

Legal action against VoIP device importers: BTRC

MD HASAN

The country's telecom watchdog will go for legal action against the individuals and organisations involved in importing illegal VoIP devices in the name of different products and supplying those to the local unscrupulous traders.

In a massive drive, the Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in association with law enforcers has already seized huge illegal VoIP equipment from different part of the country. But the malpractice of international call termination is yet to stop despite repeated raids by law enforcers.

A BTRC high official said, "Besides continuation of probe into the cases against illegal VoIP technology holders that have already been detected, BTRC is trying to find out the individuals who illegally import such technology."

"We have received lot of complaints. But it becomes difficult for us to detect existence of the individuals involved in VoIP equipment supply," he said, however, adding, "whatever it is we should dig up the total illegal network."

According to the commission sources, a big grey market has been developed during the last few years in Bangladesh as the VoIP (voice over internet protocol) technology is much more cheaper to make money in a short span of time.

A considerable number of businessmen import VoIP equipment through this grey channel, he said.

"Like the grey market of mobile handset, illegal VoIP equipment trading also developed in the country. And it is very difficult to detect by which form such equipment enter the country," said a BTRC official.

Illegal VoIP operators use the equipment to generate or terminate overseas calls by first turning voice calls into data, routing it over the internet, and then turning the data into voice again.

The method, also known as internet telephony, bypasses BTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board), the sole carrier for overseas calls in Bangladesh, and thus gets away without paying revenue.

Telecom industry insiders said the international call carriers usually encourage termination of calls by grey channel because of low cost.

According to new IGW (international gateway) license, any international carrier will have to pay 6 cent per call if it passes calls through IGWs, when through a grey channel, the carriers can pass calls at a cost of 2.5 cent.

"So the price difference could be a factor behind retaining illegal VoIP business in the country even after launching three new IGWs," said an official of a telecom operator.

The BTRC has recently beefed up its on-going drive against illegal VoIP business, and warned residence owners of punitive measures if they willingly rent out houses or commercial spaces to unscrupulous businessmen.

To avoid legal action, the regulator has advised the owners of residential houses and commercial spaces to inform the BTRC or law enforcers if they find anything unusual done by unscrupulous businessmen.

"We have information that in the name of computer and internet business a significant number of people are still involved in illegal international call termination business," the BTRC official said.

The BTRC fined four mobile companies Grameenphone, AKTEL, Banglalink and Citycell around Tk 580 crore for their involvement in illegally international call termination. Hasan@thedailystar.net

Charka Textile to set up composite knitwear plant

Charka Textile Limited, a sister concern of PRAN-RFL Group, will set up a composite knitwear plant, says a press release.

Charka Textile has signed an agreement to this effect with IIDFC (Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited) under which the IIDFC will act as a lead arranger for raising syndicated financing of Tk 50 crore.

Major General Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), chief executive of PRAN-RFL Group, and M Matiu Islam, chairman of IIDFC, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

Kh Shafiqur Rahman, head of Structured Finance, and ASM Arif, assistant vice president (structured finance) of IIDFC, and Sebnun Kr. Naha, senior manager, Corporate of PRAN-RFL Group, were also present.

Charka Textile, a new venture of PRAN-RFL Group, will be producing and marketing various type of garment product under its own brand.

Prices of MS rod increase Tk7, 000 a tonne in a week

KAWSAR KHAN

Prices of MS (mild steel) rod, a vital construction material, have increased by Tk6, 000 to Tk7, 000 per tonne in the local market in the last one week due to soaring prices of raw materials in the international market.

Some industry people, however, blamed local businessmen for this price hike, as it takes at least two months for the international price change to have any effect on the local market.

According to market sources, per tonne 60-grade MS rod is selling between Tk69, 000 and Tk70, 000 in Dhaka's retail market, while 40-grade MS rod is selling between Tk65, 000 and Tk66, 000.

"It is true the prices of melted scrap and ship scrap, raw materials for MS rod, have gone up in the international market, but the price hike in the international market should take effect locally only after two months," a steel mill owner said.

