector. It said that telecom sector is major contributor towards country's FDI and national exchequer through highest taxes; it is time for the government to save the industry by rationalizing taxes on the sector.

Twitter has announced that it is restoring the access to blasphemous content in Pakistan that it had blocked last month on the request of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. Twitter had blocked the access to blasphemous content in Pakistan which was inline with its Country Withheld Content tool that Twitter announced in 2012. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority had written to Twitter to block several tweets and certain twitter accounts. These tweets involved blasphemous content, anti-Quran tweets and messages against Islam from anti-Islam bloggers and an American porn star. Twitter had then said that it blocked the access to such specific content after thoroughly investigating the type and nature of tweets. But today, Twitter took a U turn as said that it is restoring the access to such tweets. "We have reexamined the requests and, in the absence of additional clarifying information from Pakistani authorities, have determined that restoration of the previously withheld content is warranted. The content is now available again in Pakistan," Twitter stated in an email response that is produced on Chilling Effects. Pakistani internet activists have shown their satisfaction over restoration of blasphemous content in the country. They believe that the procedure in place for determination of blasphemous content is inappropriate and that government or no-one else should be given a right to get any content blocked.

Mobilink has announced that it will offer free 3G data for six months to its prepaid customers who will buy newly launched Huawei Ascend P7 from the company. Huawei's Ascend P7 is another addition to the bouquet of 3G enabled handsets that Mobilink has introduced for an enhanced 3G experience. Ascend P6, Huawei's flagship device comes with sleek & stylish metal design. Ascend P7 features an aluminium chassis with Gorilla Glass panels on both front and rear. The screen size has been bumped up to 5-inches. Ascend P7 offers full HD resolution with a high pixel density of 445ppi. Ascend P7 features a 13-megapixel primary camera, along with an 8-megapixel front facing camera; just to make you look better in "selfies". The Sony made primary camera has a large f2.0 aperture along with BSI sensor, which means better photos in low light. Under the hood Ascend P7 is packed with Huawei Kirin 920T quad-core processor, clocked at 1.8GHz along with 2GB of RAM, 16GB of internal storage and the option to extend it via microSD card slot. Aamer Manzoor Head of Data, Mobilink commenting on the launch said, "Mobilink has always focused on complimenting its 3G services by introducing the latest devices in the market. Huawei Ascend P7 is a state-of-the-art phone specially designed for enhanced internet experience." All Mobilink pre-paid customers can enjoy the offer by inserting their SIMs in their new Huawei Ascend P7 on or before 31st July, 2014

Government of Pakistan has decided to withdraw the notorious International Clearing House or ICH, we have confirmed with sources. With this development, call rates for international incoming calls to Pakistan are likely to go down to pre-ICH levels, we have checked with foreign operators. Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom has issued a policy directive in this regard that will reverse its directive on ICH issued in 2012, a source who has direct knowledge of the development told ProPakistani. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority confirmed ProPakistani that it has received a policy directive from MoIT for withdrawal of ICH. PTA said that it will communicate the industry about the directive accordingly. Regulator said

Government Doubles the Custom Duty on Import of Telecom Equipment

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that it had recommended MoIT for withdrawal of ICH. As per information we have received, the new APC (Access Promotion Charge) is set at zero and LDI operators are free to negotiate their rates with foreign operators for international incoming call charges. With this move as mentioned above international incoming call charges for Pakistan are likely to go down to pre-ICH levels if not below that. With withdrawal of ICH, grey traffic coming to Pakistan will also decrease substantially as the incentive for grey traffickers will get down to a level where business will not remain viable case for them to continue the illegal channels

Government of Pakistan has doubled the custom duty on imported machinery that includes telecom equipment required for rollout of telecom (and particularly the 3G) networks. According to details mentioned in Federal Budget for 2014 – 15, the import duty on imported machinery is doubled from previous 5% to a 10% value now. This increase in duty will be applicable from July 1st, 2014. In addition to increase in custom duty, the Finance Bill 2014-15 also nullified the Statutory Regulatory Order 575(I)/2006, which used to facilitate import of telecom equipment on reduced duties as opposed to the standard customs tariffs. Under the said SRO, telecom sources say, the telecom industry used to avail a tax rebate and paid mere 5% customs duty on import of selected telecom equipment, which, as proposed in the new budget document, will increase to 10%, 15% and even 25% in some cases. This has happened at a time when 3G rollouts are on the rise and telecom companies are aggressively working on their 3G network expansion plans. According to stats made available to ProPakistani, telecom industry paid Rs. 670 million (approximately) in customs duties on the telecom equipment imported last year. Calculations suggest that if a similar quantity of telecom equipment is imported this year then the total custom duties to be paid by operators will increase by 43 percent to reach at or around Rs. 968 million. This equation, if translated with consumers' viewpoint, will mean that telecom operators will be able to deploy only half of the network they had planned at the time of 3G auction, because budgets have already been approved and allocated for network expansions by almost all operators and they can't be revised. For example, if telcos were to set up six towers in an area, they would now be left with a budget to set up only four. Not to forget, as per 3G licenses Telecom operators are to meet a certain rollout deadlines to meet license' requirements. With budgets approved by respective group headquarters, it appears that telecom companies might fall short of the 3G rollout obligations placed by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. The industry has already made a big investment for acquiring 3G licences and upgrading their infrastructure, getting the headquarters' approval for an additional budget would naturally be difficult. Our sources tell that mobile phone operators have already written a letter to the finance ministry to raise the issue. However, it's the government which should have considered the outcomes of further-taxing the telecom industry, which is already one of the highest taxed sector in the country. This also leaves a question mark on government's claims of stretching the technology to the people of country. These new taxes will only block the efforts of taking 3G to masses instead of helping them.

Broadband subscribers base reached 3.4 million

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ISLAMABAD (MEDIA) Broadband subscriber's base has reached 3.4 million at end of February this year as around 717,835 new users joined the platform during last eight months. An average annual growth rate of broadband is still above 100 percent in the sector. An official at Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said one subscription can cater broadband needs of a number of people in a house/business facility; therefore, broadband users are in larger numbers than the subscription. He said taking an average family size of four people, the broadband users, based on number of broadband subscriptions of 3.4 million are around 13 million. The official said this number is reasonably be higher than this as corporate subscription of broadband is also used by multiple users. He said with the introduction of 3G/4G mobile services, the mobile broadband penetration in the country would substantially increased in coming years

PTA purchased software to evaluate 3G services

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Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Dr Ismail Shah said that the regulator had purchased software to evaluate quality of services being provided on account of 3G and 4G in the country. "We will ensure quality of services on account of 3G and 4G in the country," the chairman PTA said while talking to reporters after launching of 3G services last day. Earlier, during the function, the chairman PTA also asked the company to launch 4G services as soon as possible

Facebook Aims to Increase Revenues from Paksitani Market

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In the business world, its necessary to keep searching and working out ways to raise the bar of profits and success. Following the trend, Facebook has decided to improve its revenue rate by targeting the South Asian countries like Pakistan and India. This is happening primarily because these South Asian countries have humongous number of heads, plus a comparatively low penetration-rate on Facebook, offering huge potential for the company to tap the market. And now, when developed markets are nearing the saturation, Facebook has decided to turn its attention towards the developing markets like Pakistan. A study conducted by a social media strategy company iStrategy Labs states that Facebook aims to increase its current user base of about 1.23 billion to 5 billion and with that it also plans to increase its revenue piles with users from Pakistan, India and China top among them. The report takes into account 50 of the most populous nations across the globe. Facebook advertising data shows that about seven per cent of Pakistan's population, or just 14.2 million people use the network. Just eight per cent of India's population, or 102 million people are using Facebook in the country of 1.1 billion. Though according to a November 2013 report, internet users in India will hit 243 million in 2014. The data also asserts that China is a statistical growth portal for the social media network. Though in China only 0.06 per cent of users or 840,000 users are on

Facebook because of the authoritarian regulations of the country. But data propose that the growth of the country will only be possible if Facebook is formally and officially allowed in the country by the permission of the higher authorities. Top Insights formulated out of the iStrategy Lab report: Facebook's biggest growth opportunity exists in countries like India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Nigeria. China also presents a massive opportunity but only if current regulations change and Facebook is allowed into the country. That said, there's still significant growth opportunity in the U.S., Canada and UK (all at 56% penetration). Malaysia & Argentina are the two non-English speaking countries that show greater than 50% penetration. Fun fact: North Korea shows 8,000 users. The data also suggest that Facebook needs to jolt the US and UK markets further as United Kingdom has the highest rate of Facebook users 56.48% and America has second largest number of users 56.45%, despite those figures, Facebook has finalized to increase its revenue via South Asians. This is mainly due to the everyday increasing interest of South Asian natives. Being a highly regarded business venture, how could Facebook not consider the trend and carry out a constructive plan to maximize its profits! The fact should be noted; Pakistan's Telecom Sector is now providing free Facebook facilities to the mobile users all across the country and with the advent of 3G and 4G technologies, individual network usage must have been increased to a figurative extent leaving more room for the thought of considering Pakistan a helping hand to increase the revenue of Facebook in totality. With this, trend of entrepreneurship is taking over in big cities especially Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Islamabad. It will allow the local entrepreneurs to grow in new dimensions which will benefit the E-commerce market locally and internationally. And as by 2017 the market share of 3G, 4G is expected to increase by 53%, it has been forecasted that at least 30% of the total connection base will be acquiring 3G or 4G services by 2018 or around. According to GSMA/Deloitte study, there will be a massive shift of 2G users to 3G and 4G technologies making an enormous impact on economy and prosperity of intra country and inter countries relations. It's a blessing in disguise. Like Facebook, other social networking sites might too think of creating business relations with Pakistan as the 3G/4G spectrum penetration has increased social media users, the presence of such latest technology in the telecom domain there are chances of a brighter future for the Pakistan's internet based industry.

Oracle Advanced Compression Helps NIB Bank Reduce Database Storage Requirements by 41%

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Addressing its need to support rapid data growth and better manage storage costs, NIB Bank deployed Oracle Advanced Compression to reduce their Oracle Database storage footprint. By utilizing Oracle Advanced Compression with Oracle Database, NIB Bank reduced their database storage requirements by 41 percent, reduced their core data backup size by 5X, and accelerated query performance of critical banking systems. The bank upgraded its Oracle solution to help ensure it could effectively support its expansion plans. Upgrading their Oracle Database environment improved the bank's ability to protect from costly human error and reduced the downtime associated with routine maintenance. Additionally, the use of self-managing capabilities in Oracle Database helped NIB Bank lower operational costs. With Oracle Advanced Compression's comprehensive capabilities and ability to accelerate queries, NIB Bank was able to increase resource utilization, by reducing its database storage footprint by 41 percent, which further reduced the amount of data backup size by 5x. Query performance gained by reading compressed data faster has enabled the bank to reduce time for its "Close of Business" operations by almost half – from more than 7 hours to less than 4 hours. "We've been using Oracle Database, technologies, and applications since 2001 as we believe that with Oracle's global expertise in the banking industry, NIB Bank is in a better position to effectively manage day-to-day transactions and expand its services through a highly available and secure IT platform," said Khurram Gul Agha, Chief Information Officer (CIO), NIB Bank. "With reliable database innovations like Oracle Advanced Compression, we can continue to meet the needs of our customers and staff, and also to pursue our aggressive expansion plans with confidence." Mr. Gul added. Ora-tech Systems, a Gold level member of Oracle Partner Network (OPN), led the Oracle Database implementation for NIB Bank in July 2013.

Samsung launches Curved 4K TVs in Pakistan

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Samsung has recently announced the launch of its new 4K (UHD) television series in Pakistan. It also includes curved UHD TVs, starting with a screen size of 55-inches. An event was held at Expo centre Lahore, where John Park, MD Samsung Pakistan, and other officials briefed media about the new devices. The new curved UHD TVs are bundled with "Depth Enhancer" software feature, which identifies the background from an image and enhance the depth, color and brightness to give you 3D look without requiring glasses. The futuristic curved TV look a little weird, but Samsung claims that it allows for a more realistic viewing experience, even from different angles. Moreover, the curved screen brings the edges closer to you, creating a wider field of vision, which means the screen seems even bigger than it is. The PurColor feature reproduces color expressing more detailed shades. The display units were playing high definition content, so how does our "low res" cable channels will look on this TV? when asked; Samsung representative claimed that built-in upscaling technology takes the ordinary feed and converts lower resolution contents into UHD picture quality enhancing the details of video images. Exact pricing details of the new curved UHD TV's were not revealed but 55-inch model will set you back around 5 lac rupees. Keeping the price tag in mind, I am happy with my 20 years old CRT TV, but you can go ahead and enjoy the innovation and amazing TV experience with Samsung's UHD TVs.

Telenor Empowers PWDs with Professional Mobile Repairing Skills

Aimed at empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to earn their livelihood, Telenor Pakistan has revamped the Mobile Repairing Lab at National Teaching Center for Special Persons (NTCSP) with modern state-of-the-art equipment, internet connectivity and a fulltime

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Chinese Group Agrees to Set Up Smartphone Manufacturing Plant in Pakistan

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mobile repairing trainer. The newly revamped lab, which has been set up in collaboration with Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) under Telenor Pakistan's flagship corporate responsibility initiative 'Khuddar Pakistan', was inaugurated today by Sibghut-ur-Rehman, Director General, Special Education. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Aslam Hayat, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, and Telenor Pakistan said, "With Khuddar Pakistan, we are striving to bring a positive change and lasting impact in the lives of Persons with Disabilities. The revamp of this lab is yet another endeavour on our part to unlock their potential and empower them with necessary skills to earn a decent livelihood in the society". Sibghut-ur-Rehman, Director General, Special Education also lauded Telenor Pakistan's commitment towards the inclusion of PWDs in the society and expressed his gratitude on successful up-gradation of the lab that will ensure a promising future for the PWDs. In the current batch, twelve students with different disabilities will go through an extensive six-month mobile repairing training, encompassing theoretical and technical aspects of the skill.

Pakistani government has committed all possible support and special incentives if they setup smartphone manufacturing plant in the country. Chinese delegation, in response, expressed its agreement to setup smartphone manufacturing plant in Pakistan. The delegation said the plant would be set up on a fast-track basis. Chinese Mobile Companies Association Secretary General Lou Peide, who was the heading the delegation, was quoted as saying that he is in Pakistan to share Chinese experience and expertise as Pakistan's domestic market presents a huge opportunity for the manufacturing of smartphones capable of 3G/4G technology. Peide mentioned that with a population of nearly 200 million and a high growth rate of the market he informed that Chinese companies own almost 80% of the global market and produce smartphones that cost between \$22 to \$600, highlighting the impact of Chinese companies in the global mobile phone market. Pakistani government, on other hands, announced that it will arrange special incentives for foreign investors, especially the Chinese group that may deploy smartphone manufacturing plant in Pakistan. Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister, – during his meeting with the delegation said that Foreign Direct Investment in IT sector would enjoy special corporate tax rate for the next five years if they complete their projects in three years time period till June 30 2017. Dar said that the government has embarked upon a plan to meet the energy requirements and make the country economically viable. He also said that Pakistan has educated and skilled young labour force and it can be used as export base to the whole region. The Finance Minister briefed the investors on the latest economic indicators and performance of economy during the last one year. He also discussed the proposed budget that provides special incentives for the foreign investment in Pakistan. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Anusha Rehman, State Minister for Information Technology, Finance Secretary MO IT, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Chairman Board of Investment and senior officials of the Finance Ministry. In the mobile industry, there is a huge requirement for local manufacturing units in the country.

