

Illegal VoIP costs govt Tk 1209cr a year

UNB, Dhaka

The government is losing around Tk 1208.88 crore revenue per year due to international call termination through illegal VoIP.

The BTRC is currently working on ways to reduce international call termination through illegal VoIP.

According to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), every day some three crore international calls are entering.

Of the calls, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) terminates some 1.40 crore calls and the rest 1.60 crore calls are dealt by the VoIP traders.

The number of international outgoing calls is between 16 and 20

percent (48 to 60 lakhs) of the incoming calls and BTB handles most of these calls.

"Huge amount of money is being lost through illegal VoIP... On an average, we're losing some US\$ 3 cent in revenue per call," BTRC Chairman Manzurul Alam said.

When the BTRC tightened the drive against illegal VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) business, the loss of revenue rose to US\$ 6 cent per call, he said.

Under the strict supervision of BTRC, Manzurul said drives against the illegal VoIP business is going on in full swing and it has reduced this illegal business substantially.

Besides the drive, to minimize the illegal call termination, BTRC is trying to reduce the international call charge close to the rate of the

market, the BTRC chairman said.

Quality of the calls exchanged through illegal VoIP is very poor, he said, adding that the unlicensed VoIP trade would naturally become ineffectual if BTRC international call charges could be reduced down to US\$ 4 cent that is quite close to the call charge in the gray market.

Recently, most of the cell phone operators in the country were found involved in illegal VoIP trade.

The BTRC chairman said the second submarine cable would be installed as soon as possible to handle growing number of international calls.

The BTRC would also shut down the V-sats which are used as gateways for terminating VoIP calls.

Library, museum named after Language Movement martyr Rafiq inaugurated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A library and a museum that were built after the name of Language Movement martyr Rafiq Uddin Ahmed was inaugurated at the martyr's village home at Paril under Singair upazila in Manikganj yesterday.

Prof Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University inaugurated the library and the museum while LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal was present as the chief guest.

A three-day book fair was also organised on the library premises at Paril, which was also named as Rafiq Nagar.

Deputy Commissioner Ataur Rahman presided over a discussion held on the occasion where Joint Secretary of LGRD Ministry Mizanur Rahman, Language Movement veterans Rowshan Ara Bachchu and Halima Khatun, Police Superintendent Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan, freedom fighter Engineer Tobarak Hossain Lodu, playmates of the martyr Lt Col (Retd) Mujibul Islam Khan Pasha and photographer Naib Uddin Ahmed, youngest brother of the martyr Khorshed Alam and Chief Executive of Zila Parishad Moazzem Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal said the present caretaker government is showing respect to the best sons of the soil.

The government has already built three libraries and museums in honour of three Language Movement martyrs and two such projects will follow, which will be implemented within the tenure of this government.

Prof Anisuzzaman called upon all to come forward to make the country a peaceful one.

About Tk 62.90 lakh was spent in this project for which Lt Col (Retd) Mujibul Islam donated 34 decimals of land. The Zila Parishad implemented it under the supervision of joint forces and technical support by LGED.

Qureshi urges people to remain vigil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Convener Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi said the people will have to remain vigil so that the country never goes back to the pre-1/11 scenario.

We at a crucial moment floated the PDP for fulfilling the aspirations of the countrymen, he claimed.

Qureshi was addressing a view exchange meeting with newsmen at a hotel in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

He said dialogues with the parties are not so important for holding a free and fair election. The government should go ahead with its agenda for holding the election in December this year.

Qureshi said public money worth hundreds of crores of taka were plundered for years, while killings, terrorism and anarchy were the common incidents.

Democratic rights of the people were snatched away in the name of politics, he said, adding that the caretaker government after assuming power stopped those politicians in an effort to establish good governance in the country.

He further said people will never remember for those responsible for such anarchic situation.

DHAKA TODAY

Scholarship giving ceremony

Eastern Bank Limited and Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) will give away financial grants to 224 meritorious Dhaka University students. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Convention

The inaugural session of the 15th Annual Lions District Convention will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable

National Awami Party (NAP) Bhasani organises a roundtable on saving the environment. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

The Alfa, a fortnightly, organises a discussion titled 'The role of media to meet the demands of time'. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 5:00pm.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of the Shapthak will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 6:30pm.

