

# Citycell continues to face loss



MD HASAN

Citycell, the country's oldest mobile phone operator, continued to lose money in the full year ending March 31, as it battled stiff competition and paid the price of its involvement in the illegal call termination scandal, according to its largest shareholder Singapore Telecommunications.

Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel), which owns 45 percent of Citycell, said its share of the mobile operator's after tax loss was \$38 million Singapore dollars (S\$) or around Tk178 crore (one Singapore dollar is equivalent to Bangladesh taka 46.8).

Had the losses been evenly spread among all the shareholders, Citycell's after tax loss would have been around 84million Singapore dollars or Tk385crore during the period.

SingTel, the major shareholder of Citycell, Bangladesh's only CDMA standard mobile phone operator, has been incurring losses since 2006. The company's profit after loss in Citycell was \$5million and \$28million in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

According to SingTel's full year financial result, the company's loss in Citycell increased mainly because of the \$14million penalty it had to pay to the telecom regulator for its involvement in illegal call termination through VoIP technology. The Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) fined Citycell Tk150crore for its involvement in illegal VoIP in January 2008.

SingTel's fourth quarter loss from Citycell increased by 9 percent year-on-year mainly due to the lower operating revenue resulting from price competition, though the subscriber acquisition cost per subscriber declined following lower handset prices," it said.

Sania Mahmood, general manager, (Marketing, Communications and Branding) of Citycell, yesterday said, "The FY 2007-08 loss posted by Citycell is a result of its investments in the past two years, specifically on network expansion, extensive rollout of nationwide customer care points and subscriber acquisition costs".

"This is an investment to ensure in the Citycell's future business and we are already yielding encouraging results. Our aggressive tariff, improved infrastructure and customer care network have gained consumer confidence in line with our current business plan", said Sania.

The country's once sole mobile operator has lost its single leading position after introducing GSM mobile telephony. When its rivals one after another grabbed the market shares, Citycell lost out.

SingTel financial result reveals that Citycell market shares as of March 2008 was 4 percent, which was 4.1 percent a year ago. Citycell's close rival, UAE-based Warid, a new comer in the market, last week claimed that it grabbed

7percent market shares with having 3million customers up to May 10, 2008.

In terms of subscriber numbers, the Citycell is the Bangladesh's fifth largest mobile operator. Its subscriber reached 1.55million as of March 2008 with a 32 percent growth. By the end of March 2007, the number of the company's subscribers was 1.17million.

According to the latest figures released by the BTRC up to March 2008, the number of total mobile phone subscribers reached 38.93 million.

Grameenphone is the market leader in mobile telecommunication sector with around 17.8 million subscribers, while Orascom Telecom Bangladesh, which operates Banglalink, is the second leader with around 8.3 million subscribers.

Telecom Malaysia International Bangladesh, which operates AKTEL, and Warid Telecom International are the third and fourth market players with around 7.4 million and around 2.7 million subscribers respectively.

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Gulam Mustafa Mofizur Rahman

## BAIRA gets new president, secy general

Gulam Mustafa and Kazi Mohammed Mofizur Rahman have been elected as the president and secretary general, respectively, of BAIRA (Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies) for two-year term, from 2008 to 2010.

Gulam Mustafa is the managing director of Prantik Travels and Tourism Ltd, says a press release.

Mofizur Rahman, on the other hand, is the proprietor of Kazi Air International.

## Youth Brand Fair from June 26

In a bid to raise awareness of brands among the youth and popularise the brands of different companies, a three-day 'Youth Brand Fair-2008' will begin in Dhaka on June 26.

Event management company Gmks Event will organise the fair at Bashundhara City shopping mall where around 80 companies and institutions of different sectors will showcase their products and services especially for the youth.

The organisers announced the schedule and highlighted the features of the fair at a press conference in Dhaka on Tuesday, says a press release.

Chief Executive of Gmks Abdullah Md Taher, Chief Creative Officer Mahmuda Akter, Chief Coordinator Niamul Kadir and Administrative Officer Shekh Rasheed Hossain were present at the press conference.

Brand-related seminars and workshops will be organised on the sidelines of the fair. The Daily Star, the Dainik Samakal, ETV and Radio Today are the media partners of the show.

# Cut in import duty on ship scrap, rod making chemicals

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday decided to reduce the import duty on ship scrap, melting scrap and rod manufacturing chemicals to create a competitive domestic market.

The meeting, chaired by Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, also decided to give more businessmen permission to

import scrap, which till now was enjoyed by a small number of importers.

For overall development of the sector, the Ministry of Commerce in association with Ministry of Industries will also work on long-term plans to stabilise the market, the meeting decided.