HEC to Distribute 100,000 EVO Devices to Eligible Students

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An agreement signing ceremony between Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), for provisioning of wireless internet services (EVO) to talented students under Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, was held at HEC Secretariat on Friday. Mr. Anwar Amjad, Director General (IT) HEC and Mr. Muhammad Basharat Qureshi, Executive Vice President (Corporate Sales) PTCL signed the agreement. Mr. Walid Irshad, CEO and President, PTCL and Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC were also present at the occasion. PTCL and HEC have agreed to establish and define a collaborative relationship, to provide white labelled EVO Wireless Internet Services to the students designated by HEC on special monthly rates. The provision of services shall be made on terms and conditions specifically customized for the said scheme. As per agreement, students will be offered free EVO devices with specially tailored packages, or they will be able to avail usual EVO packages with 20 percent discount. HEC shall purchase a total of 100,000 devices and make the payment against the device cost to PTCL as per agreement. EVO devices shall be delivered to HEC in batches within three months; however same will be distributed to all eligible universities/ institutes by PTCL. HEC shall issue these EVO connections only to designate students. PTCL said that it will have to block any devices found to be resold or available for sale in the open market. The device shall be activated within 72 hours from the time a request is submitted by the student at PTCL customer centres. The service shall be activated on default package, however after completion of one month, the device may be continued on default package or shifted to any standard EVO package with 20 per cent discount. HEC shall provide all artwork for co-branding for both on the device casing and on packaging of the EVO devices. The package shall also contain guidelines for students telling them the procedure(s) for activation/ reactivation of device, and a list of PTCL service centers available across Pakistan and AJ&K. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Walid Irshad, President, PTCL said that this initiative will empower the students of Pakistani universities and make them work more efficiently for a bright future. He stressed that each and every clause of the agreement will be honoured, adding that quality of service will also be ensured. Appreciating HEC's initiatives for uplift of higher education sector, Mr. Walid said that PTCL is always available to support HEC's IT and Telecom related endeavours. "We want HEC to prosper and benefit more and more students and researchers of this country". He added that as a goodwill gesture from PTCL side, all students under this scheme shall be provided three (03) months free internet service without any capping (i.e. unlimited downloads). Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed thanked PTCL management for taking keen interest to work with the Higher Education Commission. He appreciated the proposal of President PTCL for establishing Smart

Local Mobile manufacturing discuss with China telecom CEOs.

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Universities and vowed to work with PTCL for making it happen.

Government wants to make a smartphone accessible to a common man at a low cost and this target can only be achieved if mobile phones are manufactured locally. MoS IT Anusha Rahman said this while talking to a high level chinese delegation comprising of CEOs and heads of leading telecoms who called on MOS IT Mrs. Anusha Rahman to discuss local mobile manufacturing prospects in Pakistan here in Islamabad today. Chairman BOI Mr. Ismail Mufta, Federal Secretary IT Mr. Akhlaq Ahmad Tarar, Additional Secretary IT Mr. Azmat Ali Ranjha, Chairman NTC Brig @ Waqar Rashid Khan, and Member (Telecom) Mr. Mudassar Hussain were also present there. Minister while talking to the delegates said that after 3G/4G spectrum auction, Pakistan has entered in a new era of technological advancement. We have less than 2 percent broadband penetration and after 3G/4G, 98 percent green field is expected to be tapped. We invite potential telecom manufacturing companies to come forward and invest in teleocm equipment mobile hand sets manufacturing to help in building the eco system in our rapidly thriving telecom market. Ms. Anusha Rahman further said that Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP) had been making land line phones for PTCL. Present government intends to use the skilled labour and facilities of TIP for local manufacturing of mobile phone. TIP is equipped with advance machines which can be used effectively in local mobile manufacturing. We invite telecom manufacturing companies to partner with Pakistan when embarking on this new era of technological advancements. Government is ready to facilitate investors by offering tax relaxation and others lucrative incentives in the recent budget Government has reduced taxes of telecom services and also incentivised new manufacturers through reducing coporate tax by over 10 percent. Chairman BOI Ismail Mufta while talking to chinese delegation said that telecom sector in Pakistan has huge potential for investment especially after 3G/4G and government has already announced many concessions including 10 years tax holidays to the foreign investors. He said that China mobile is a success story in Pakistan and other chinese companies by learning from their experiences, can invest in local mobile manufacturing confidently as Public Private partnership. Government of Pakistan also has a free trade agreement with china. Head of the chinese delegation Mr. Lou Peide, Secretary General China Mobile Communication Association (CMCA) appreciated the investment friendly policies of the present government of PML (N) and expressed keen interest in local manufacturing plan. While sharing his experiences he said that china telecom industry had started its journey from zero about 20 years back and now its leading the world with 80 percent mobile manufacturing share. He said that Pakistan is a drastically growing market in telecom sector and its pace would be further geared up with its local manufacturing industry. Minister of State for IT appreciated the spirit and keen interest shown by the chinese telecom companies for their investment in local mobile manufacturing in Pakistan and assured them the utmost cooperation of Ministry of IT and Government of Pakistan in this regard.

Government Shocks Telecom Industry with New Taxes on Handsets

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Government of Pakistan has once again shocked telecom industry by introducing first of its kind tax on mobile handsets that will be collected by mobile phone companies. According to information we have received in addition to Rs. 500 tax imposed on handsets last year FBR now wants to collect Rs. 250 on each new handset that is registered on cellular networks in the name of "New IMEI Registration Tax". This tax of Rs. 250 is intended to be collected from customer for each new handset that is connected to cellular networks. Moreover, mobile phone companies are declared as tax collecting agents and they have to ensure that tax has been collected for each new handset registered on any of the five networks. One handset that has been registered on one network and has paid the tax will not be liable to tax again even if it is used on any other network. PTA has been held responsible for maintaining a centralized data of IMEI numbers registered on network, so double taxation on the same IMEI number by more than one operator is prevented. Mobile phone companies are directed to not to allow any calls/SMS or any other telecom facility without collecting Rs. 250 from customers that registers new handset with new IMEI number. Customers' Reaction Mobile phone customers are not happy. Not because there is a new tax imposed on them but due to the fact that they are already paying hefty amounts or almost 40 percent as taxes for their communication needs. They simply can't pay a penny more as taxes. Not to forget, customers already pay Rs. 250 for feature phones and Rs. 500 for smartphones as taxes. This is in addition to near to 40 percent taxes and other charges that are collected on telecom services. With introduction of 3G services in Pakistan, customers were just planning to switch to smartphones but with this move smartphones will get only expensive and beyond the reach of common man. Handset Manufacturers' Reaction Handset industry is speechless with the move. Mainstream handset manufacturers believe that handsets are already liable to custom duties, sales taxes and other levies that it is become a hard proposition for them to sell handsets in Pakistan. This is happening in a situation when they are competing with low-cost Chinese handsets, with extremely low quality and the cost. One manufacturer, who is already struggling in Pakistan, told ProPakistani that his head-office was considering to quit operations in Pakistan as the sales and returns aren't viable enough for the company to operate in Pakistan. He said that this new tax will only turn out to be the last thing they will need to shift investment to any other country with low operating cost. With this new taxes the proposition will only worsen. Telecom industry has shown its utter disappointment on the move by saying that this new tax will not only nullify the 1% cut in WHT and GST/FED, but in fact the collection of tax against registration of new IMEI is practically impossible. Sources in telecom industry said that there is no possible way of maintaining the record of millions of IMEI numbers on a resource that can be shared amongst all five telecom operators. Moreover, as per the finance bill, operators are required to check and verify the payment of "IMEI registration Tax" before each revenue

Burq Starts WiFi Broadband Services in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar

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generating activity (call, SMS, data service or any VAS) which means that operators will have to check millions of IMEI numbers before billions of calls made each day. Additionally they will have to synchronize the data of millions of IMEI numbers with other networks before each call, which is impossible. "This is technically impossible, or it will require such huge processing powers that only a super computer at each cellular network may tackle such kind of situation", opined a Database expert.

Burq Broadband has announced the commercial launch of its WiFi broadband services in Pakistan to become the first WiFi broadband operator in the country. Burq is a broadband brand of Argentina based ICONDOR Telecom Group having footprints in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay since the early eighties. Launch of Burq in Pakistan was officially marked by a brief ceremony held in Argentinean embassy in Islamabad. Burq is first of its kind Internet Service Provider that offers broadband services to end users through WiFi hotspots that are deployed at various locations. Users will be offered WiFi internet at major markets, outlets, restaurants and bus stops. The number of locations with service availability will naturally increase with time. Sources told ProPakistani that Burq commercially commenced the WiFi broadband service in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. Moreover, Burq Broadband service is partially available in Bannu, Kohat and D.I.Khan as well. We were unable to find the details of areas in these cities where Burq services are available. An attempt to contact Burq management went in vain. Sources tell ProPakistani that Burq Broadband is going to offer time bound and speed bound WiFi broadband services to customers for which scratch cards will be available in the market starting next week. Customers will be able to load their accounts with scratch cards to use WiFi broadband on Burq's network. Burq scratch cards of various denominations will be sold, including Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 300, Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000. Speed, validity and amount of time allowed against each card is different. How to Use Burq Broadband If you are in an area where Burq Broadband is available then it will start appearing in the list of available WiFi networks on your PC/Laptop or smartphone. Simply connect to Burq WiFi network. Upon browsing, you will be asked for user name and password, which you need to enter from the scratch card. Once the scratch card is authenticated, you will be able to use Burq Broadband till the expiry of the card. Currently, as per sources, the service availability is in limited area. For instance only Commercial Market is covered in Satellite Town for Rawalpindi; however, we may see service expansion with time. Especially if the feedback and demand from customers get high. Burq has previously said that it has plans down the line to partner with cellular companies to offer their subscribers the broadband services through WiFi but they will be charged based on their mobile-internet subscriptions. Data communications over WiFi channels are always preferred when compared with GSM or 3G networks. Similar kind of partnerships is successfully running across various regional and global markets.

Government Announces Slight Cut in Taxes on Telecom Sector

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Federal government has proposed a slight reduction in taxes on telecom services for the year 2014-15. According to initial information based on Mr. Ishaq Dar's budget speech for 2014-15 – federal government has proposed to reduce withholding tax (WHT) on telecom services from 15 percent to 14 percent. It may be recalled that Government had increased WTH from 10 percent to 15 percent last year. Cellular companies had urged a 5 to 10 percent reduction in WTH. Moreover, government announced that it will withdraw FED on telecom services from those provinces that have imposed GST on telecom services. Government has further proposed to reduce GST (General Sales Tax) from current 19.5 percent to 18.5 percent in areas where FED will continue to be collected. It merits mentioning here that government collects FED (or Federal Excise Duty) from telecom services in shape of GST. Meaning that 19.5 Just in case if you don't remember, after National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, Sindh, KPK and Punjab collect GST on provincial levels. Hence FED will be renamed to GST in these provinces. However, In Capital (Islamabad), Balochistan and GB areas, these taxes are still called FED and hence a tax reduction of 1 percent is proposed for customers in Islamabad, Balochistan and GB areas. Three provinces may also announce to collect 18.5 percent GST instead of current 19.5 percent on telecom services to match tax rate of federal capital, Balochistan and GB. But that will be announced during provincial budgets. Percent GST is actually FED, which will not be called GST in provinces that collect taxes on provincial level.

PTCL Launches 8Mbps DSL Package for Rs. 2,999 Per Month

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PTCL today announced the availability of its new high-speed DSL broadband package for its customers. According to PTCL website, company is offering its customers to avail 8Mbps DSL package against Rs. 2,999 monthly rental with unlimited download, i.e. virtually no caps at all. PTCL said that this offer can be availed by any new or existing PTCL customers. It may be recalled that usual tariff for 8Mbps DSL package is Rs. 7,000 with unlimited downloads. PTCL said that a data limit of 100 GBs per month will be applied from January 1st, 2015, till then customers can enjoy unlimited downloads/uploads with this 8Mbps DSL plan. From January 1st, 2015 – after consuming the data limit of 100 GBs – customers will be charged Rs. 100 for each GB. However, there would be a billing cap of Rs. 7,000 per month for 8Mbps package after which there will be no limit on downloads. It merits mentioning here that 8Mbps DSL package is recommended for locations where PTCL's Fibre is running till the end-home, just because copper media may not support such high-speed internet.

Bookme.pk Aims to Become Online Booking Destination for Pakistanis

Truth to be told! For us movie lovers, getting a cinema ticket has never been a hassle free task. Whether having to drive to the cinema to book tickets in advance or standing in those seemingly never ending queues is what we had to go through until. NOW! The good news is, Faizan Aslam; CEO of Macro Pak Solutions has created an app called BOOKME.PK in order

www.propakistani.pk
June 03, 2014

Warid Crosses 50Mbps Speed Barrier During 4G Tests

www.propakistani.pk
June 02, 2014

Ufone's Free 3G Service Reaches Quetta

www.propakistani.pk
June 02, 2014

Mobipack: Simplifying the Selection of Mobile Packages

www.propakistani.pk
June 02, 2014

to save ourselves the trouble of wasting our time and money on such petty issues. With this app, you can get all the information of the happenings within the country, up coming events, transport and cinema ticketing. Well several websites are offering their services for online booking these days, rivals include Showtimes Pakistan and Stubdo, what set bookme.pk apart is the fact that they are slightly more comprehensive. Bookme.pk allows their customers to book any number of things online while other apps exclusively focus on their one particular service, like the mentioned above services do on cinema listings. Moreover, they are aiming to become one stop booking destination and are now targeting the hotel and restaurants industries

Warid, as we reported before, is rigorously working towards launching the public trials for its anticipated 4G LTE services somewhere with-in next few weeks. During the trials it is believed that Warid crossed 50Mbps speed benchmarks on a cellular network using 4G LTE technology. This lab test was reportedly carried out on intranet infrastructure using cellular communication medium, meaning that the client and server machines were available on similar network while communicate was made through cellular channels. Experts say that real-world implementation of similar infrastructure can yield the customers around 25 to 35Mbps speeds, if implemented and customized properly. It maybe recalled that Warid has promised its customers a 4G LTE network through its existing cellular license and spectrum. Warid went public with its 4G LTE plans early last month, which met strong opposition from competing operators who had paid millions of dollars for 3G and 4G licenses. Warid, however, believes that it has a technology neutral license with which it can offer 4G services as well. PTA, on the other hands, has said that it will grant Warid the go-ahead for launching 4G only after inspecting the quality of service standards. Warid is confident that it will be able to meet all the requirements and KPIs laid out by PTA to ensure parallel network quality for 4G consumers. Along with, company believes, services qualify for 2G subscribers will remain intact. Warid has said that it will invest over US 400 million dollars for up-gradation of its network in the country.

Ufone has announced the availability of free 3G service in Quetta, making it the 10th city in the country to have Ufone's 3G service. In compliance to the Information Memorandum, all cellular mobile operators had to spread their 3G services in 10 cities in a span of 1 year but Ufone has achieved this target only in 35 days. Speaking of this facility, Mr. Taimur Faiz Cheema, GM Marketing at Ufone, said "Ufone right now is the only service provider that is giving maximum number of cities and with the fastest speed and best network quality. Needless to say, customers have a lot to look forward to as 3G will completely change the way customers interact and socialize. We have more exciting plans of expansion and will be introducing this service far and wide across Pakistan with the same pace." All Ufone customers using a 3G enabled smartphone in Quetta, will be able to enjoy the trial services with amazing speeds free of cost, whereby the first 200 MB will be usable without any speed throttling, after that for subsequent usage, speed will be reduced to 128 kbps for the rest of the day followed by a related SMS notification. In addition, the policy will be auto-renewed every day. To avail the offer, Ufone customers will have to restart their handsets or change the network mode from GSM to WCDMA or from 2G to 3G in other words, depending upon their handset model and type. An SMS notification will be sent to all subscribers to inform them regarding the 3G service activation. Both Postpaid and prepaid customers in Quetta will be able to avail the offer and enjoy free of cost usage of the 3G trial for a period of 10 days. Ufone has said that it will offer 10 free days of 3G services to each city where they will launch the service. After the end of free duration, customers will be prompted with SMS alerts about the charges of the 3G services.

Package! This word triggers your brain with a sense of complication every time you hear that, init? We all, while opting for a suitable cellular package get confused between the curves of validity, codes and availability, pricing etc. so we hunt the internet for information or get help for call center. GOOD NEWS is: You do not need to do it anymore. For our convenience, there is this application available in the market for Android smartphones called "MobiPack". Now save yourself the trouble of remembering all the complicated short codes in order to subscribe or unsubscribe to call, SMS or internet packages. This idea started as a fun app at ITU (Arfa Software Technology Park), got boosted on Startup Weekend Islamabad and was offered for the incubation in LUMs. It is now successfully running on Google Play Store and get a very positive feedback from users. Simply install the app from Google Play Store, after installation it automatically detects your SIM connection and triggers the voice, SMS or internet packages that are available on your number by your cellular company. Its UI is very clean and well organized and categorized. The best part is that it is FREE! While using it you can check your remaining balance and the packages you are already using or are subscribed to, that too save you from worrying about any hidden charges or services which you have not voluntarily activated. The advantages do not end here, you can also send bulk SMS and can block any number refraining it from sending you spam.