Presently, import prices of per tonne of melted scrap ranges between US\$550 and 600, which was around \$350 two months back, and prices of ship scrap is between \$750 and \$800, which was around \$550, said Masudul Haque Masud, general secretary of Bangladesh Re-Rolling Mills Association.

"We have increased the prices of 60-grade rod by Tk2, 500 as costs of raw materials import have increased," said Aameir Alihussain, director of Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills.

He, however, did not cite any reason for the price hike of 60-grade rod by Tk6, 000 to Tk7, 000.

The price rise also creates concern among the construction industry people. "Both

small and big construction companies are in trouble with the unreasonable price spiral of rod," said Mukarram Hussain Khan, president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB).

"We have already requested the finance adviser to withdraw all kinds of import duty on raw materials for MS rod," he said.

Presently, the import duty on raw materials for rod is 10 percent.

The prices of rod have been rising for the last few years. In March 2006 the prices of 60-grade rod was between Tk40, 000 and Tk41, 000 a tonne and 40-grade rod between Tk38, 000 and Tk39, 000 a tonne.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds: The prices of rods continue to increase, making the retail markets unstable.

The prices of 60-grade rod increased by Tk2, 000 to 2, 500 per tonne and 40-grade rod by Tk500 to Tk1, 000.

Sources in rod manufacturing firms said, they were selling 60-grade rod with 8mm radius at Tk68, 500 per tonne on Wednesday against Tk66, 000 of the previous day. The same grade rod with 10mm to 25mm radius also increased by Tk3, 000 per tonne, selling at Tk68, 000 against Tk65, 000 of the previous day, they said.

The 60-grade rods were selling between Tk57, 000 and Tk5, 8000 per tonne before the rise in the last ten days.

The 40-grade rod produced in automatic mills rose by Tk500 to Tk1, 000 per tonne and was selling between Tk64, 000 and Tk64, 500 on Wednesday. The same grade rod, made of scrap iron, was selling at Tk63, 000 per tonne against its previous price of Tk62, 500.

The construction firms and contractors expressed deep

concern over the price hike, and many of them are now thinking of disapproving the work orders even at the expense of their security deposited.

A construction contractor with a government work-order for a culvert construction in hand said, the construction work may cause a minimum loss of Tk35 lakh due to the price hike of MS rod.

Iftekhar suggests pro-active steps for Bangladeshi workers in KL

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chambers and business communities of both Bangladesh and Malaysia can play a proactive and positive role to help Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and could fix a minimum wage for them, Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said in Dhaka at the inaugural function of a three-day Malaysian trade fair 'Showcase Malaysia-2008'.

"Few Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia are in distress," Iftekhar said, adding that the Malaysian government should take pro-active steps to resolve their problems.

Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) organised the trade show at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

"We are not only concerned about remittance inflow by our expatriates but it is also our duty to look after their welfare," the foreign adviser said.

Over 50 Malaysian companies from different sectors have put their products and services on display at the fair.

FBCCI recognises BWCCI

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has recognised Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) as 'A Class Chamber' after seven years.

The FBCCI's recognition to the BWCCI came on March 15 following the High Court dismissed a previous case filed against the BWCCI's inclusion in the member list of FBCCI, according to a press release.

The BWCCI was formed under a government gazette issued on June 20, 2001.



Major General (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury (sitting 2-L), chief executive of PRAN-RFL Group, and M Matiu Islam (sitting L), chairman of IIDFC, are seen at a signing ceremony. Under the deal, IIDFC will act as a lead arranger for raising syndicated financing of Tk 50 crore for Charka Textile.

Int'l textile fair begins in Ctg tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four-day long international fair on textile and garment machinery will begin in Chittagong tomorrow.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the exhibition titled 'Chittagong International Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition (CTGE) 2008'.

Extreme Exhibition & Event Solution Ltd (E3 solutions) is organising the exhibition, first of its kind in the port city.