The decisions in the meeting were taken in line with the eight-point recommendations given by an inquiry

committee, which was formed by the government to unearth the reasons for soaring price of iron rod in the domestic market.

In the meeting the commerce adviser said rod prices in local markets have decreased.

He told journalists that the government would formulate a policy for the country's rod market on the basis of field level information.

# Desa-Citibank MoU on online bill payment

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Citibank, NA, Bangladesh, which will enable Desa clients to check and pay their monthly electricity bill online.

In the first phase of the service, Citibank clients will be able to pay their bill online. Gradually, all the customers of DESA will be brought under this service using CitiConnect, a web-enabled financial service of Citibank.

Rafiul Alam, secretary of Desa, and Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, director and head of Global Transaction Services of Citigroup, signed the agreement on behalf of the service providers in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking at the function, Ivo Distelbrink, managing director and regional sales head for Treasury and Trade Solutions for Citi Global Transaction Services, said CitiConnect is



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widely used by the clients of the bank in Asia and by government institutions to collect taxes, customs duties and utility payments.

"I am happy to see the launch of CitiConnect in Bangladesh, which will help the country to move forward in e-governance", he added.

Brigadier General M Nazrul

Hasan, the Desa chairman, said the current bill payment system, which is decentralised but under a central monitoring system, has seen a significant growth in bill collection.

"The introduction of a faster and more convenient collection system will also give us a great competitive advantage," he said.

## New DMD of Standard Bank



Md Nazmus Salehin joined Standard Bank Limited as deputy managing director, says a press release.

Salehin started his career with Sonali Bank in 1979 as a probationary officer. He held all the senior and top management level positions in three major nationalized commercial banks.



Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Tuesday speaks at a seminar on "HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategies with Garment Factories", jointly organized by Marie Stopes, BGMEA, National AIDS/STD Program (NASP) and Save the Children-USA.

**ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Ashuganj, B. Baria-3402, Bangladesh.  
Telephone: 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: apscld@yahoo.com

Memo No. APSC/Pro-02/2008/623 date: 13/05/2008

**"Invitation For Tender"**

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division			
02. Agency	: Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd.			
03. Procuring Entity Name	: Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.			
04. Procuring Entity District	: Brahman Baria, Bangladesh			
05. Invitation for	: Supply, Installation, Testing, & Commissioning of Nickel-Cadmium Alkaline Batteries of total rated 24V, 725 to 775 AH capacity including 2-sets 1000 A D.C (Output), 24 V DC (Output) Battery Charger and Distribution Board for APSC			
06. Invitation Ref No	: Memo No. APSC/Pro-2/2008/623			
07. Date	: 13/05/2008			
08. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method.			
09. Source of Funds	: APSC'S Own Fund.			
10. Tender Publication Date	: 13/05/2008			
11. Tender Last Selling Date	: 11/06/2008 during office hour			
12. Tender Closing Date and Time	: 12/06/2008 at 12:00 Noon			
13. Tender Opening Date and Time	: 12/06/2008 at 12:30 PM			
14. Name & Address of the Offices				
a. -Selling Tender Documents.	: (i) Asstt. Chief Engineer (Generation), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Deputy Director (Finance), APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.			
b. Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	: Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria			
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Renowned Manufacturer / Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.			
16.				
Sl. No	Name of Item	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	completion time
01.	Supply, Installation, Testing, & Commissioning of Nickel-Cadmium Alkaline Batteries of total rated 24V, 725 to 775 AH capacity including 2-sets 1000 A D.C (Output), 24 V DC (Output) Battery Charger and Distribution Board for APSC	Non refundable Tk. 1,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT 2,10,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft / Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	30 days from the date of contract signing
17.	Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdus Samad		
18.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Convener, Procurement committee		
19.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd. Ashuganj, B-Baria, Bangladesh.		
20.	Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Tel : 08528-74033 Fax : 08528-74044, E-mail: proc.apsc@btb.net.bd, Website : www.apscld.com		
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(Md. Abdus Samad)  
Convener  
Procurement Committee,  
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.

## Grameenphone launches trial service in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Grameenphone (GP), the country's leading cell phone operator, launched its network service on trial basis in Rangamati from 5 in the afternoon yesterday.

"After starting operation in Rangamati, the GP now works on setting up towers in the rest two hill districts of Bandarban

and Khagrachhari," said Masud Parvez, a system engineer of the company.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General MA Malek (Retd), special assistant to the chief adviser for social welfare and post and telecommunications, will formally inaugurate the TeleTalk network expansion in the three hill districts today.