District Multan - ICT Infographic

Area

3,721 - sq.km



Estimated Population - 2013

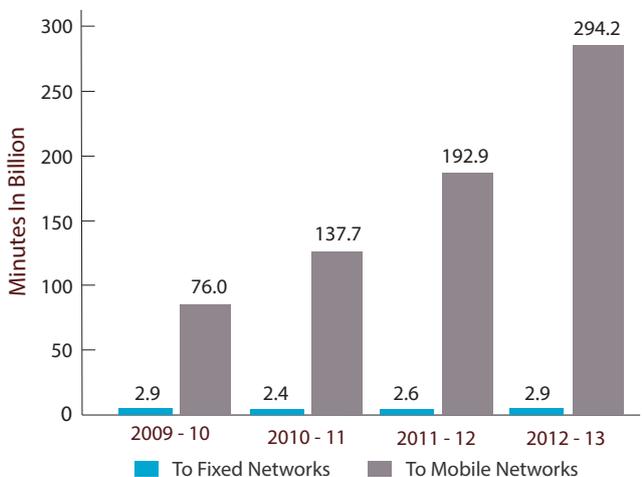
2,042,020 Persons

Male : 344,614 (51%)

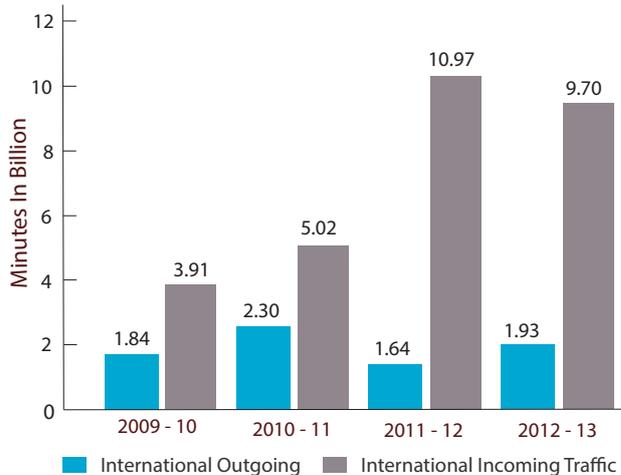
Female : 328,164 (49%)



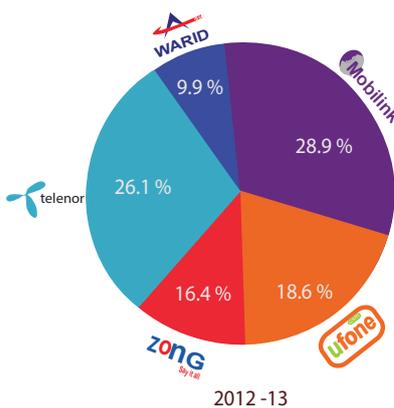
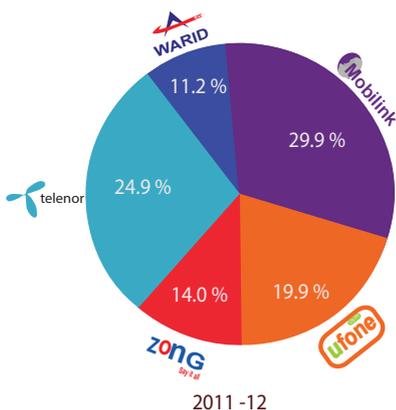
National Cellular Mobile Outgoing Traffic



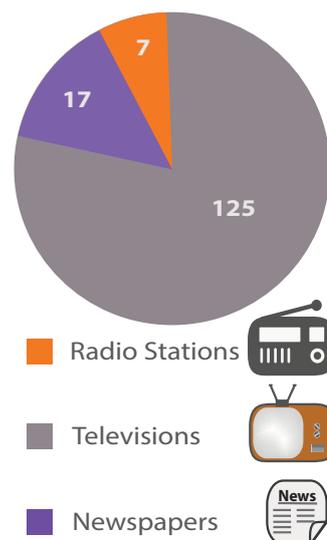
International Cellular Mobile Traffic



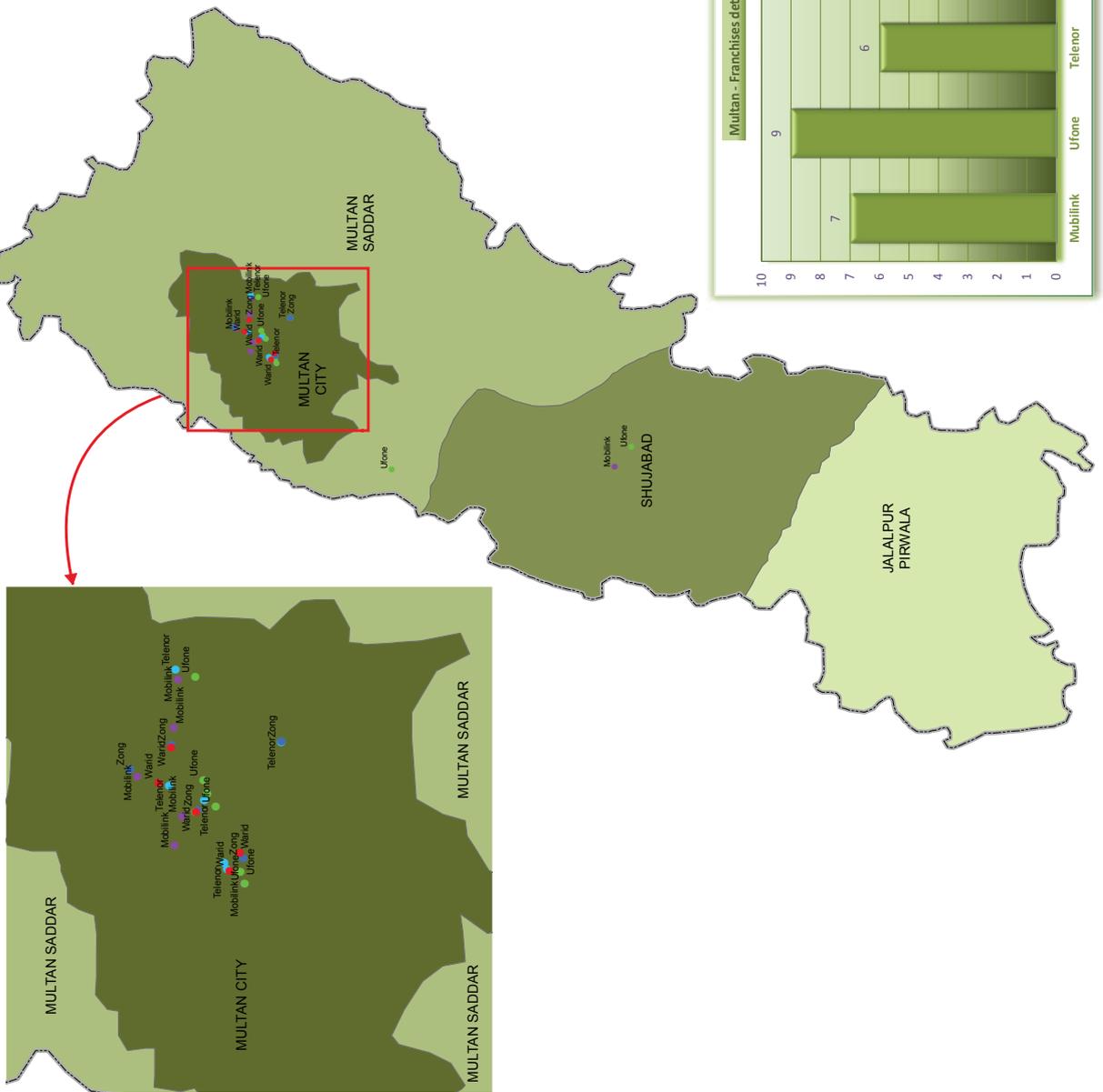
Cellular Subscriber Share



Various Media Sources in Multan



Multan - Franchises of Cellular Companies Map



Legend

Franchise

- Mobilink
- Telenor
- Ufone
- Warid
- Zong

District Boundary

Franchise (Tehsil-wise)

- 0 / No data
- 1
- 2
- 29

Creation Date: July 8, 2014
 Projection/Datum: WGS 84 Geographic A3
 Page Size:

Scale: 1:100,000

Scale bar: 0, 15, 30 Kilometers

Logo: ALHASAN SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
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Data Sources:

Admin Boundary: Population Census Organization (PCO)
 Franchises Data: Mobilink, Telenor, Ufone, Warid, Zong Websites.

COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO ONLINE ARABIC CONTENT

مساهمة بعض البلدان العربية في المحتوى الرقمي على الإنترنت

Legend
نسبة صفحات الإنترنت باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية من مجمل عدد الصفحات اللغوية
English-Arabic Pages Share of Arabic Web Pages from A Country's Total English-Arabic Pages

مساهمة بعض البلدان العربية في المحتوى الرقمي على الإنترنت
Country's contribution to online arabic content

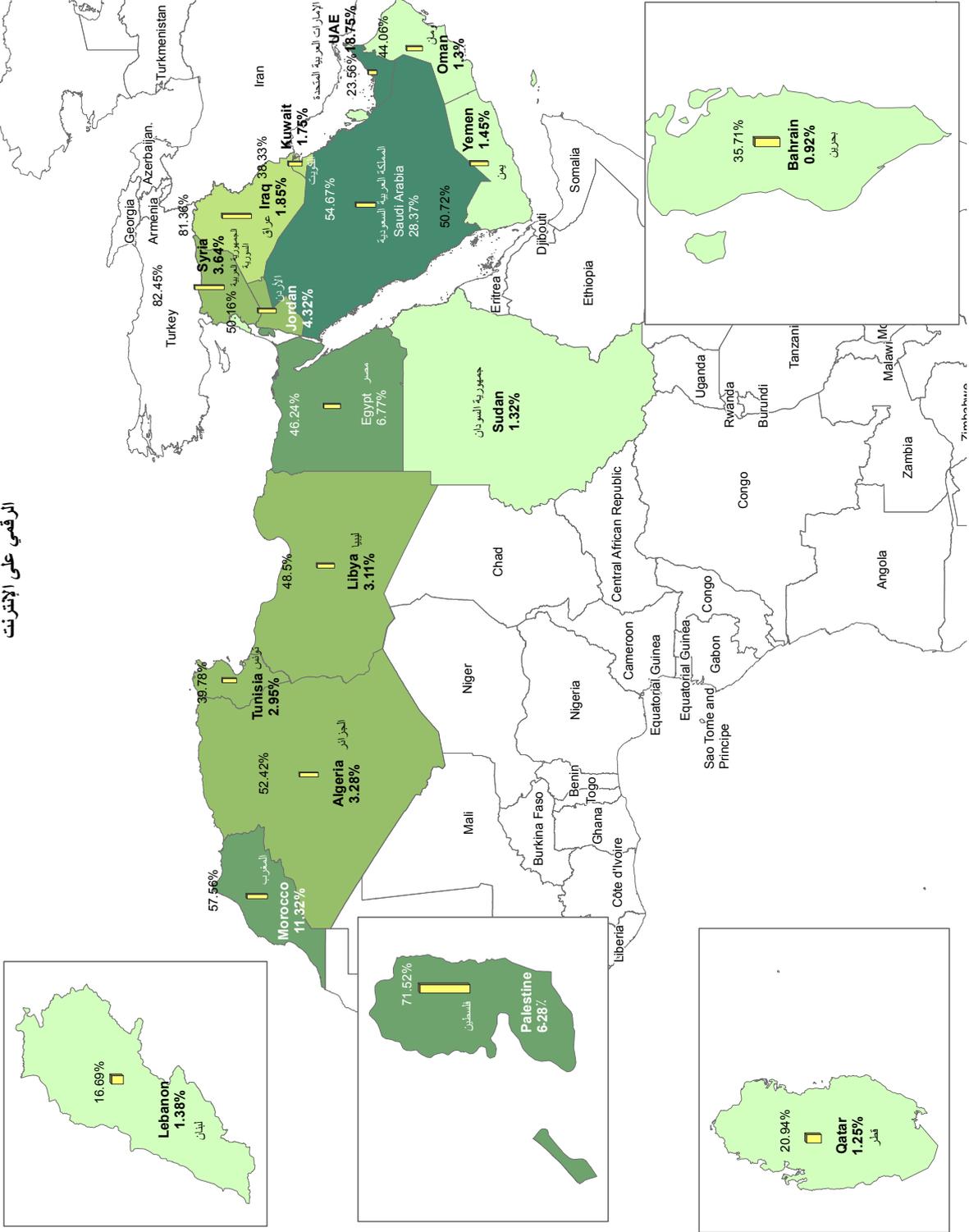
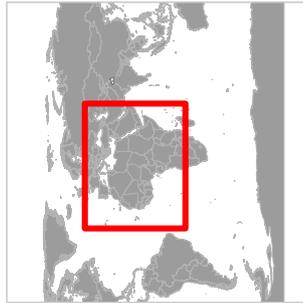
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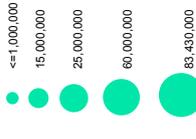
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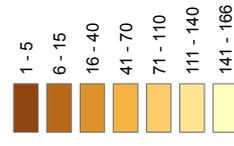
Data Source(s):
Arab ICT Use and Social Networks Adoption Report 2012.



Legend
 Mobile Phone Subscriptions
 Year 2012



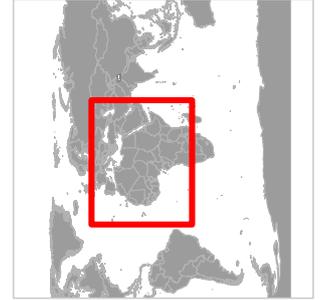
Global Rank
 (Mobile Phone Penetration)



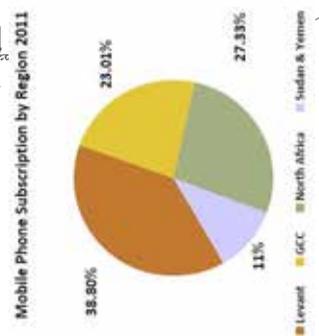
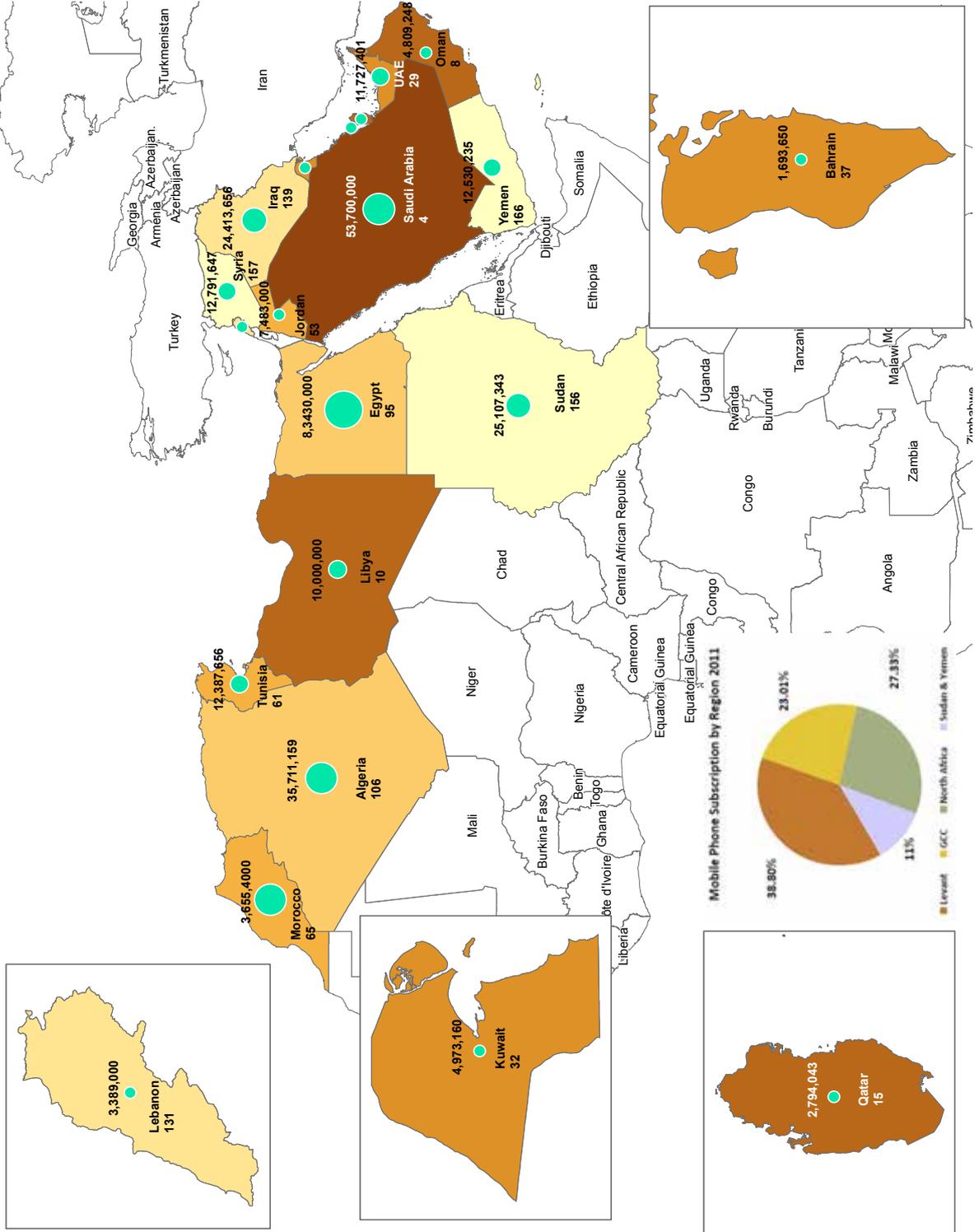
Creation Date: June 15, 2014
 Projection/Datum: WGS 84 Geographic
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Data Source(s):
 Arab ICT Use and Social Networks Adoption Report 2012.