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the "Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh" Project:

1. Project Officer: 1 position
2. National Consultant - Legal and Policy Advice: 1 position
3. Research Assistant - 1 position
4. Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant - 1 position
5. Project Assistant - 1 position
6. IT Support Assistant - 1 position
7. Office Secretary-cum-Data Entry Operator - 1 position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 03 April 2008.



PLANT ON SALE

One Mango Juice Plant in good working condition, which consists of following machineries, is on sale: Major Machineries

1. Uncaser
2. GB Hydrojet Bottle Washer
3. GB Filler Machine
4. Cooling Tunnel
5. Case Packer
6. Hot Water Tank
7. Caustic Tank
8. Nitric Acid Tank
9. CIP Pump
10. Mango Pulp Mixing Tank 1
11. Mango Pulp Mixing Tank 2
12. Pump & Filter
13. Homogenizer
14. Reserved Tank
15. Pump
16. Vacuum Tank
17. Vacuum Pump
18. Pump
19. Heat Exchanger

Interested parties are requested to contact Director Operation, House 67, Road 1, Block I, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Tel : 8814059-60, Fax: 9885647 on working days.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Sunman Group is looking for professionals in the following disciplines:-

1. CEO for a Pharmaceutical Industry - 1 post for Dhaka.
 - > Must be a graduate, MBA will be preferred.
 - > Should be able to take overall responsibility in supervising building construction & selection of the state of the art machineries for a pharmaceutical company under implementation, selecting product line, and work out marketing strategy including administrative matters.
 - > Must have experience in Pharmaceutical Companies for at least 15 years.
2. Director Production - 1 post for Chittagong.
 - > Must be a graduate in any discipline
 - > Minimum 15 years experience with large Garments production.
 - > To be prepared to live in Chittagong with family.
3. Director Finance - 1 post for Dhaka.
 - > Must be a FCA/FCMA with 15 years experience with large companies in finance.
4. G M (Monitoring Cell) - 1 post for Chittagong.
 - > The candidate must be a graduate
 - > Minimum 7 years experience in merchandising and production in large garment industry.
 - > To be prepared to live in Chittagong with family.
5. Base Commander for a Deep Sea Trawling Company - 1 post in Chittagong.
 - > Must be a graduate from marine academy or a retired Naval officer
 - > Must have minimum 15 years experience in sailing / Marine craft operation.
 - > Experience in deep sea trawling will be preferred.
 - > To be prepared to live in Chittagong with family.

If you think you have the expertise for above post, please apply with CV & a recent photograph to G.P.O. Box # 3965 Ramna, Dhaka-1000 by 30 March 2008. The name of the post should be written on the Envelope.



We seek a world of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security

Vacancy Announcement

CARE-Bangladesh invites application for the following positions in its Finance Department and Field Office Support Section.

1. Finance Officer (Based in Dhaka and Field Offices)

Key Responsibilities:

=> Checking/ reviewing all bills/ invoices and ensure its timely payment. => Processing payment of all Local and Overseas Travel Expense Reports. => Record transactions in Accounts Payable/General Ledger module in the accounting software for processing payment. => Process fund disbursements to Field Offices at least twice a month. => Record all local fund receipts, dollar encashment and Bank Interest receipts & bank charges. => Prepare TAX and VAT statement and deposit it to Bangladesh Bank. => Check PNGO MoUs, Financial Reports & other documents and ensure proper procedures for advance payment and adjustment of advances.

Requirements:

* Masters' Degree in Accounting or Finance (CA Intermediate/ CMA Intermediate shall be given preference). * Minimum 3 years experience in accounting and financial management job. * Good written and verbal communication skills both in Bangla and English. * Extensive Accounting and Financial management skills. * Extensive problem solving, participatory planning and organizing skills. * Good computer skills (MS word, Ms Excel, Access). * Ability to work in a team environment. * Ability to prioritize activities, to act and decide promptly.