Seminar

Al-Quds Committee Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Sixty years of illegitimate occupation, sixty years of sacred resistance'. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 9:30am.



Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid speaks at a view exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'Implement nat'l women dev policy soon'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths and civil society members at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged the caretaker government to implement the National Women Development Policy 2008 for empowering women at all levels in the society.

They said the government

should immediately reject the recently submitted recommendations of the review committee formed by Islamic bigots.

Youth Social Forum (YSF)-Bangladesh organised the meeting on 'National Women Development Policy 2008: The Present Debate and Thought of Youth Society' at the National Press Club in the city.

Speakers further said development of the country and poverty eradication cannot be ensured ignoring the issue of empowering women.

"Women are still in backward position in our country. The govern-

ment has to encourage them to enter the mainstream development sectors because half of the total population are women," said Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid.

Moderated by YSF Coordinator Sajjat Hossain, the meeting was addressed by Bakul Barman of Youth and Hunger, Shovan Kamal of Jubo Nagorik Adhikar Jote, advocate HM Masum of Lio Club, SM Rashed Rabbi of Green Voice, Sharmin Ferdous of Jubo Nagorik Adhikar Jote and Mostaq Ahmed of Bangladesh Chhatra Samity.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

Two prime accused placed on 4-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A Chittagong court yesterday placed two prime accused in the sensational Chittagong arms haul case on a four-day remand.

The two accused are Hafizur Rahman alias Hafiz and Din Mohammad.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Golam Faruk granted the remand after hearing on the remand prayer submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Special SP Ismail Hossain Khan, who is the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

Sources said the two prime accused might be taken to Dhaka for interrogation at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC). In the largest-ever arms haul, the police seized 10 truckloads of deadly weapons and a huge quantity of ammunition at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty on April 2 in 2004.

Two cases were filed with Karnaphuli Police Station in this connection.

The CID, for the second time, started an investigation into this case after a Chittagong court on March 5 asked the CID to conduct further investigation.

Miner now wants refund of loans

FROM PAGE 1

Later, Namnam received five more instalments totalling \$23.19 million as per the contract. "But it will get the remaining 21 loan repayment instalments only after the mine is completed as per the project consultant's report, and an auditing is done," said the Petrobangla official.

Yet, taking advantage of Petrobangla's dilemma over the incomplete mine, Namnam in the past bagged an additional \$16.83 million from the government through a supplementary contract.

"Now it's once again using pressure tactics on the government to get more money," the official added.

In contrast with such cost escalation, the mine is now capable of producing only 1,100 tonnes of hard rock a day, instead of a targeted 5,500 tonnes. The target production level can be achieved only when Namnam completes the project.

Namnam's mining design is so poor that most of the rocks produced at this mine are cut in a way that the market does not want. As a result, the mining company's inventory has become over-

saturated with huge rocks.

Considering diplomatic relations, Petrobangla in May 2007 took over the unfinished mine from Namnam by issuing conditional acceptance certificate. The condition says, "Namnam has undertaken to rectify, replace or repair any defects, defaults or complete outstanding works within the guarantee period as per contract..."

The certificate added, "The defects liabilities period (guarantee period) of twelve months for these outstanding works will be calculated from the date of issuance of the certificate. Nothing in this certificate will absolve Namnam from any of their responsibilities under this contract and aforesaid handover."

But despite such condition, the company did not finish the promised tasks. Some of these tasks include stope preparation, installing spread concrete, constructing a skip replacing building, installing reversible exhaust fan, submitting a 12-year project development plan and a land subsidence plan.

Moreover, in violation of the

contract, Namnam did not replace a generator and did not conduct non-destructive testing of selected equipment of the mine.

"They did not even submit a development plan so that we keep on depending on their assistance," commented an official of the MGMCL.