ARAB WORLD MOBILE PHONE PENETRATION RATE



3G and 4G: Generation gap

By Nisha Masroor

Daily Dawn Jun 20, 2014

3G and 4G are the current buzzwords in Pakistan. Social media, news channels and newspapers are all flooded with news pieces of cellular service providers attaining licenses and launching services for the next generation mobile technology. Until recently, only 2G and 2.5G/2.75G services were offered in Pakistan, despite their being considered obsolete in many other parts of the world. After the recent acquisition of 3G licenses by Mobilink, Telenor, Zong and Ufone, and an additional 4G licence by Zong, there has been much heated discussion regarding these technologies. So what exactly are these next generation mobile technologies and how will they benefit mobile phone users and Pakistan as a country?

1G: This was the first generation of wireless telephone technology. It was introduced in 1981 with limited capacity. Simple phone calls were pretty much all it was able to do.

2G: The second generation of cellular technology was launched in 1991 in Finland. It was based on the technology termed global system for mobile communication (GSM), and text messages or SMS were sent through it. Data speeds were slow and downloading anything meant waiting for a long time.

2.5G: The intermediary technology, also referred to as GPRS, replaced 2G in order to improve communication. This technology allowed transmission of data such as emails and access to the internet, in addition to simple text messages and calls. The standard further evolved to 2.75G, known as EDGE, which allowed slightly faster data rates.

3G: The third generation of cell phone technology was first used in Japan in 2001. This technology enabled various networks to provide services such as web browsing, e-mail, video downloading, picture sharing, global positioning service (GPS), mobile television and video conferencing. It also allows simultaneous transfer of voice and data. Better bandwidth and increased speed of around 200 kbps and above are also possible with this technology.

There are three competing 3G technologies currently being used:

Universal Mobile Tele-communications System (UMTS), Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), and Wideband - CDMA. The real difference in 3G and 3.5G technologies is the speed of the network and speed of data transfer. 3G technology can support an average data transfer of about 200 kbit+ and in 3.5G it is around 300 kbit+. 3G devices that support speeds of around 7.2 Mbps are often called 3.5G devices

4G: With this technology, a user can (theoretically) experience speeds from at least 100 megabits per second to up to 1 gigabit per second (peak download rate). The speed depends on various factors such as high mobility communication or low mobility, location etcetera. In addition to faster speeds, another advantage of 4G technology is reduced latency. Latency refers to the time it takes the network to respond to a request. There are two more versions of 4G, LTE and WiMAX. 4G

LTE Long Term Evolution: This is considered to be the best version of 4G technology as far as standards are concerned. 4G service without LTE is basically High Speed Packet Access (HSPA), which is a faster version of 3G GSM network. The two formats of 4G wireless technology, which are accepted by the International Telecommunications Union as 'True 4G', are LTE Advanced and WiMAX Release 2.

WiMAX Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) allows speed of 30 to 40 megabits per second. This is probably one of the closest technologies to meet the standards of being called True 4G technology. The recent auction of 3G and 4G technology held in Pakistan yielded the following results:

Zong 10Mhz for 3G and 10Mhz for 4G

Mobilink 10Mhz for 3G

Telenor 5Mhz for 3G

Ufone 5Mhz for 3G After the conclusion of the auction for 3G and 4G licenses, all the service providers were busy advertising about the technology they will provide their users. Warid, on the other hand, remained silent at the time. Then they surprised everyone and announced the disputed launch of 4G LTE. Pakistani mobile phone users, who were still struggling to figure out the difference between 3G and 4G, now had another jargon to deal with. Moreover, Warid made an ad announcement that read "We are worth the wait, indeed. The best is yet to come. 4G LTE." Zong, on their official website, has also mentioned that they will be providing 4G LTE services of speeds up to 150 Mbps. The real question is not who is providing 4G LTE, but rather who will be the first to launch 4G LTE services to their customers?

5G: The next phase of mobile telecommunication

Mobile phone users and service providers are always on the lookout for higher data rates in mobile networks. The next generation of technology which is currently in the development phase is the fifth generation of cell phone technology or simply 5G. It is the next major advancement in mobile telecommunication standards which will supersede 4G standards. Since 5G is still in the development stage, standards have not been laid out for it by any telecommunication standardisation body. Going forward, the need and desire for faster and higher data rates in cellular communication networks, by not only mobile phone users but also cellular service providers, is one of the biggest motivations behind today's ongoing 5G research. Most experts predict that the deployment of 5G networks will likely occur around 2020.

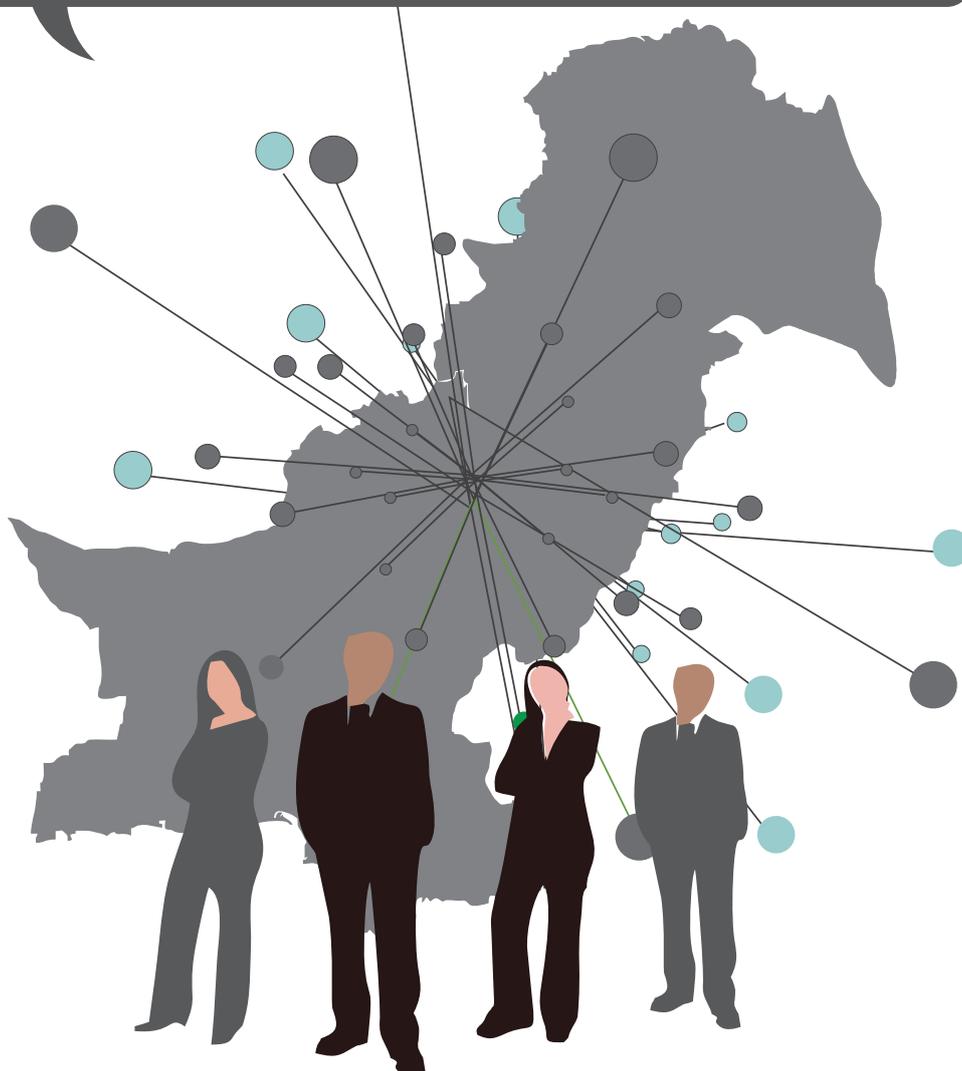
Conclusion:

3G and 4G technologies have been launched in Pakistan; however these are not cheap technologies. Therefore, cellular service providers will probably offer 3G and 4G networks at higher tariffs than for EDGE. However, considering the intense competition between network operators, chances are that the extra burden of the expected cost will not be fully shifted to the mobile phone users. Telecom experts say that cellular service

providers will either have to take a hit on their profits or pass on the added cost to consumers. Whatever the case, it is imperative that they strike a balance between the two. It is thought that in the first phase, 3G and 4G services might only be available in major cities of the country such as Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta, and will reach other cities later. In the second phase, prepaid customers will also be able to avail this service and 3G services will be expanded to about 80 more cities. Even though the apparent benefit is faster data rates for consumers, the advantages of 3G

and 4G services will be well beyond that. For example, the e-commerce industry is expected to boom, as consumers will be able to shop online easily. Education will be even less restricted to classrooms and will be more readily available online as well. A feature in The stated: "A recent study by a British consulting firm, commissioned by the Pakistani government, predicted that by increasing economic activity, it could help create up to 900,000 jobs over the next four years, and bring in hundreds of millions of dollars a year of new tax revenues.

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ICT SECTOR PROFESSIONALS**

How I learned to stop worrying and love YouTube

By Ehsanullah Shah

Daily Times, June 14, 2014

I thought I would begin this article with a quirky yet piercing quotation, but then decided against it. Why? Because I'm different that is why! So yes, I, much like everybody else, 'know' for a fact that I am unique and I constantly endeavour to shove this uniqueness in everybody's face every chance I get. I am unique because of my specific sensibilities, because of the things I notice, because of my life experiences and how I decided to let them and everything else affect me. I am a snowflake, a tiger's stripes if you will. Then along came YouTube followed closely by 9Gag and lo and behold! I did not feel so unique anymore. I got to see the experiences of people the world over! Entertaining! Yes, but they also taught me that the experiences and thoughts that I cherished as unique to only myself for all these years were shared by millions of people. Someone else also noticed that Sean Bean invariably dies in almost every movie or TV show he is in; someone else also imagined themselves running alongside their cars while going on long drives with their parents when they were young. I related to all those BuzzFeed articles and quizzes too and so on and so forth. So I was not unique anymore, and that was fine, it was okay. It meant that there were so many other people like me all over the world and that these people were, despite their differing faiths, beliefs, nationalities or ethnicities, just like me! We had more in common than I ever thought or knew! I did not feel unique anymore, but I also figured out that I was not weird; but something far more sinister was at play. They blocked YouTube in Pakistan! About time I said. Very clever western-shrewd-conniving people! You almost had me. I dodged your attempt to chemically neuter me with your Pokémon cards, but you almost had me with this one. You made me think I was like you! You made me think that we were all the same, believer or non bah! Here: have a slow bloody clap why don't you.

So this was me worrying about YouTube. I had my reasons, but then I became wiser, perhaps it was the long break that I had from watching YouTube, perhaps it was not, who knows. So I stopped worrying about it now and now am a firm proponent of unblocking YouTube. Allow me to elucidate upon my reasoning. I am sure you

will approve. Reason number one: we need to keep an eye on those western-conniving people. We really do. I heard somewhere that the CIA once trained a cat to infiltrate Soviet secret bases but sadly the poor thing was hit by a taxi and died. Apparently they had spent millions of dollars on it. So where do you think their prime recruitment ground is for finding these 'covert kitties'? YouTube! That is where the cats are at! So yes, we need to keep an eye on so that we can spot them when they try and break into our military facilities, etc. I mean seriously, kitties doing cartwheels? What is the deal with that? Three letters: CIA. So this is more espionage than entertainment. Reason number two: we need to see these questionable videos and send laanat (curses) on them. Yes! The more believers that see them and curse them, the more sawaab (holy rewards) we will get and the more chances of these perpetrators going to jahanam (hell) will increase! Oh also! We need to comment! Comment like there is no tomorrow. That is where we really show them who is superior damn straight! So yes, we need to unblock YouTube, so we can win the comment wars.

Reason number three: this entire YouTube fiasco was a Zionist conspiracy! So they got some random nobody from Hollywood to enrage Muslims all over the world with his ridiculous film which led to the blocking of YouTube. Now, that has not stopped us from accessing YouTube; we simply use proxies now. Guess who owns all the proxy servers! Yes: the Jewish lobby! So now they get all our traffic and can see what we do on the internet. Wake up people! Reason number four: Twerking. Enough said. This needs to be monitored for research purposes (including for a friend). So yes, this is a problem that you need to keep an eye on. We cannot let them win, otherwise, well they win and in case you were wondering, here is the quote I wanted to begin with: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives" James Madison. But do not listen to Jimmy here, yes you figured it out, he was the fourth President of the United States of America and that is right, a Jewish agent.

The secret agreement between PTA and Facebook

By Yasser Latif Hamdani
Daily times, June 09, 2014

So the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) has started banning pages that do not fit the moral worldview of some of its more conservative office bearers. None of these pages are blasphemous by any stretch of the imagination but they do not fit the agenda that is being imposed by people sponsored by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) who have infiltrated every organisation, every regulatory body and indeed every institution of the state since the 1980s. Laal Band's Facebook page was banned at the PTA's request for two days and for what exactly? Was it the poems of Faiz Ahmad Faiz that caused offence? Faiz Ahmed Faiz who amongst other things was appointed the first editor of Pakistan Times by the father of the nation before partition and who was later sent to Kashmir to secure the accession of that state to Pakistan? Was it Habib Jalib's poetry that was offensive to a certain Director General (DG) of the PTA (who by the way still has to provide verification for his foreign degree after 15 years of employment)? If Jalib's revolutionary poetry of the 1960s is so offensive, surely someone should have sent that memo to Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif who often uses his poem Dastoor in his speeches? The PTA of course says it did not ask Facebook to ban the page. This is just hokum, an utter and absolute lie that only the most dishonest and corrupt official of an intellectually and morally bankrupt organisation can muster. In an email response a high-up at Facebook wrote: "We followed up on the press story with the PTA and they lifted the block on the laalpak page so I have the instruction for the block to be lifted last night" (Emphasis added).

There is a secret agreement between the PTA and Facebook to block pages the PTA deems unfit for consumption by Pakistani audiences. It is not that secret. One representative of the PTA admitted as much during the course of the Youtube case, while explaining how Facebook had been chastened by a ban on it four years ago. Now here is the problem. I have scanned through the entire Pakistan Telecommunications (re-organisation) Act 1996 and have found nothing that clothes the PTA with the authority of moral policing on the web. Such powers under law in any event have to be explicitly conferred on an executive authority or a regulator such as the PTA. How then is PTA deciding what web pages to block and what web pages to allow and it must be said every sectarian web page promoting hatred amongst the people of Pakistan, including those like Anjem

Choudhary's 'Sharia4Pak' page which calls for the complete genocide of every Pakistani, Muslim or Non-Muslim who disagrees with Choudhary's worldview, is easily accessible. I know the PTA Chairman, Dr Ismail Shah, to be a fair and honest man. It is indeed a great blessing that he is at the helm of affairs in that decrepit cesspool, which he is trying his best to clear up. Therefore I ask him to look into this sorry state of affairs a consequence of the JI mafia in the PTA. This particular DG, who for now I shall not name but who I refer to above is well known within the organisation. To allow an unbalanced and self-evidently dishonest person like this particular official to ride roughshod over civil liberties, fundamental rights and the law is criminal. I therefore call upon Chairman Dr Shah to take immediate action and bring to book these rogue elements within the PTA.