2. Finance Officer-PNGO (Based in Field Offices)

Key Responsibilities:

=> Review and certify the sub-grant expenses claimed by Partner NGO against their CARE funded project for fund releases and adjustment. => Verify the NGO Financial Reports, pay visits to PNGO Offices and project sites to review/check/verify all relevant financial documents pertinent to sub-grant. => Assist the PNGO by identifying anomalies, non-compliances and internal control weakness. => Assist PNGO Sub-Grant Manager in coordinating PNGO audit, sub-grant management and conducting training to PNGO staff.

Requirements:

* Masters' Degree in Commerce preferably in Finance or Accounting with 3 years/ CA course completed with 2 years relevant working experience. * Good verbal and written communication skills both in English/Bangla. * Good computer skills on word processing, spreadsheet, etc. * Experience on budgeting and financial report preparation. * Good experience in partner's expenditure certification.

Compensation: Monthly gross salary for both the position is Tk.23,500 plus admissible benefits.

3. Administrative Support Officer (Based in Field Offices)

Key Responsibilities:

=> Maintaining petty cash and other financial operations. => Keeping track of vehicles/motorcycles servicing records and field office Furniture Fixture and Equipment (FF&E) status. => Maintaining stores and Inventory Management System (IMS). => Providing general and logistics support. => Maintaining office correspondence.

Requirements:

* Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Commerce with minimum of 2 years experience in relevant field. * Good verbal and written communication skills both in English/Bangla * Able to do filing, records keeping, petty cash, stores and logistics support. * Good understanding of MS-Office application (Word, Excel & Access).

Compensation: Monthly gross salary is Tk.14,800 plus other admissible benefits.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above requirements are requested to drop or mail their CVs (with cover letter, recent passport size photograph, and names/addresses of two non-relative referees) to: CARE-Bangladesh, 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka addressing Section Manager-HRM, HRD&M Department or send your application to hr@carebangladesh.org on or before March 31, 2008.

Note: Women and different ethnic groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidates, Applicants who have relatives in CARE are discouraged to apply, Only short listed candidates shall be invited for the interview, Please write the position applied for at the top right hand corner of the envelope. Please write your interest for SL#01 in subject line to specify your choice as Dhaka or Both. Visit CARE web-site on: www.carebd.org

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Office of the Managing Director
Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
Biddu Bhabon (11th Floor)
1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

Reference No. DPDC/CS-13/KW/07-08/747 Date: 18.03.2008

Notice for Change of conditions for Submission

Procurement Notice: Bangladesh - consulting service:
Invitation No. DPDC/CS-13/KW/07-08/730, date:16.03.2008

Item	Changes
Submission Date, Time, Places & Conditions.	In the first Procurement Notice: Submission deadline: 07.05.2008 at 12:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC) 11 th Floor, Biddu Bhabon, 1 Abdul Gani Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
	Revised: 1 Original + 1 Copy: Interbusiness Consulting & Services GmbH, Weinheimerstr. 62, 68309 Mannheim, Germany Telephone: + 49-621-7284630/31; Fax: 49-621-7284632; E-mail: ibusinesscs@t-online.de Binding deadline for submission of the tender is: 7 th of May 2008, at 16:00 hours, Frankfurt local time (see PART 2 of the document for the postal addresses).
	1 Copy: KW, (Attn. Mr. Otmar Werner); Dept. L I B2, Palmengartenstr. 5-9, Postfach 11 11 41, 60046 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The copy to be submitted to KW, 7 th of May 2008, at 16:00 hours, Frankfurt local time
	1 Copy: Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC), 11 th Floor, Biddu Bhabon, 1 Abdul Gani Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh The copy of the document to be submitted to DPDC will be received from 7 th of May up to 14 th of May 2008, during the normal office days and times.
	The set of the proposals marked "Original" shall be signed by the authorised representatives of the bidder. In case of any differences between original and copies (clearly marked as such) of the documents, the original shall be considered as the valid one.
	The determination of timely delivery will be based on the receipt stamp for the bids delivered to the Tender Agent.
	Company Secretary, DPDC