With Dr Mosharraf Hossain as energy minister, the BNP government had signed the turn-key contract with Namnam on Mar 27, 1994 to develop the hard rock mine which will annually produce 1.65 million tonnes of rock when completed. The mine was supposed to be completed in 1998.

But Namnam lacked both fund and equipment to complete the project in time. After a series of delays on various pretexts, it was given supplementary contracts to finish the project. In 2005, the company was given another chance to finish the tasks through a two-year service contract. But it could not do the job forcing the government to sign yet another year's service contract last year.

Cases similar, actions different

FROM PAGE 1

While pressing charges, the investigating officer of the case, ACC Deputy Director Johirul Huda, showed these 12 persons as absconding and appealed to the court for issuance of arrest warrants against them.

Of the 12, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury—both from BNP—are in abroad. Saifur left the country for Singapore on May 8.

But other BNP leaders—former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former land minister M Shamsul Islam and former agriculture minister MK Anwar, and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami are staying at their residences.

Meanwhile, Shamsul Islam and MK Anwar yesterday morning filed petitions with the High Court seeking anticipatory bail but the court refused to hear their petitions.

The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on September 2 last year against 13 persons, including Khaleda and her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, for graft in awarding Gatco the container-handling work at depots in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The charge sheet included 11 more persons as their involvement with the corruption was proved.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star last night that the police stations concerned were yet to receive the court order.

Asked if the "absconding" accused would be held on receiving the order, he said, "We will take measures to execute the court order." Mannan Bhuiyan, a major figure in the pro-form BNP faction, yesterday said, "I am not escaping but staying at my house."

He told reporters at his Gulshan residence that he cancelled his previous plan to surrender to the court yesterday morning and might go for it on Sunday after

consultation with his lawyers.

If not arrested, he said he would surrender to the court on May 22.

Meanwhile, journalists from print and electronic media crowded at the residences of the four leaders for the second day yesterday, sensing that they might be arrested after issuance of the warrants.

Frustrated party activists and admirers also met their leaders.

Dozens of party activists also gathered at the Jamaat central office at Moghbazar yesterday. Sources said they will stage a demonstration the moment Nizami is arrested and taken away.

"We are here to watch the developments in phases," a follower of Nizami told The Daily Star.

Jamaat policymakers yesterday held a series of meetings at the central office to work out strategies after the possible arrest of Nizami and primarily selected Abul Kalam Muhammad Yusuf, senior nayab-e-ameer, as the acting ameer once the post falls vacant.

Fake cosmetics seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

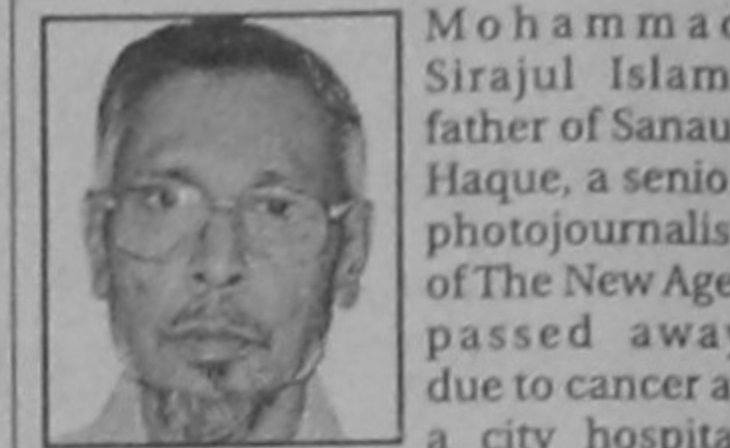
An anti-adulteration drive led by magistrates and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-10 and BSTI representatives yesterday seized counterfeit cosmetics worth Tk 4.10 lakh after raiding different shops at Gachia Market in the city.

The seized cosmetics did not have any approval from Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI).

During the drive, the magistrate also realised Tk 2.10 lakh in fines from nine shops.

Later, the seized cosmetics were destroyed at Rab's Shayestha Khan Community Centre camp compound at Lalbagh, says a Rab press release.

Obituary



on Wednesday night at the age of 66, says a press release.