One must also ask Facebook why it seeks to deviate from its terms of service to satisfy rogue elements within errant organisations, which are operating outside even the scope of Pakistani law. Facebook must stop this appeasement now and if its higher-ups are unable or unwilling to do so, some of us will be left with no choice but to take this matter to a court of law in Palo Alto, California. Facebook is complicit in the denial of our fundamental rights and freedoms here in Pakistan but then our fundamental rights have never been of any concern to ruthless corporate organisations such as Facebook. Well there are several legal theories about the First Amendment to the US Constitution one is just itching to test and there are many US citizens of Pakistani origin living both in that country and this who would willingly move the court there. It is a tricky business navigating legal systems for a realm such as cyberspace. For Facebook, Google, Twitter and other giants of our time, would it not be better then to stick to principle and not the dictates of corporate interest? After all as tools these giants have transcended the categories of mere corporations and have become part and parcel of daily life and whose curtailment has grave implications for the rights of life, privacy and freedom of expression worldwide. Machinations by rogue officials within the PTA will be defeated sooner or later for theirs is a futile attempt to arrest the march of humanity. As for Facebook, it must decide now whether it wishes to stand with those who seek to curtail freedoms worldwide or those who fight against oppression.

تفصیلات

سرخیاں

لاہور (اینٹرنگ ڈیسک) قومی کھیل ہاکی کی زبوں حالی کی طرح پاکستان ہاکی فیڈریشن کی ویب سائٹ بھی عدم توجہ کا شکار ہو کر بند ہو گئی۔ شائقین ہاکی کو اگر کسی قسم کی معلومات کے لیے پاکستان ہاکی فیڈریشن کی ویب سائٹ کھولنے کی ضرورت پیش آ جائے تو وہاں پاکستان ہیپ فائونڈیشن نمودار جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان ہاکی فیڈریشن کے مالی بحران کے باعث فیڈریشن کی ویب سائٹ بھی ختم ہو کر رہ گئی۔ پاکستان ہاکی فیڈریشن کے قریبی ذرائع نے تصدیق کی کہ مالی بحران کے باعث ویب سائٹ کو اپ ڈیٹ نہیں کیا جا سکا ہے۔

پی ایچ ایف کی ویب سائٹ بھی بند ہو گئی

روزنامہ پاکستان

30 جون 2014

انفورٹیک گروپ کے ڈائریکٹر حارث نصیر نے کہا ہے کہ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کی صنعت کی برآمدات کو 2020 تک 5 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھایا جا سکتا ہے جس کیلئے کاروباری حکمت عملی، مطلوبہ بنیادی ڈھانچے اور انسانی وسائل کی قابلیتوں سے استفادہ کیلئے اقدامات کی ضرورت ہے۔ انفورٹیک گروپ کے ڈائریکٹر نے کہا کہ کئی مسائل کے باوجود اس وقت شعبہ کی ملکی برآمدات 2 ارب ڈالر ہیں جو حوصلہ افزا بات ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی آبادی میں تیزی سے اضافہ ہو رہا ہے اور اگر جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی کی سہولیات دستیاب ہوں تو خدمات کا شعبہ بہترین کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خدمات کی بہترین فراہمی کیلئے ہمیں انسانی وسائل کے نوجوان طبقہ پر خصوصی توجہ دیکر ان پر سرمایہ کاری کرنی ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا بھر میں آئی ٹی کی صنعت تیزی سے ترقی کر رہی ہے اور اگر ملک میں آئی ٹی کی صنعت کے حوالے سے جامع حکمت عملی کے تحت پالیسی مرتب کی جائے تو اس سے ملکی برآمدات کو 5 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھا کر ملکی معیشت کی ترقی کے خواب کو شرمندہ تعبیر کیا جا سکتا ہے۔

آئی ٹی شعبہ کی ملکی برآمدات 2 ارب ڈالر

ہیں، حارث نصیر

روزنامہ اس

30 جون 2014

لاہور (اینٹرنگ ڈیسک) دیگر ٹیلی کام کمپنیوں کی طرح یوفون کی جانب سے تمام پری پیڈ صارفین کے لئے 2 جی اور 3 جی نیٹ ورکس پر فیس بک کے استعمال کو مفت کر دیا گیا۔ یوفون کی فری فیس بک آفر تمام پری پیڈ صارفین کے لئے دستیاب ہے۔ یہ بات قابل ذکر ہے کہ آفر سبسکرائب کروانے یا روزانہ کسی قسم کے کوئی چارجز لاگو نہیں کئے گئے۔ یوفون کی جانب سے تھری جی یا یو جی اینٹرنیٹ کے چارجز کو صرف فیس بک استعمال کیلئے ختم کیا گیا ہے۔ اپنے نمبر پر یہ سروس ایکٹیو کروانے کے لئے #3434* ملائیں۔

پری پیڈ موبائل صارفین کے لئے فیس بک

مفت

روزنامہ پاکستان

29 جون 2014

کراچی: تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہو رہے ہیں، دور دراز اور پسماندہ علاقوں میں تعلیم اور صحت کی خدمات کو بھی فروغ ملے گا جبکہ براڈ بینڈ صارفین کی تعداد میں آئندہ 6 سال کے دوران تیزی سے اضافہ ہوگا۔ سیلولر کمپنی ٹیلی نار کی جانب سے صحافیوں کے لیے تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی سے متعلق منعقدہ ورکشاپ سے کمپنی کے ریجنل مینجنگ عارف فاروقی اور منیجر کارپوریٹ کمیونیکیشن فاروقی نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں تھری جی اور فور جی کا مستقبل تاننا ہے جس کا اندازہ اس امر سے لگایا جا سکتا ہے کہ تھری جی متعارف ہوتے ہی گزشتہ ایک ماہ کے دوران براڈ بینڈ صارفین کی تعداد اور ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال کنندگان کی تعداد میں بھی خوش کن اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے اور توقع ہے کہ اس سال 2020 تک موبائل فون پر براڈ بینڈ صارفین کی تعداد 40 فیصد تک پہنچ جائے گی۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے بتایا کہ تمام سیلولر کمپنیوں نے سندھ کے 27 ایس ایس بیز کو اپنے صارفین کے ڈیٹا تک رسائی کی سہولت فراہم کی ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس تاثر کو غلط قرار دیا کہ مقامی سیلولر کمپنیاں پاکستان میں تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی متعارف کرنے میں سست رفتاری کا مظاہرہ کر رہی ہیں بلکہ حقیقت یہ ہے کہ تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی کے حصول میں جن سیلولر کمپنیوں کی جانب سے 300 تا 500 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی ہے اب انکی خواہش ہے کہ وہ جلد از جلد اس سرمایہ کاری کا کاربن بھی حاصل کریں تاہم سیلولر کمپنیوں کو پاکستانی مارکیٹ میں اس نئی ٹیکنالوجی کے نیٹ ورک کی توسیع اور ملک گیر سطح پر متعارف کرانے میں وقت لگے گا جس کے 3 مراحل ترتیب دیے گئے ہیں اور تیسرے مرحلے کے تحت 4 سال کی مدت میں اس ٹیکنالوجی کو ملک بھر کے تحصیل ہیڈ کوارٹرز تک توسیع دیدی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی پر موسمی تغیرات اثر انداز ہوتے ہیں۔ جس کی وجہ سے سنگلز کے مسائل پیدا ہوتے ہیں، فیکٹیوں کی وجہ سے کوآرڈینیشن بھی کمی ہوتی ہے جس کے لیے سیلولر کمپنیوں نے نئے ٹاورز کی تنصیب کیلئے بھی سرمایہ کاری پلان ترتیب دے دیا ہے، پاکستان میں تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی متعارف ہونے کے بعد مختلف مصنوعات کی فروخت کے لیے صرف ایک اسٹارٹ اپ موبائل فون پر دکانیں کھولی جا سکتی ہیں جس کے توسط سے ملک کے ہر حصے سے خرید و فروخت اور اشیا کی ڈیلیوری وادائیگیاں ممکن ہو گئی ہیں۔

تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی سے روزگار کے نئے

مواقع پیدا ہو رہے ہیں

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

29 جون 2014

موبی لنک نے نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے تعاون سے موبی لنک ڈسکوورسٹ بزنس پلان مقابلے کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ یہ مقابلہ قومی سطح پر منظم کیا گیا ہے۔

موبی لنک نے بزنس پلان مقابلے کا آغاز

کر دیا

روزنامہ دنیا

28 جون 2014

کراچی (بزنس رپورٹر): جس کا مقصد جدید بزنس اور انٹرنیٹ پر بیورو تصورات کو متعارف کرانے کیلئے طلباء کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنا ہے۔ مقابلے میں ملک کی 70 یونیورسٹیوں سے 2500 طلباء کی شرکت متوقع ہے۔ موبی لنک کارپوریٹ کمیونیکیشنز کے سربراہ عمر منظور نے کہا ہے کہ کارپوریٹ اور انفرادی سرپرستی ہمیشہ سے موبی لنک کے بنیادی مقاصد میں سے ایک رہی ہے۔ ہمیں یقین ہے کہ یہ مقابلہ اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور ملک کے لیے بہتر کاروبار کے

مواقع لانے میں بھی ایک مثبت کردار ادا کرے گا۔ ڈسکور 2013 کے مقابلے کے فاتحین اور فائنلسٹ کو رواں سال کے اوائل میں منعقدہ مقابلے کی افتتاحی تقریب میں صدر مملکت ممنون حسین کے ہاتھوں نقد انعامات سے نوازا گیا۔

لاہور (مائیک ڈیسک) ایپل نے اپنے صارفین کو کہا ہے کہ وہ غیر معیاری موبائل چارجر استعمال کرنے سے گریز کریں۔ کمپنی کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ سستے چارجر آئی فون پروگرام ایم ایف آئی کے تحت بنے ہوئے نہیں ہوتے، اس لئے فون اور صارف کے لئے نہایت خطرناک ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں، یہ چارجر صارف کو فون کے انٹرنل لاجک بورڈ کو نقصان پہنچاتے ہیں جو کہ صارف کے فون کی بیٹری کے ساتھ ڈیل کرتا ہے اور اس کی وجہ سے صارف کی زندگی بھی خطرے میں پڑ سکتی ہے، جو پیسے سے چارجر خرید کر بچاتے ہیں اس سے دوگنا کے فون کی مرمت میں لگ جاتے ہیں۔ امریکی کمپنی نے سرٹیفائیڈ چارجر کے استعمال کی ہدایت کی ہے۔

اسلام آباد: پاکستان میں کام کرنے والے موبائل فون آپریٹرز نے 45 ہزار سے زائد افغان موبائل فون سبز بلاک کر دیں ہیں۔ ڈان نیوز کے مطابق ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ 5 افغان موبائل فون کمپنیوں کی سبز پاکستان میں بند کی گئی ہیں جس کے بعد آپریٹرز نے پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) کو اس حوالے سے رپورٹ بھی جمع کرا دی ہے۔ پی ٹی اے نے گزشتہ روز موبائل فون آپریٹرز کو سمیں بند کرنے کے احکامات جاری کیے تھے۔ پی ٹی اے کے احکامات پر افغان موبائل فون سبز کو غیر معینہ مدت کے لیے بند کیا گیا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ وزیراعظم نے 21 جون کو پی ٹی اے کو ملک میں افغان سبز بند کرنے کی ہدایت کی تھی۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ دہشت گردی اور اغوا برائے تاوان کی وارداتوں میں استعمال کے باعث سبز کو بند کیا گیا ہے۔ سیکورٹی اداروں نے بھی وزیراعظم کو افغان سبز بند کروانے کی سفارش کی تھی۔

نوکیا کے تعاون سے تحقیق کی گئی ہے کہ کمزور بنیادی ڈھانچے کے باوجود پاکستان میں موبائل براڈ بینڈ کا استعمال بڑھ گیا ہے،، تھری جی اور فور جی موبائل براڈ بینڈ نیٹ ورکس میں مزید سرمایہ کاری کی ضرورت پر زور دیا گیا۔ نوکیا پاکستان کے جنرل مینیجر نیٹ ورکس ڈیپٹی اسٹی نے اسلام آباد میں نیوز کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں موبائل براڈ بینڈ استعمال کرنے والے تیزی سے ہائی اسپڈ براڈ بینڈ کا تقاضا کر رہے ہیں،، ملک بھر میں نیٹ ورک کوریج میں نمایاں بہتری ہوئی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ نوکیا موبائل براڈ بینڈ کے عالمی ماہر کے طور پر موبائل آپریٹرز کو جدید تھری اور فور جی ٹیکنالوجیز اور جامع خدمات کی فراہمی کیلئے پر عزم ہے تاکہ نیٹ ورکس قائم کر کے بچت کے ساتھ چلائے جائیں۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ موبائل براڈ بینڈ کنیکٹو کے حوالے سے پاکستان ترقی پزیر ٹیلی کام مارکیٹس میں چھبیس میں سے پچیس ویں نمبر پر ہے

کراچی: حکومت کی جانب سے طاہر القادری کی آمد پر جڑواں شہروں میں موبائل فون سروس کی بندش کے فیصلے نے سیلولر کمپنیوں کو تشویش میں مبتلا کر دیا ہے۔ ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ سیکورٹی خدشات کے بجائے سیاسی خدشات کی بنیاد پر موبائل فون سروس معطل کیے جانے کے فیصلے پر انڈسٹری میں شدید اضطراب پایا جاتا ہے۔ انڈسٹری کو خدشہ ہے کہ سیاسی خدشات کی بنیاد پر سروس کی معطلی کی روایت چل نکلی تو صارفین کو آئے روز سیلولر سروس کی بندش کا سامنا ہو گا جس سے نہ صرف انڈسٹری بلکہ خود حکومت کو بھی ریونیو کی مد میں بھاری نقصان اٹھانا پڑے گا۔ طاہر القادری کی آمد کے موقع پر راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد میں موبائل فون کی بندش رواں سال کی پہلی بندش ہے اس سے قبل 24 دسمبر کو حضرت امام حسینؑ کے چہلم کے موقع پر سیکورٹی خدشات کے تحت ملک کے 31 شہروں میں سیلولر سروس معطل کی گئی تھی، موجودہ حکومت سیاسی خطرہ ٹالنے کے لیے انڈسٹری اور خود قومی خزانے کے ریونیو کو نقصان سے دوچار کر رہی ہے۔ ایک ٹیلی کام کمپنی کے متعلقہ افسر نے بتایا کہ پی ٹی اے کی جانب سے موبائل کمپنیوں کو پیر 23 جون کو راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد میں سیلولر سروس معطل کرنے کی تیاریوں کا حکم دیا ہے، پی ٹی اے کے احکامات میں بندش کے اوقات واضح نہیں کیے گئے۔ ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری کے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ وفاقی حکومت نے تھری جی آکشن میں سرمایہ کاری کے وقت کمپنیوں کو یقین دلایا تھا کہ ملک میں سیلولر سروس کی بندش سے اجتناب کیا جائے گا۔ اس ضمن میں موبائل فون کمپنیوں سے سم کی فروخت کے لیے بائیو میٹرک سسٹم میں بھی سرمایہ کاری کرائی گئی۔ سیلولر سروس کے ذریعے حکومت یومیہ 34 سے 35 کروڑ روپے ریونیو کماتی ہے جس میں راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد کا حصہ 15 سے 20 فیصد ہے، ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری کا یومیہ ریونیو 11.22 ارب روپے ہے جس میں سے 15 سے 20 فیصد راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد سے حاصل ہوتا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حکومت کی جانب سے سیاسی خدشات کو ایٹو بنا کر سیلولر فون سروس کی معطلی نے کمپنیوں کو تشویش میں مبتلا کر دیا ہے، سابقہ حکومت کے دور میں خالصتاً سیکورٹی خدشات کی بنیاد پر سروس معطل کی جاتی رہی جسے انڈسٹری نے بھی ملکی مفاد میں دیکھتے ہوئے حکومت سے کسی قسم کا معاوضہ طلب نہیں کیا۔ انڈسٹری کو خدشہ ہے کہ حکومت سیاسی بنیادوں پر سیلولر سروس کی بندش کو حربہ نہ بنالے۔ ادھر کراچی کی بزنس کمیونٹی نے بھی سیاسی خدشات کی بنا پر اسلام آباد میں سروس

