

Apps launched to ensure easy access to govt services

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday launched 500 mobile applications for android users to help people get government services easily.

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, ICT adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, launched the apps at a programme at the office of the ICT Division in Agargaon, Dhaka.

Ethics Advanced Technology Ltd (EATL) developed the apps under a Tk 9-crore project of the ICT Division. Anyone can download the applications free.

Officials of EATL said three apps that will help customers know about their utility bills are the most useful ones.

The applications will help the government reach its goal of building a "digital Bangladesh" by 2021, Joy said.

Some of the apps will have mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the contact persons of different government agencies.

The apps will be available on Google's Play Store and on BangladeshICTD apps store, an online store developed by the ICT Division.

The apps will reduce time, hassle and costs of receiving various services, Joy said.

Under the project, the government has also trained 3,500 students on mobile

NOTABLE APPS

UTILITY BILLS

Separate applications will enable people to know about their bills to be paid to Wasa, Desco and PDB

EDUCATION

Apps will help kids learn alphabets of different languages, practise maths and enrich vocabulary. Apps: BD University; Idioms and Phrases; Books of Bangladesh; Word Book.

HEALTHCARE

Apps will highlight issues on pregnancy, maternity and child care, heart attack and will also work as medicine reminder. Apps: Doctors Hub; Maa O Shisu; Pocket Yoga; Ebola Virus

FOOD

Apps will highlight famous restaurants, foods and nutrition. Apps: BD Foods; Food and Nutrition

TRAIN LOCATOR

An app will help passengers know how far the train is and how long it will take to reach station

TAX

Taxpayers will be able to see their tax payment updates by accessing NBR's server through an app

JOINT STOCK COMPANY

An app will help businesses check any company's name, register new name for a joint stock company

application development.

Three hundred of the applications will provide services related to the government offices and institutions, said G Fakhruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a director of the app development project.

The rest of the apps are innovative in nature, the ideas of which have been collected from 17 public and private universities, Chowdhury said.

The government plans to set up at least seven IT research institutes in divisional headquarters, establish high-speed internet connectivity and reach more than 4,500 unions, Joy said.

In September last year, the government launched 100 applications.

name, register new name for a joint stock company and calculate relevant fees

EKATTORER CHITHI

National daily Prothom Alo and mobile operator Grameenphone published a book that contains letters written during the Liberation War in 1971

EMBASSIES

An app lists important contact numbers and information of foreign embassies in Bangladesh

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, ICT Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder, BTRC Chairman Sunil Kanti Bose and EATL Managing Director MA Mubin Khan were also present.