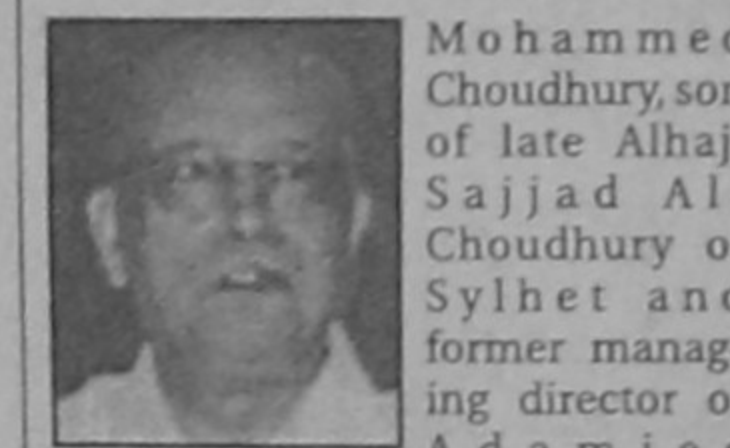
Sirajul, a former member of the Pakistan Air Force Engineering Division, left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

A doa mahfil will be held at the Maor Mosque adjacent to his residence at 216/B Khilgaon Chowdhurypara after Asr prayers on Sunday.

The family members requested the relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the doa mahfil.

The New Age Union of Journalists expressed deep shock at the death of Sirajul Islam.

Mohammed Choudhury



Insurance Company Ltd, of Pakistan, passed away due to illness on May 14 in Karachi, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and a son.

He was buried in Karachi on Thursday after Maghrib prayers.

Friends and relations are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Death anniversary



press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Charnirkamary in Ishwardi, Pabna.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Razia Sultana

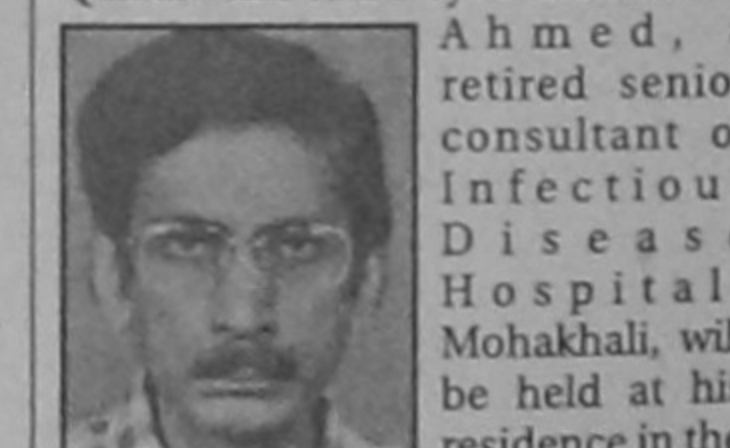
Today is the fourth death anniversary of Razia Sultana, mother of Shaiful Alam Barkat, former DUCSU member and general secretary of Awami League's Texas unit, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at the Dhanmondi residence (Road-8/A, House 88).

Relatives and friends of late Razia are requested to attend the prayers.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Dr Syed Zahiruddin



Ahmed, a retired senior consultant of Infectious Disease Hospital, Mohakhali, will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away at Square Hospital in the city on May 11.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

Shraddha



today, says a press release.

On the occasion, several programmes will be held at her home at village Dharma Ray in Muksedpur, Gopalganj, tomorrow.

Sons of the deceased have requested relatives and well-wishers to attend the programmes and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

ADMISSION FORGERY 3 DU staffs accused of taking bribe

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday accused three employees of taking Tk 3 lakh in bribe for his admission at the university.

Mohammad Abdul Alim, who took admission to management studies in 2004-05 academic session, submitted a memorandum to Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz demanding punishment to the employees.

He also submitted a CD to the university authorities containing his phone conversation with the accused employees regarding the return of the bribed money.

Alim alleged that Kazi Zahirul Islam, an account officer of the registrar building, took Tk 3 lakh for enrolling him in the merit list in 2004.