A press conference was organised in Dhaka on Tuesday to announce the schedule of a three-day 'Youth Brand Fair-2008' that will begin on June 26 at Bashundhara City shopping mall. Abdullah Md Taher, chief executive of Gmks Event that will organise the show, among others, was present at the press conference.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
কমিশনারের কার্যালয়  
কাস্টমস, এন্ডাইজ ও ডাট, ঢাকা (উত্তর)  
বাড়ি # ৬, সোনারগাঁও জনপথ, সেক্টর নং ১১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০  
যথাযথ মূল্য পরিশোধ করুন, অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নের গর্ভিত অংশীদার হউন

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
**ইলেকট্রনিক ক্যাশ রেজিস্টার [Electronic Cash Register (ECR)] চালুকরণ**

যথাযথ সরকারি রাজস্ব আহরণ এবং করদাতা/ব্যবসায়ীদের সহজে মূল্য চালান ইস্যুর লক্ষ্যে ১ জুলাই, ২০০৮ থেকে হোটেল, রেস্তোরা ও ফাস্ট ফুড সপ, মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডার, আসবাবপত্রের বিপণন কেন্দ্র, বিউটি প্যারলর, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার ও সিটি কর্পোরেশন ও জেলা শহরের বড় ও মাঝারি ধরনের দোকান/শপিং মলে ইলেকট্রনিক ক্যাশ রেজিস্টার চালুর বিধান করা হয়েছে। উল্লিখিত বিধান অনুযায়ী ECR (Electronic Cash Register) মেশিন এর নিম্নরূপ বৈশিষ্ট্য বিদ্যমান থাকতে হবে:-

(ক) মেশিনে অপরিবর্তনীয় Financial Memory কার্যক্রম থাকতে হবে;  
(খ) মেশিনে বিক্রয় তথ্য এন্ট্রি করার ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;  
(গ) মেশিনে বিক্রয় তথ্য এন্ট্রি করার পর কোন Data পরিবর্তন করা বা মুছে ফেলা (Delete) যাবে না এমন নিরাপত্তামূলক ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে; এবং  
(ঘ) মেশিন একই সংগে দুই প্রস্থে চালানপত্র বা রিপোর্ট মুদ্রণের ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের আদেশ মোতাবেক ১ জুলাই, ২০০৮ থেকে ECR চালুর লক্ষ্যে ১৫ জুন, ২০০৮ এর মধ্যে ECR জরুরীকৃত ব্যবসায় হলে স্থাপন করতঃ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগীয় এবং সার্কেল অফিসকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে ECR চালু করতে বাধ্য হলে মূল্য আইন অনুযায়ী জরিমানা ও অন্যান্য শাস্তি আরোপযোগ্য হবে।

আধুনিক পদ্ধতিতে যথাযথ মূল্য রাজস্ব আহরণ, বিধি মোতাবেক সকল ক্ষেত্রে মূল্য চালান প্রদান এবং সঠিক হিসাব সংরক্ষণের স্বার্থে আপনার ব্যবসায় হলে ১ জুলাই, ২০০৮ থেকে ECR চালু করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। এ বিষয়ে কোন জিজ্ঞাসা থাকলে নিম্নোক্ত টেলিফোন নং সমূহে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

০৫৫৫৪০০, ৮৮২৯৬৯৯, ৮৯১৪৬৭৩, ৮৯৩৩৭০৫, ০৯১-৫৪৪০৯, ৮৯৮৩১১৬, ৮৯৮৩১১৮, ৮৯৮৩১১৯।

মাঃ এনায়েত হোসেন  
কমিশনার

তারিখ-২০০৮

**মামলা নিষ্পত্তি করুন**  
**নিলাম ঠেকান**

হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন নিজের বাড়ী নিজের নামে রাখার স্বার্থে চলতি বৎসরের ৩০ শে জুন তারিখ পর্যন্ত বিশেষ সুবিধা ঘোষণা করছে। এই সুবিধার আওতায় খেলাপী কিস্তির ৩০% টাকা ডাউন পেয়েমেন্ট হিসাবে জমা দিলে সোলোনামামূলে মামলা নিষ্পত্তি করে পুনঃতফসীলিকরণ করা হবে।

মামলাধীন ঋণ গ্রহীতাগণ কর্পোরেশনের সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনাল/রিজিওনাল অফিস প্রধানের সঙ্গে সস্তুর যোগাযোগ করে শেষবারের মতো প্রদত্ত এ সুযোগ গ্রহণ করুন।

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন  
২২ পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৪৫৭১

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