غیر معیاری موبائل چارجر انسانی صحت کیلئے

نقصان دہ

روزنامہ پاکستان

27 جون 2014

ملک بھر میں 45 ہزار سے زائد افغان سبز

بلاک

روزنامہ ڈان

24 جون 2014

ملک میں موبائل براڈ بینڈ کے استعمال میں

اضافہ

روزنامہ اساس

24 جون 2014

سیاسی خدشات پر موبائل فون بندش کے

فیصلے پر کمپنیوں کو تشویش

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

23 جون 2014

کی معطلی کو ملکی معیشت کے لیے نقصان دہ قرار دیا ہے۔ تاجر برادری کا کہنا ہے کہ کراچی سے لے کر خیبر تک تاجر برادری کے بیشتر مسائل بالخصوص وزارت تجارت، وزارت خزانہ، ایف بی آر سے متعلق مسائل کیلئے ہفتے کے آغاز پر پیر کے روز سے ہی سرگرمیاں شروع کی جاتی ہیں جو ڈاکٹر طاہر القادری کی آمد کے موقع پر سیولر سروس معطل ہونے سے التوا کا شکار ہوں گی۔

پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) نے آئندہ مالی سال کے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون آپریٹرز پر آئی ایم ای آئی کی رجسٹریشن پر عائد کردہ سیلز ٹیکس کو ناقابل عمل قرار دے دیا ہے اور بجٹ کی پارلیمنٹ سے منظوری سے پہلے ہی مخالفت کرتے ہوئے آئی ایم ای آئی پر عائد کردہ ٹیکس ختم کرنے کی درخواست کر دی ہے۔ پی ٹی اے نے وفاقی حکومت کی طرف سے آئندہ مالی سال 2014-15 کے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون آپریٹرز پر تجویز کردہ ڈھائی سو روپے فی بین الاقوامی موبائل ایکویپمنٹ شناختی نمبر (آئی ایم ای آئی) سیلز ٹیکس واپس لینے درخواست کر دی ہے۔ دستاویز کے مطابق پی ٹی اے کے چیئرمین اسماعیل شاہ نے چیئرمین ایف بی آر طارق باجوہ کو خط لکھا ہے کہ ٹیلی کام سیکٹر ملکی معیشت کا اہم ترین شعبہ ہے جو ملک میں اسٹیٹ آف دی آرٹ ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سروسز کی فراہمی کے ساتھ ٹیکسوں، براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری، پیداوار میں اضافے اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرنے کے حوالے ملکی معیشت میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے

اسلام آباد: شمالی وزیرستان میں دہشت گردوں کے خلاف جاری آپریشن کو کامیاب بنانے کے لئے افغانستان کی موبائل فون سمز کو پاکستان میں بند کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا۔ وزیراعظم ہاؤس کے ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ نواز شریف نے پاکستان ٹیلی کام اتھارٹی کو افغانستان کی موبائل فون سمز کی روٹنگ میں روٹنگ کو بند کرنے کی ہدایت جاری کر دی ہے۔ ذراغ نے ڈان ڈاٹ کام کو بتایا ہے کہ وزیراعظم کی ہدایت پر آئندہ چند روز میں عمل درآمد شروع کر دیا جائے گا اور افغانستان سموم کی پاکستان میں روٹنگ سروس مکمل طور پر بند ہو جائے گی۔ ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیراعظم نے قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی درخواست پر افغانستان کی سمز کی پاکستان میں روٹنگ بند کرنے کا حکم جاری کیا۔ اس فیصلے سے شمالی وزیرستان میں دہشت گردوں کے خلاف جاری آپریشن ضربِ عضب کو کامیاب بنانے اور شدت پسندوں کا نیٹ ورک توڑنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ یہ اقدام ناصرف دہشتگردوں کے درمیان رابطے کو ختم کرنے میں معاون ثابت ہوگا بلکہ اس سے اغوا برائے تادان کے واقعات میں بھی نمایاں کمی آئے گی۔

اسلام آباد: پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) نے آئندہ مالی سال کے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون آپریٹرز پر آئی ایم ای آئی کی رجسٹریشن پر عائد کردہ سیلز ٹیکس کو ناقابل عمل قرار دے دیا ہے اور بجٹ کی پارلیمنٹ سے منظوری سے پہلے ہی مخالفت کرتے ہوئے آئی ایم ای آئی پر عائد کردہ ٹیکس ختم کرنے کی درخواست کر دی ہے۔ اس ضمن میں ”ایکسپریس“ کو دستیاب دستاویز کے مطابق پی ٹی اے نے وفاقی حکومت کی طرف سے آئندہ مالی سال 2014-15 کے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون آپریٹرز پر تجویز کردہ ڈھائی سو روپے فی بین الاقوامی موبائل ایکویپمنٹ شناختی نمبر (آئی ایم ای آئی) سیلز ٹیکس واپس لینے درخواست کر دی ہے۔ دستاویز کے مطابق پی ٹی اے کے چیئرمین اسماعیل شاہ نے چیئرمین ایف بی آر طارق باجوہ کو خط لکھا ہے کہ ٹیلی کام سیکٹر ملکی معیشت کا اہم ترین شعبہ ہے جو ملک میں اسٹیٹ آف دی آرٹ ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سروسز کی فراہمی کے ساتھ ٹیکسوں، براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری، پیداوار میں اضافے اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرنے کے حوالے ملکی معیشت میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ انھوں نے آئندہ مالی سال 2014-15 کے وفاقی بجٹ میں ٹیلی کام سیکٹر پر عائد ٹیکس کم کرنے کے اقدام کو سراہا اور کہا کہ مذکورہ ٹیکس کم کرنے سے موبائل فون صارف کو 100 روپے کا کارڈ لوڈ کرنے پر صرف 1.25 روپے کا اضافی ایجنڈا ملے گا لیکن فنانس بل 2014 کے تحت نوٹس شیڈول کے ذریعے موبائل فون آپریٹرز پر آئی ایم ای آئی کی رجسٹریشن پر ڈھائی سو روپے جزل سیلز ٹیکس عائد کرنے کے بہت زیادہ منفی اثرات مرتب ہو سکتے جبکہ اس ٹیکس کا نفاذ تکنیکی لحاظ سے ممکن بھی نہیں کیونکہ بطور ریگولیشن پی ٹی اے نے آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن کا ڈیٹا ماہانہ بنیادوں پر ایف بی آر کو فراہم کرنا ہوتا ہے اس لیے بطور ریگولیشن پی ٹی اے سمجھتا ہے کہ آئی ایم ای آئی پر عائد کردہ ڈھائی سو روپے جزل سیلز ٹیکس کا نفاذ تکنیکی طور پر ممکن نہیں کیونکہ مارکیٹ میں بہت سے موبائل فون سیٹ ایسے موجود ہیں جن کے آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر ایک جیسے ہیں اور بہت سے وینڈرز آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر خود تبدیل کر سکتے ہیں۔ اسماعیل شاہ نے چیئرمین ایف بی آر کو خط میں واضح کیا کہ پی ٹی اے نے آئندہ مالی سال 2014-15 کے وفاقی بجٹ کی تیاری کے وقت بھی ایف بی آر حکام کو آگاہ کیا تھا کہ اس تجویز کو شامل نہ کیا جائے کیونکہ یہ قابل عمل نہیں ہے۔ لہذا ایف بی آر سے درخواست کی جاتی ہے کہ آئندہ مالی سال کے وفاقی بجٹ میں نئی آئی ایم ای آئی کی رجسٹریشن پر عائد کردہ ڈھائی سو روپے فی آئی ایم ای آئی جزل سیلز ٹیکس ختم کیا جائے۔

کراچی: (این این آئی) حکومت نے موبائل فون کی سم پر 250 روپے ٹیکس لگانے کا فیصلہ کر لیا جو ٹیکس ٹیلی کام کمپنیز سے سم کی

پی ٹی اے نے آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن ٹیکس ناقابل عمل قرار دیدیا

روزنامہ اساس

22 جون 2014

افغان سمز کی پاکستان میں روٹنگ بند کرنے

کا فیصلہ

روزنامہ ڈان

21 جون 2014

پی ٹی اے نے آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن ٹیکس ناقابل عمل قرار دیدیا

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

21 جون 2014

حکومت نے موبائل فون کی سم پر 250

فراہمی کے وقت وصول کیا جائیگا۔ حکومت نے یکم جولائی سے موبائل فون سیٹ کے آئی ایم ای آر رجسٹریشن پر 250 روپے ٹیکس وصولی کی تجویز دی تھی تاہم ملک میں آئی ایم ای آر رجسٹریشن کا نظام نہ ہونے کے باعث اب موبائل سم پر 250 روپے ٹیکس لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے، جو ٹیلی کام کمپنیز سے سم کارڈ کے اجرا کے وقت ٹیکس وصول کیا جائیگا۔

روپے ٹیکس لگانے کا فیصلہ کر لیا، این این آئی کا دعویٰ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

19 جون 2014

آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ سے تحقیق کو فروغ دیکھو، اوشہ رحمن

روزنامہ اساس

19 جون 2014

وزیر مملکت برائے آئی ٹی اینڈ ٹیلی کام اوشہ رحمن نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کے ذریعے اہم اور سود مند تحقیقی منصوبوں کی معاونت جاری رکھے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گزشتہ روز یہاں آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کے اعلیٰ سطح اجلاس کی صدارت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اجلاس میں وفاقی سیکریٹری آئی ٹی عظمت علی رانجھا اور آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کے اعلیٰ عہدیداران نے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر مملکت نے کہا کہ حکومت آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کے ذریعے اہم اور سود مند تحقیقی منصوبوں کی معاونت جاری رکھے گی۔ اجلاس میں یہ فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ حکومت کی وضع کی گئی اہم ترجیحات کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اس بات کو یقینی بنایا جائیگا کہ آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کی رقم انتہائی شفاف انداز میں سود مند اور نتیجہ خیز منصوبوں کی تکمیل پر خرچ ہو۔ علاوہ ازیں آئی سی ٹی آر اینڈ ڈی فنڈ کے انتظامی امور میں بہتری لانے کیلئے مستقل چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر (سی ای او) کی تعیناتی کیلئے سلیکشن کا عمل بھی حتمی مراحل میں ہے۔ وزیر مملکت برائے آئی ٹی اوشہ رحمن نے مزید کہا کہ قبل ازیں بورڈ کی جانب سے کیے گئے فیصلے کے تحت کمپنی کی معاونت سے جاری تمام تحقیقی منصوبوں کا پرفارمنس آڈٹ کیا جا رہا ہے جس سے ہمیں سابقہ تجربات سے سیکھنے اور نئی ترجیحات مرتب کرنے میں خاصی مدد ملے گی

سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹویٹر نے پاکستانی حکام کی درخواست پر مبینہ طور پر 'ٹویٹن آمیز' مواد ہونے کی وجہ سے بلاک کی جانے والی ٹویٹس اور ٹویٹر اکاؤنٹس کو دوبارہ بحال کر دیا۔ یاد رہے کہ 23 مئی کو امریکی اخبار نیویارک ٹائمز میں شائع ہونے والی رپورٹ میں دعویٰ کیا گیا تھا کہ ٹویٹر نے پاکستان کی ٹویٹس یا ٹویٹر اکاؤنٹ بلاک کرنے کی پانچ درخواستیں قبول کی ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی کے ایک اہلکار عبدالباطن نے مئی میں پانچ ایسی درخواستیں ٹویٹر کو بھیجیں جن میں مخصوص اکاؤنٹس، ٹویٹس اور سرچز کو روکنے کا کہا گیا تھا۔ یہ تمام درخواستیں ایسے اکاؤنٹس، ٹویٹس اور سرچز کے بارے میں تھیں جن میں مبینہ طور پر مذہب یا رسالت کی توہین کی گئی تھی۔ ٹویٹر نے کہا ہے کہ انھوں نے درخواستوں کا مکمل جائزہ لیا اور پاکستانی حکام کی جانب سے مزید تفصیلات فراہم کرنے میں ناکامی پر پچھلے دنوں روکے جانے والی ایسی ٹویٹس بحال کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ انٹرنیٹ پر سنسر شپ اور حقوق کے لیے جدوجہد کرنے والی تنظیم بولو بھی نے ایک پریس ریلیز میں ٹویٹر کی جانب سے اس قدم کا خیر مقدم کیا مگر کہا کہ 'انہیں ٹویٹر کی جانب سے اس سارے عمل میں معلومات کی عدم دستیابی اور شفافیت پر تشویش ہے کہ کیسے ٹویٹر اس طرح کی درخواستوں پر عمل درآمد کرتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں انٹرنیٹ کے حقوق کے لیے کام کرنے والے مختلف کارکنوں نے ٹویٹر پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے تمام درخواستوں پر فیصلوں کو شفاف بنائے تاکہ حقائق کی بنیاد پر فیصلہ ہو اور اس قسم کی صورت حال سے بچا جاسکے۔

ٹویٹن آمیز، ٹویٹس پر پابندی کا فیصلہ واپس

بی بی سی اردو

18 جون 2014

لاہور (پ ر) موبی لنک نے 8 بڑے شہروں میں مفت 3 جی سروزر فراہم کرنے کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا ہے جس کا مقصد صارفین کی جانب سے گزشتہ 20 برسوں کے دوران موبی لنک پر ظاہر کئے جانے والے اعتماد کا شکریہ ادا کرنا ہے موبی لنک نے پورے پاکستان میں 8 بڑے شہروں میں رواں اپریل سے 3 جی سروزر کا آغاز کیا اور یہ خدمات تیز رفتار انٹرنیٹ سروزر کی جانچ کیلئے اولین موقع فراہم کرنے کیلئے جاری رہیں گے۔

موبی لنک کا بڑے شہروں میں مفت 3 جی

سروزر فراہم کرنے کا سلسلہ جاری

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

17 جون 2014

اسلام آباد (منا سمدہ دنیا) چیئر مین پاکستان ٹیلی کام اتھارٹی ڈاکٹر اسماعیل شاہ نے کہا کہ مختلف ٹیلی کام کمپنیوں کی تھری جی خدمات کا سروے ان کمپنیوں کی طرف سے جمع کروائے گئے ذریعہ ان کی واپسی کے بعد شروع ہو گا۔ ایک ٹیلی کام کمپنی کی سپر تھری جی خدمات کے تعارف کے دوران چیئر مین پی ٹی اے نے کہا کہ ٹیلی کام کی نئی خدمات سے تحقیق اور معلومات میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ ٹیلی کام کمپنی نے اپنی نئی سپر تھری جی سروزر کراچی اور لاہور میں متعارف کرا دی ہے جس کے تحت اب ملک میں موجود دوسری تھری جی سروزر کے مقابلے میں دگنی رفتار حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ سپر تھری جی کے آنے سے صارفین تیز ترین انٹرنیٹ حاصل کر سکیں گے جس کے ذریعے چند سیکنڈوں میں گانوں اور وڈیو کی اسٹریمنگ کرنا ممکن ہو جائے گا، سپر تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی 42 (ایم بی) کی تیز ترین رفتار پر کام کر سکتی ہے اور پاکستان میں موجود دیگر تھری جی سروزر سے دگنی تیز ہے کمپنی کے چیئر مین اور چیف ایگزیکٹو، ڈاکٹر فان یوجن نے کہا کہ اپنے صارفین کو اعلیٰ سروزر فراہم کرنا ہمارے کاروبار ایک اہم حصہ ہے جسے نظر انداز نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ ہماری کمپنی کا مقصد صارفین کو اولین ترجیح دیتے ہوئے ان کیلئے اپنے انفراسٹرکچر کے ذریعے منفرد تجربات متعارف کروانا ہے ہماری سپر تھری جی سروزر بھی ایک ایسی ہی

ٹیلی کام کی نئی خدمات سے تحقیق و

معلومات میں اضافہ ہوگا

روزنامہ دنیا

15 جون 2014

مثال ہے جو ہمارے ٹیکنالوجی کا شوق رکھنے والے صارفین کو بہترین ڈیٹا سلوشن فراہم کرنے کے عزم کی عکاسی کرتی ہے۔