"When I was not placed in the merit list, he told me not to worry and later he got me admitted in the management studies department under the freedom fighters' quota with a false certificate," Alim said while talking to the reporters at the VC office.

"Last year, when the chairman

of the department asked me to produce the original certificate of the freedom fighter, I went to them and asked for the same. They told me to go back home (Manikganj) saying that they would manage it and inform me soon," he added.

"After few months when I realised that they are unable to provide me with the certificate, I asked them to return the money. But they refused and asked Tk 50,000 more to legalise my admission," Alim alleged.

When contacted, Zahirul declined to comment saying he was busy.

Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, who heads the committee to probe into admission forgery at the university, said the authorities would investigate the matter seriously and take stern action against the accused employees if the allegations are proved.

The committee has so far detected 220 fake admissions from different departments and institutes of the university. Of them, the syndicate has cancelled 201 admissions.

Polls won't be acceptable if 2 major parties boycott Says Bangladesh Kalyan Party chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Chairman of the newly formed Bangladesh Kalyan Party Major General (ret'd) Sayed Mohammad Ibrahim yesterday said the upcoming national election will not be acceptable if the two major political parties boycott the polls.

"It is true that if the parliament election is held without the participation of major political parties then it will lose the credibility. The participation of Awami League (AL) and BNP is essential to make the polls acceptable to all," said Ibrahim while talking to journalists in Pabna yesterday.

He said if the main leaders of both the parties fail to take part in the election, they should encourage the party men to participate in the polls for the sake of the country.

"If Sheikh Hasina or Khaleda Zia cannot take part in the upcoming election, I believe they will inspire their party men to take part in the polls as all political parties want the election,"

said Ibrahim.

He said Bangladesh Kalyan Party is likely to put up candidates in 200 constituencies in parliament election.

"We also hope to take part in local government election where good candidates are available. We want quality not the quantity," he added.

Ibrahim also demanded punishment to war criminals and arrest of the accused in Gatco case.

Earlier he attended a discussion titled '37 years of independence and our duty' at a local community centre. Pabna Unnayan Forum organised the discussion.

Abul Ehsan Mostafa Bin Taher chaired the meeting which was also addressed by SM Abul Kalam Azad, SM Aminur Rahman, Sahab Uddin and Abul Hossain.

Later, the Pabna district unit convening committee of Bangladesh Kalyan Party was formed.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over country's all six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave, which is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi, may continue, Met Office said.

It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 36.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and lowest 21.8 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.6	26.8	59	54
Chittagong	32.5	26.2	72	86
Rajshahi	34.4	24.7	69	61
Khulna	36.3	25.0	71	61
Barisal	36.5	24.8	57	63
Sylhet	35.5	25.6	58	61
Cox's Bazar	34.1	26.4	59	88

ROBBERY Charge sheet submitted against 3 policemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The charge sheet submitted against three policemen, including an Assistant Commissioner (AC) in a robbery case was accepted at the court in the port city yesterday.

After the hearing, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Hasib Md Sayeed accepted the charge sheet and ordered for sending the relevant dockets to Metropolitan Session Judge court for trial on Sunday next, said the sources.

Following an appeal of the plaintiff the court also cancelled the bail of prime accused Abu Saleh Md Mofazzal Hoque, former assistant commissioner of Panchlaish zone, and sent him to jail.

Mofazzal along with his bodyguard Constable Ehsanul Islam and driver Constable Abdur Rauf were accused in a case filed in connection with a robbery that took place at a businessman's residence in the city's Amirbagh Residential Area on February 10.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case AC Syed Mezbah Uddin of Panchlaish zone submitted the charge sheet accusing the former AC and the two cops under section 394 and 411 of penal code at the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Helal Chowdhury on Tuesday.

AC Mofazzal and the two constables entered the house of a businessman at Urmi Plaza in Amirbagh residential area under Kotwali Police Station in the name of searching for VoIP (voice over internet protocol) equipment at around 1:30am on February 10.

The accused AC and cops were fired from service and arrested on February 11 on charges of looting Tk 1.75 lakh and gold ornaments.