رواں مالی سال مارچ تک ٹی سی ایل کی فیکس اور وائزلیس کنکشنوں میں 8.32 فیصد کمی دیکھی گئی اور موبائل فون کنکشنوں میں 3.60 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ سرکاری اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2013ء میں وائزلیس اور فیکس ٹیلی فون کنکشنوں کی تعداد 61 لاکھ 50 ہزار تھا تاہم اب یہ کم ہو کر 56 لاکھ 40 ہزار رہ گئی ہے۔ اس دوران موبائل لنک کے صارفین کی تعداد میں 1.62 فیصد، یوفون 1.98، ٹیلی نار 4.86، وارد 0.91 اور زونگ 15.06 فیصد اضافہ ہوا۔ ملک میں موبائل کے کنکشن 13 کروڑ 23 لاکھ سے تجاوز کر گئے ہیں۔ موبائل لنک کے صارفین کی تعداد 3 کروڑ 77 لاکھ 20 ہزار، یوفون 2 کروڑ 50 لاکھ 30 ہزار، ٹیلی نار 3 کروڑ 37 لاکھ 50 ہزار، وارد ایک کروڑ 28 لاکھ 20 ہزار اور زونگ کے صارفین کی تعداد 2 کروڑ 43 لاکھ 70 ہزار ہے

کراچی: وفاقی بجٹ 2014-15 میں ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ پر درآمدی ڈیوٹی 5 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 10 فیصد کیے جانے کے ساتھ ایس آر او 575 کے تحت ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ کی درآمد پر دی جانے والی ڈیوٹی کی چھوٹ بھی ختم کر دی گئی ہے۔ بجٹ میں ڈیوٹی بڑھانے جانے سے تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی کے پھیلاؤ کے لیے انفراسٹرکچر اور نیٹ ورک میں توسیع کے لیے ایکویپمنٹ اور آلات کی درآمدی لاگت میں اضافہ ہو گیا ہے جس سے انڈسٹری کے لیے تھری جی کے رول آؤٹ کے لیے پہلے فیز کے ساتھ دوسرے فیز کو بھی مقررہ مدت میں پورا کرنا دشوار ہو گا۔ ایس آر او 575 کے تحت ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ بشمول پاور سپلائی یونٹ اور ریگنیٹائر (ایچ ایس کوڈ 8504.409)، بیٹری کینٹ ڈی سی ایگزکون بمعہ کینٹ (ایچ ایس کوڈ 8507.201)، ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ پارٹ (8517.7)، پاور کوڈ (ایچ ایس کوڈ 8504.909) اور سسٹم الارم کیبل (ایچ ایس کوڈ 8544.499) 5 فیصد ڈیوٹی پر درآمد کیے جا رہے تھے۔ پاور کوڈ پر 10 فیصد سسٹم الارم کیبل پر 20 فیصد اور باقی آئٹمز پر 5 فیصد کی رعایت حاصل تھی جو آئندہ مالی سال کے بجٹ میں ختم کر دی گئی ہے۔ دوسری جانب بجٹ کے بارے میں انڈسٹری کے رد عمل پر ناراضگی کا اظہار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ذرائع کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ انفارمیشن اور کمیونٹی کیشن ٹیکنالوجی سے متعلق کچھ اعلیٰ حلقوں کی خواہش ہے کہ بجٹ کو صارف اور کاروبار دوست قرار دینے کے لیے اشتہاری مہم بھی چلائی جائے۔

لاہور: سیلولر موبائل انڈسٹری نے آئندہ مالی سال کے لیے بزنس فرینڈلی بجٹ کے اعلان پر وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار کی کوششوں کو سراہا ہے اور ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری کو دی جانے والی مراعات کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ سیلولر آپریٹرز گزشتہ کئی سالوں سے دیگر کئی تجاویز کے ساتھ معیشت کے دیگر شعبوں کے مطابق موبائل فون کے استعمال پر ٹی سی ای ڈی کے حقیقت پسندانہ نفاذ کی حمایت کرتے رہے ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں وزارت خزانہ میں متعدد میٹنگز ہوئیں اور موبائل انڈسٹری کے خدشات ایف بی آر کے حکام سے بھی شیئر کیے گئے۔ فنانس بل میں پیش کردہ مراعات کو عمومی طور پر سراہا گیا ہے تاہم کچھ پہلو ایسے ہیں جہاں انڈسٹری کے خدشات دور کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس حوالے سے سیلولر انڈسٹری جلد دوبارہ وزیر خزانہ سے ملاقات کا منصوبہ بنا رہی ہے اور مسائل کے احسن طریقے سے حل کی توقع کرتی ہے۔ انڈسٹری اس مسئلے میں وزیر مملکت برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے تعاون کی بھی طلبگار ہے کیونکہ وہ ہمیشہ سے ہی ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری کو درپیش مسائل کے حل میں معاون رہی ہیں جبکہ ایک اہم اجلاس اگلے ہفتے متوقع ہے۔

کراچی: ٹیلی کام سیکٹر ٹیکس وصولیوں کا اہم ذریعہ بن چکا ہے۔ ٹیلی کام سیکٹر نے گزشتہ پانچ سال کے دوران 595.57 ارب روپے کے ٹیکس قومی خزانے میں جمع کرائے۔ رواں مالی سال کے پہلے چھ ماہ کے دوران 66.93 ارب روپے کے ٹیکس ادا کیے گئے۔ اکتاناک سروے رپورٹ 2013-14 کے مطابق رواں مالی سال ٹیلی کام سیکٹر میں افزائش کا عمل جاری رہا۔ مارچ 2014 تک ٹیلی ڈینسٹی کی شرح 78 فیصد تک پہنچ گئی۔ جولائی سے مارچ 2013-14 کے دوران ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے ریونیو 345.5 ارب روپے تک پہنچ گئے جبکہ اس عرصے میں ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کی جانب سے 567 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی۔ ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کا ریونیو 2012-13 کے دوران 211 روپے فی صارف ماہانہ رہا۔ تھری جی فوری ٹیکنالوجی کی آمد کے بعد ڈیٹا سروس اور موبائل بینکنگ کے ذریعے ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے ریونیو میں آئندہ آنے والے عرصے میں نمایاں اضافہ متوقع ہے۔ ملک میں ٹیلی کام سروس کا دائرہ کار رقبے کے لحاظ سے ملک کے 92 فیصد رقبے تک پھیل چکا ہے۔ مالی سال 2013-14 کے دوران سیل سائٹس کی تعداد میں 5.8 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے اور مارچ 2014 تک ملک میں موجود سیل سائٹس کی تعداد 37 ہزار 169 ریکارڈ کی گئی ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق ملک میں گرسے ٹریفک اور اور دی ٹاپ سروسز (اسکانپ، واہبر، واٹس ایپ وغیرہ) کی وجہ سے انٹرنیشنل ان کمنگ اور آؤٹ گونگ ٹریفک میں مسلسل کمی کا سامنا ہے۔ جولائی تا دسمبر 2013 کے دوران انٹرنیشنل منٹس 4.244 ارب منٹس رہے مالی سال 2011-12 میں انٹرنیشنل منٹس 16.22 ارب جبکہ مالی سال 2012-13 کے دوران کم ہو کر 11.995 ارب منٹس رہے۔

ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی دفعہ موبائل فون صارفین کی تعداد میں ملکی آبادی کے 75.6 فیصد تک پہنچ گئی اور اپریل 2014ء کے اختتام پر

ٹی سی ایل کے فیکس اور وائزلیس کنکشنوں میں کمی ہوئی

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

13 جون 2014

ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ پر درآمدی ڈیوٹی میں اضافہ، چھوٹ بھی ختم

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

12 جون 2014

سیلولر موبائل انڈسٹری کا بزنس فرینڈلی بجٹ پیش کرنے پر وزیر خزانہ کو خراج تحسین

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

09 جون 2014

گزشتہ 5 سال میں 595 ارب ٹیکس کر کے ٹیلی کام سیکٹر ریونیو کا اہم ذریعہ بن گیا

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

09 جون 2014

موبائل فون صارفین کی تعداد ملکی آبادی

موبائل صارفین کی تعداد 13 کروڑ 76 لاکھ 80 ہزار ہو گئی ہے۔ پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق اپریل کے دوران موبائل فون کی سروس فراہم کرنے والی کمپنیوں نے 12 لاکھ نئے کنکشن فروخت کئے ہیں اور ٹیلی نار اور ٹانگ اس حوالے سے نمایاں رہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق اپریل کے دوران ٹیلی نار سے 6 لاکھ 65 ہزار 591 نئے کنکشن فروخت کئے ہیں جس سے ملک میں ٹیلی نار کے صارفین کی مجموعی تعداد 3 کروڑ 58 لاکھ 70 ہزار تک بڑھ گئی

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) پاکستان میں لوگوں کے مذہب، نسل اور جنس کی بنیاد پر نفرت انگیز مواد کا نشانہ بنانے کا رجحان خطرناک حد تک زیادہ ہو گیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سائبر سپیس سے متعلق ایک سروے میں انکشاف کیا گیا ہے کہ سائبر سپیس انٹرنیٹ اور سوشل میڈیا پر نفرت انگیز مواد اب خطرناک حد کو چھو رہا ہے جس سے معاشرے میں کئی قسم کے خطرات پیدا ہو رہے ہیں۔ اس سروے کے دوران 92 فیصد افراد نے بتایا کہ انہوں نے انٹرنیٹ پر نفرت انگیز مواد دیکھا ہے جبکہ 51 فیصد کے مطابق انہیں نفرت انگیز رویے کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ ان میں سے 42 فیصد کے مطابق انہیں ان کے مذہب کی وجہ سے نشانہ بنایا گیا جبکہ 23 فیصد کو ان کی قومیت، 22 فیصد کو ان کی نسل کی بنیاد پر جبکہ 16 فیصد کو ان کی جنس کی بنیاد پر نفرت انگیز رویے کا نشانہ بنایا گیا۔ سروے کے مطابق کم آمدنی والے افراد میں نفرت انگیز مواد کے بارے میں بہت کم آگاہی تھی جبکہ آمدنی کے اعتبار سے اس آگاہی میں اضافہ ہوتا نظر آیا۔ برطانوی نثریاتی ادارے کے مطابق سماجی ویب سائٹس میں سے فیس بک پر سب سے زیادہ نفرت انگیز مواد موجود ہے اور 91 فیصد افراد نے اس پر ایسے مواد کو دیکھنے کی تصدیق کی تاہم ٹوئٹر پر اس کے مقابلے میں ایسا بہت ہی کم نظر آیا۔ زبان کی بنیاد پر دیکھیں تو فیس بک پر موجود نفرت انگیز مواد میں سے 74 فیصد رومن اردو میں لکھا گیا ہے 22 فیصد انگریزی جبکہ صرف 4 فیصد اردو میں لکھا گیا اور سب سے زیادہ نشانہ سیاست دانوں کو بنایا جاتا ہے۔ 38 فیصد سیاستدانوں اور دس فیصد میڈیا میں کام کرنے والوں یا میڈیا ہاؤسز کو نشانہ بنایا گیا۔

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) پاکستان میں فیس بک پر موجود شدت پسندی کے خلاف آواز اٹھانے والے کئی پیجیز تک رسائی پر پابندی لگادی ہے تاہم اس پابندی سے پی ٹی اے نے لاطعلقی ظاہر کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ یہ اقدام فیس بک انتظامیہ سے طرف سے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا سے بات کرتے ہوئے پی ٹی اے کے ترجمان خرم مہران نے تردید کی کہ پی ٹی اے نے ایسا نہیں کیا اور فیس بک نے خود ہی نتیجہ بنایا ہے جبکہ فیس بک نے تصدیق کی کہ انہوں نے یہ پیجیز پی ٹی اے کی درخواست پر ہٹائے۔ جن پیجیز پر پابندی لگائی گئی ہے ان میں کئی متنازع ناموں کے پیج شامل ہیں۔

لاہور (سٹاف رپورٹر) ٹیلی نار پاکستان نے معذور افراد کو پیشہ ورانہ مہارت فراہم کر کے مالی طور پر با اختیار بنانے کیلئے نیشنل ڈیجیٹل سٹریٹجی فار سٹیش پرنس کی موبائل ریپریزنٹ لیب کو جدید ترین آلات، انٹرنیٹ اور فل ٹائم موبائل ریپریزنٹ ٹرینرز سے آراستہ کر دیا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ سٹیش ٹیلنٹ ایکس چینج پروگرام کے اشتراک سے یہ لیب ٹیلی نار پاکستان کے خوددار پاکستان پروگرام کے تحت نئے دور کے تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ کی گئی ہے جس کا افتتاح سٹیش ایجوکیشن کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل صبغت الرحمان نے کیا۔ موجودہ سٹیج میں 12 معذور طالب علم 6 ماہ پر مبنی تھیوری اور تکنیکی کورس مکمل کریں گے۔ اس موقع پر ٹیلی نار پاکستان کے چیف کارپوریٹ انفراسٹرکچر مینجر محمد اسلم حیات نے کہا کہ خوددار پاکستان کے ذریعے ہم معذور افراد کی زندگیوں میں مثبت تبدیلیاں لانے کا عزم رکھتے ہیں۔ اس لیب کو جدید ترین سہولیات سے آراستہ کرنے کا مقصد معذور افراد کو معاشرے میں باعزت روزگار فراہم کر کے انہیں با اختیار بنانا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر اسحاق ڈار نے کہا ہے کہ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں غیر ملکی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری پر آئندہ 5 سال کے لیے کارپوریٹ ٹیکس کی خصوصی شرح کی سہولت دی جائے گی، یہ سہولت 30 جون 2017 تک 3 سال کی مدت میں مکمل ہونے والے منصوبوں پر حاصل ہوگی، وہ آئی ٹی شعبے کے چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے ایک گروپ کے اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے تھے، وزیر خزانہ نے چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو گزشتہ ایک سال کی اقتصادی کارکردگی اور تازہ ترین اقتصادی اعشاریوں کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی۔ انہوں نے وفد کو نئے بجٹ میں پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے متعارف کروائی گئی خصوصی مراعات کے بارے میں بھی آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں تعلیم یافتہ اور ہنرمند نوجوان افرادی قوت موجود ہے جسے پورے خطے میں ایکسپورٹ بیس کے طور پر استعمال کیا جاسکتا ہے، اس موقع پر چائناموبائل کمپنی ایسوسی ایشن کے سیکریٹری جنرل اور سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد کے سربراہ لاؤ پیپ نے وفاقی وزیر کو بتایا کہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کا وفد پاکستان میں اپنے تجربات کے تبادلے کی غرض سے موجود ہے کیونکہ پاکستان میں تھری جی اور فور جی ٹیکنالوجی کے حامل اسٹارٹ فونز کی تیاری کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں، پاکستان میں تقریباً 20 کروڑ کی آبادی اور موبائل انڈسٹری کی اعلیٰ شرح نمو کے پیش نظر مقامی سطح پر مینوفیکچرنگ یونٹس کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ چینی کمپنیوں کے پاس

کے 75.6 فیصد تک پہنچ گئی، پی ٹی اے

روزنامہ اساس

09 جون 2014

پاکستان میں سوشل میڈیا پر نفرت انگیز مواد میں خطرناک اضافہ

روزنامہ پاکستان

09 جون 2014

فیس بک پر متنازع صفحات تک رسائی پر

پابندی

روزنامہ پاکستان

09 جون 2014

ٹیلی نار پاکستان کا معذور افراد کو با اختیار بنانے

کا اعادہ

روزنامہ دنیا

08 جون 2014

آئی ٹی میں سرمایہ کاری کارپوریٹ ٹیکس

میں رعایت دیکھئے: اسحاق ڈار

روزنامہ دنیا

07 جون 2014

عالمی مارکیٹ کا تقریباً 80 فیصد حصہ ہے۔ سرمایہ کار کمپنیوں کے گروپ نے پاکستان میں تیز بنیادوں پر اسٹارٹ فون کی مینوفیکچرنگ انڈسٹری کے قیام کا عزم ظاہر کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر خزانہ نے سرمایہ کاروں کے گروپ کو مقامی سطح پر اسٹارٹ فون کی تیاری اور آئندہ 3 سال کے دوران آئی ٹی سے متعلق خدمات پر حکومت کی جانب سے ہر ممکن تعاون اور سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کا یقین دلایا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر مملکت برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی انوشہ رحمان، وفاقی سیکریٹری خزانہ، سیکریٹری انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، چیئرمین ایف بی آر، چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور دیگر متعلقہ حکام بھی موجود تھے۔

کراچی: ٹیلی کام سیکٹر نے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون کے آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر کی رجسٹریشن کے لیے 250 روپے فی سیٹ ٹیکس کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے اسے ناقابل فہم اور ناقابل عمل اقدام قرار دیا ہے۔ ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے ماہرین نے اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کے دوران ”ایکسپریس“ کو بتایا کہ وفاقی حکومت نے بجٹ میں تجویز کردہ اقدامات کے بارے میں ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری سے کوئی مشاورت نہیں کی اور حیرت انگیز طور پر نئے موبائل فون سیٹ کے آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر کی رجسٹریشن پر ٹیکس وصولی کی ذمہ داری موبائل فون کمپنیوں کے کھاتے میں ڈال دی ہے۔ انڈسٹری ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ موبائل کمپنیوں کی جانب سے بجٹ میں عائد کیے گئے نئے ٹیکسوں کے بارے میں تحفظات پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی اور وزارت انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے وزارت خزانہ اور ایف بی آر کو سمجھائے جا رہے ہیں تاکہ فنانس بل کی منظوری سے قبل ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے لیے جبرانی کیفیت کا سبب بننے والے اس مسئلے کا حل تلاش کیا جاسکے۔

انڈسٹری کے مطابق بجٹ سے قبل حکومت کی جانب سے ٹیلی کام انڈسٹری کو اس بات کے اشارے دیے گئے تھے کہ ایڈوانس اکم ٹیکس کی شرح 15 فیصد سے کم کر کے 10 فیصد کر دی جائیگی تاہم بجٹ میں صرف 1 فیصد کمی کی گئی، اسی طرح ود ہولڈنگ ٹیکس بھی 19.5 فیصد سے کم کر کے 18.5 فیصد کر دیا گیا، ان دونوں اقدامات کے نتیجے میں 100 روپے کا بیلنس لوڈ کرانے والے صارفین کو صرف 1.26 روپے کا معمولی فائدہ ہوگا تاہم دوسری جانب موبائل فون کی درآمد پر 500 روپے کے ایپورٹ ٹیکس اور اس پر 250 روپے کے آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن ٹیکس کی شکل میں 750 روپے کا یکدم اضافہ کر دیا گیا ہے، ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کے لیے بجٹ کی مشکلات یہاں پر ہی ختم نہیں ہوئیں۔ حکومت نے ٹیلی کام ایکویپمنٹ کی درآمدی ڈیوٹی 5 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 10 فیصد جبکہ آئی ٹی ایکویپمنٹ کو زیرو ریٹ کی سہولت ختم کرتے ہوئے 1 فیصد ڈیوٹی عائد کر دی ہے۔ انڈسٹری کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان پہلا ملک ہے جہاں نئے ٹیکس کی فروخت کے لیے بائیو میٹرک سسٹم کا نظام لازمی قرار دیا گیا، اسی طرح آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن کے لیے موبائل فون کمپنیوں کے لیے ٹیکس کی وصولی بھی دنیا میں اپنی طرز کی پہلی منفرد مثال ہے۔ انڈسٹری ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ بجٹ میں ٹیلی کام سیکٹر پر ٹیکس کم کر کے عوام کو ریلیف دینے کے تمام دعوے غلط اور بے بنیاد ہیں، حقیقت میں عوام کو صرف 100 روپے پر 1.26 روپے کا فائدہ پہنچایا گیا ہے جبکہ نئے سیٹ پر رجسٹریشن ٹیکس کی مد میں 250 روپے کا جبری ٹیکس عائد کر دیا گیا۔ انڈسٹری کے مطابق ایک جانب حکومت ملک میں تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے معاشی ترقی کی رفتار تیز کرنے اور روزگار کے لاکھوں نئے مواقع پیدا کرنے کے دعوے کر رہی ہے تو دوسری جانب خود ہی تھری جی ٹیکنالوجی کے فروغ کی راہ میں بجٹ اقدامات کے ذریعے رکاوٹیں کھڑی کر دی گئی ہیں، ٹیلی کام اور آئی ٹی ایکویپمنٹ پر ڈیوٹی بڑھانے سے تھری جی نیٹ ورک کی توسیع، پھیلاؤ اور بہتر خدمات کی فراہمی میں مشکلات کا سامنا ہوگا اور انڈسٹری کو اضافی لاگت کا بوجھ بھی برداشت کرنا پڑے گا، گزشتہ سال حکومت کی جانب سے ایڈوانس اکم ٹیکس میں 5 فیصد اضافے سے انڈسٹری کے ریونیو میں 5 فیصد کمی کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔

اسلام آباد: فیڈل بورڈ آف ریونیو (ایف بی آر) نے آئندہ مالی سال کے وفاقی بجٹ میں موبائل فون سیٹ کی درآمد پر 150 سے 500 روپے سبز ٹیکس کے علاوہ موبائل ٹیلی فون کی رجسٹریشن کے موقع پر ایگزٹیشنل موبائل ایکویپمنٹ شناخت نمبر (آئی ایم ای آئی) پر بھی ڈھائی سو روپے سبز ٹیکس عائد کر دیا ہے۔ جبکہ سندھ، پنجاب اور خیبر پختونخوا میں ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سروسز پر فیڈرل ایکسائز ڈیوٹی ختم کرنے کے بجائے وصول نہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جبکہ اسلام آباد کپینٹل ٹیریٹری اور بلوچستان میں ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سروسز پر عائد فیڈرل ایکسائز ڈیوٹی کی شرح 19.5 فیصد سے کم کر کے 18.5 فیصد کرنے کی تجویز دی ہے۔ ایف بی آر کے سینئر افسر نے بتایا کہ موبائل فون سیٹ کی درآمد اور آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر پر سبز ٹیکس کے نفاذ کو فنانس بل کے ذریعے قانونی تحفظ دینے کیلئے نوٹیفکیشن میں شامل کرنے کی تجویز دی گئی ہے، یہ بھی تجویز ہے کہ جو سیلولر موبائل فون آپریٹرز اپنے سسٹم میں آئی ایم ای آئی نمبر رجسٹر کریں گے وہ آئی ایم ای آئی رجسٹریشن پر 150 سے 250 روپے سبز ٹیکس وصول کریں گے تاہم کسی کو ان پٹ ٹیکس ایڈجسٹمنٹ نہیں دی جائیگی۔

رواں مالی سال کے پہلے دس مہینوں کے دوران موبائل فون کی درآمدات میں 20 لاکھ 46 ہزار 700 ڈالر کا اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ ادارہ برائے شماریات پاکستان کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق رواں مالی سال میں جولائی تا اپریل کے دوران 51 کروڑ 62 لاکھ 39 ہزار ڈالر کے موبائل فون سیٹ درآمد کئے گئے جبکہ گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصہ کے دوران 51 کروڑ 37 لاکھ 72 ہزار ڈالر کے فون درآمد کئے گئے تھے۔

ٹیلی کام سیکٹر کو بجٹ اقدامات پر شدید تحفظات

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

06 جون 2014

موبائل فون کی درآمد کے ساتھ رجسٹریشن پر بھی سبز ٹیکس عائد

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

05 جون 2014

موبائل فون کی درآمدات میں 20 لاکھ

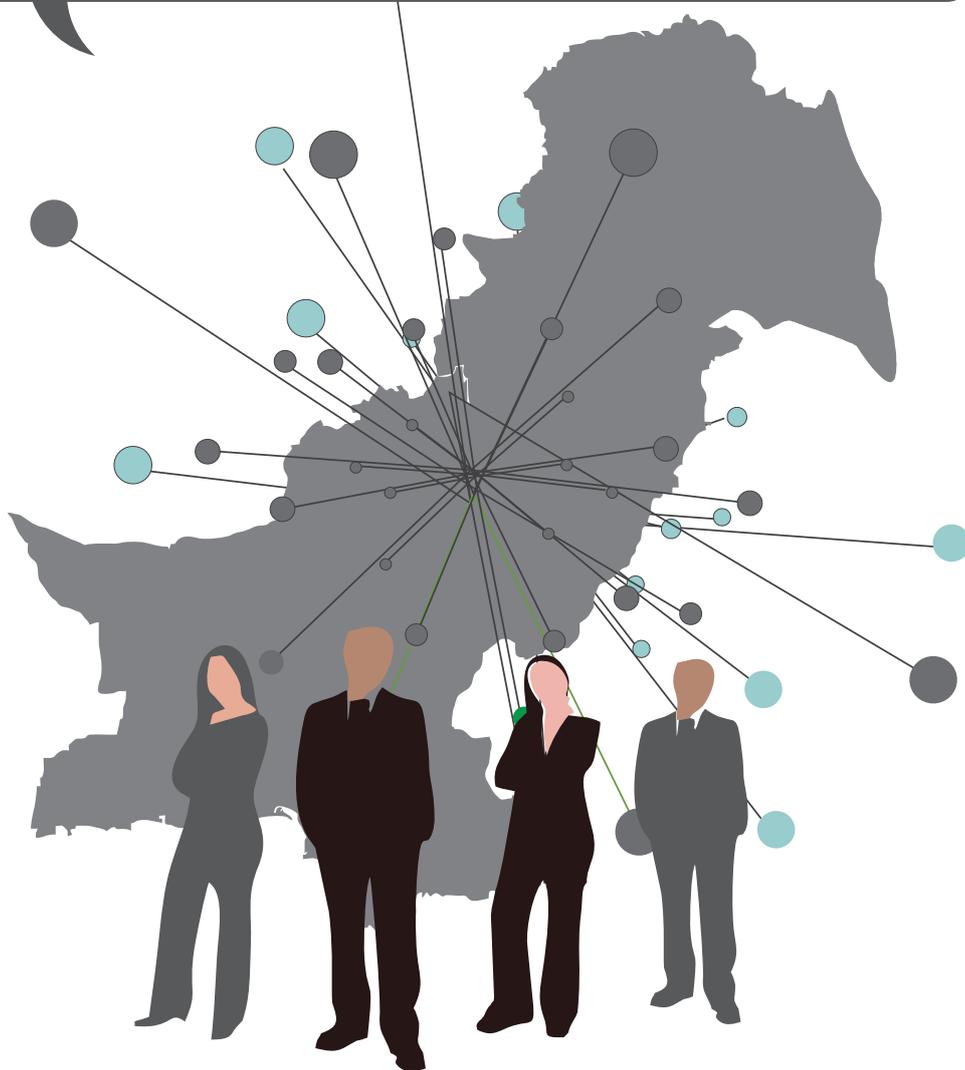
46 ہزار 700 ڈالر کا اضافہ

روزنامہ اسٹار

گزشتہ مالی سال کے اپریل کے مقابلہ میں رواں سال اپریل کے دوران موبائل فونز کی درآمدات میں معمولی اضافہ ہوا۔ اپریل 2014 کے دوران تین کروڑ 89 لاکھ 67 ہزار ڈالر کی درآمدات کی گئی جبکہ گزشتہ اپریل میں موبائل فونز کی درآمدات کا حجم تین کروڑ 83 لاکھ 48 ہزار ڈالر تھا۔

جون 2014

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<p>Pakistan Telecommunication Authority 0092-51-9202700, 51-2878143 0092-51-9212700 complaint@pta.gov.pk www.pta.gov.pk CPD, PTA Headquarters, Sector F- 5/1, Islamabad</p>	<p>Pakistan Television Corporation Limited 0092-51-9212222, 9213333 gmnews@ptv.com.pk www.ptv.com.pk Constitution Avenue, Islamabad, Islamabad</p>
<p>Punjab Information Technology Board 0092-42-35880062 0092-42-99232123 info@pitb.gov.pk www.pitb.gov.pk 11th Floor, Arfa Software Technology Park, 346-B, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, Punjab</p>	<p>Special Communication Organization 0092-51-111 726 726 info@sco.gov.pk www.sco.gov.pk Convoy Road, Rawalpindi</p>
<p>Telecom Foundation 0092-51-2808159-64 www.telecomfoundation.com.pk TF Complex TF HQ, 7 Mauve Area, G-9/4, Islamabad</p>	<p>Directorate of Information Technology, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 0092-91-9211789 0092-91-9211789 Ext 105 bilal@khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk, basit@khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk, sysadmin@khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk www.khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk TF 204-210, 3rd Floor, Dean Trade Center, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</p>
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<p>National University of Sciences and Technology 0092-51-111-11-6878, 0092-51-90851001 0092-51-90851007 rector@nust.edu.pk, dadmissions@nust.edu.pk www.nust.edu.pk NUST Campus, H-12, Islamabad</p>	<p>Virtual University 0092-42-111 880 880 0092-42-99200604, 0092-42-99202174 registrar@vu.edu.pk mitadmissions@vu.edu.pk, mcsadmissions@vu.edu.pk www.vu.edu.pk M.A. Jinnah Campus, Defence Road, Off Raiwind Road, Lahore, Punjab</p>
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<p>Innovative Development Organization Quetta 0092-81-2834917 0092-81-2838823 ali@ido.org/info@ido.org www.ido.org.pk House # 69-A, Chaman Housing Scheme,, Quetta, Balochistan</p>	<p>iMMAP H# 25, College Road, F-7/2, Islamabad, Pakistan 0092-51.835.0752 0092-51.835.0753 www.immap.org</p>
<p>Pakistan Workers' Federation 0092-42-37222192 0092-42-37239529 pwf@brain.net.pk www.pwf.org.pk Bakhtiar Labour Hall, 28 - Nisbet Road, Lahore, Punjab</p>	<p>Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) http://www.sdpi.org 0092 51 2278134 0092 51 2278135 main@sdpi.org ed@sdpi.org 38 Embassy Road, G-6/3 Islamabad (New Address) Pakistan</p>
<p>Water, Health, Education, Environmental League Quetta 0092-81-2445212 0092-81-2445212 razayt@yahoo.com House No: 8-40/1479-2, Street no: 3, Ismail Colony Sirki Road, Quetta, Balochistan</p>	

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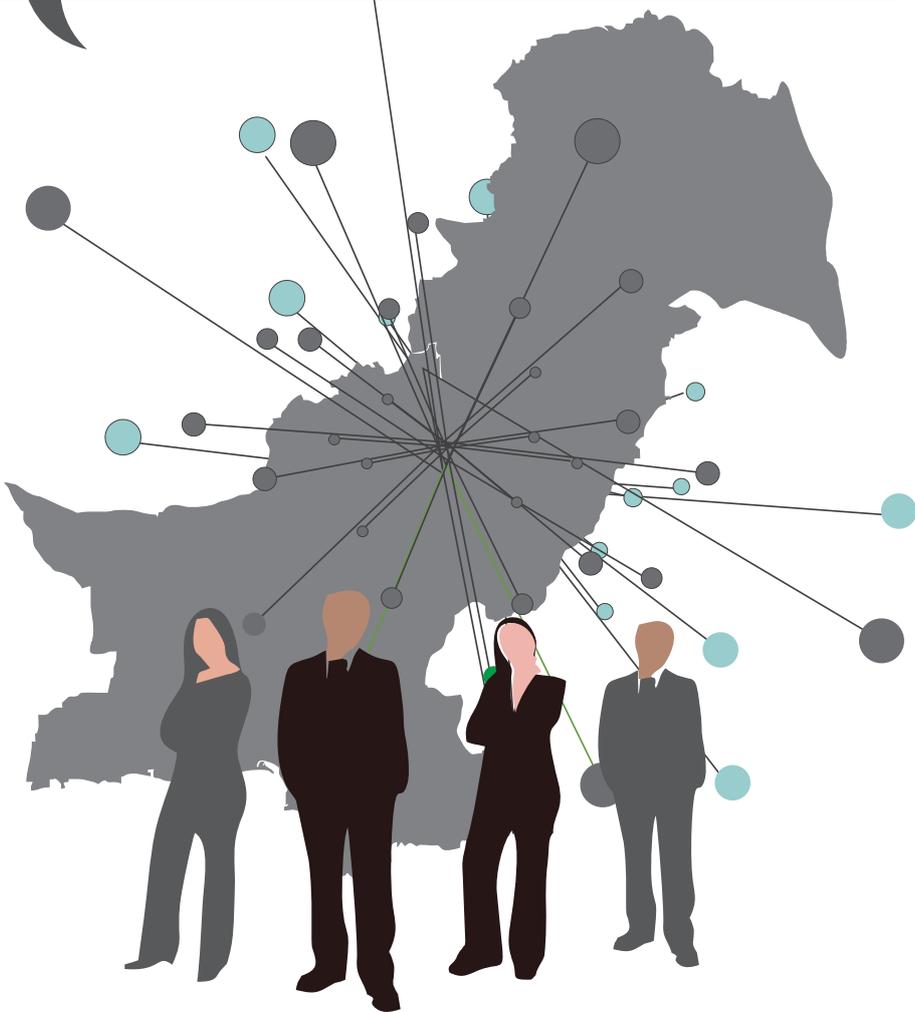
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