

ISPs vow to be more careful about call termination

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Internet service providers (ISPs) yesterday said a lack of proper monitoring by operators has caused illegal call termination business to rise.
ISPs, which were recently made offline by telecom regulator for their alleged involvement in illegal VoIP (voice over internet protocol) business, also stressed the need for using all government's monitoring layers to stop the illegal trade.
"It was our unintentional mistake. We will be more careful," said Akhtaruzzaman Manju, president of Internet Service Providers' Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB).
The telecom regulator -- BTRC -- and crime busters Rapid Action Battalion in a recent drive shut down 22

ISPs for their involvement in illegal international call termination practices.
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) restored connections of Information Services Network and Grameen CyberNet after the companies made commitment to BTRC not to do any illegal business again, according to BTRC officials.
Of the 22 ISPs, other three members of the ISPAB -- Global Access, IDS Bangladesh and Sirius Broadband (BD) Ltd -- did not get BTRC nod to restore operations as of yesterday.
The other ISPs accused of illegal VoIP business are Ascent Corp Ltd, IT Vision, I Net, Info Services, Easy Access, Prodesta, Rig Tell, Layer 3 Ltd, Deepty Services, X Link, Image Net, 3G

Solutions, MKRS Network, NEOS Network Solutions, Multi Net Computer & Technology, Techno Online and 2nd Link.
The ISPAB president said the government can easily track down the illegal VoIP operators by examining reports from IIG (international internet gateways), IGW (international gateways) and ICX (interconnection exchange).
All ISPAB members are connected with IIG. State-run Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd and private operator Mango TeleServices are the two IIGs in Bangladesh that handle internet data service.
If any internet user transfers calls through VoIP, all these gateways can monitor the traffic, said Manju.

JS body suggests new wage for garment workers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
A parliamentary body has called for a new wage board for readymade garment (RMG) workers, considering the national pay scale and current market price trend into account.
"The minimum wage for RMG workers was last announced in October 2006. Prices of goods have increased manifold by that time. Besides, a national pay scale has been declared for government officials. Considering all these, we asked the labour ministry

to form a new wage board for the garments workers," M Ishrafil Alam, chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour Ministry, told reporters after the committee meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Bhaban yesterday.
The committee also asked the government to increase manpower at the inspection department immediately to rightly oversee and ensure workers' interests in the mills and factories.
The meeting, chaired by Alam, was

informed that only 24 inspectors now have to oversee the conditions at about 7,000 mills and factories in Dhaka and Chittagong areas.
An initiative to hold a tripartite meeting of representatives from government, workers and owners will soon be taken how a minimum wage can be fixed for RMG workers.
The committee also suggested that labour ministry update the labour law enacted in 1980 to protect workers' interests in a better way.



StanChart Islamic banking head in town

STAR BUSINESS DESK
Afaq Khan, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Saadiq, the bank's global Islamic banking business, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today for a short visit.
During his stay in Dhaka, Khan will meet Bangladesh Bank officials and key customers of Standard Chartered, the bank said in a statement yesterday. He joined Standard Chartered in 2003.
Khan, an MBA from the University of Western Illinois, has over 20 years of banking experience and held global responsibility for origination, structuring and distribution of Islamic structured financings including debt capital market issues.

Bangladeshis pay high price for migration

Says international expert

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladeshi migrant workers spend \$2,300 on an average, one of the world's highest amounts, to ensure an overseas job, an international migration expert said yesterday.
High departure costs, lack of information, status of education and skills of the workers are the reasons for the high recruitment costs, said Philip Martin, professor of UC Comparative Immigration & Integration Programme at University of California, USA.
Martin shared his findings at a seminar on 'Managing Labour Migration: Implications for Bangladesh,' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its office in Dhaka.
BIDS Research Director M Asaduzzaman chaired the discussion.
Presently, over 60 lakh Bangladeshis, mostly low-skilled, work abroad. Some 90 percent of them work in eight countries, mainly in the Middle East.
Martin said Bangladeshi migrant workers chose jobs abroad to earn higher wages and have better living standards but they have to pay almost double the amount fixed officially as service charges.
The official cost is a maximum of \$1,215 (Tk 84,000), he said.
According to Martin, costs of recruitment should have been dropped overtime because of an improvement in transportation and communication networks as well as experiences.
But the reality is, such costs rose, he observed.

Martin said on receipt of foreign job offers, the recruiters are to rely on agents and subagents to find migrants to fill in those jobs.
"Most of them do not visit foreign employers and migrants to check on placements," he said.
The migration expert suggested Bangladesh should develop 'Brand Bangladesh' via internationally accredited training institutions and certificates to help workers find jobs in destinations, including the UK, USA and Europe instead of just sending them to the Gulf countries.
Martin also pointed out that the global economic crisis might have a slight interruption in long-run growth in migrants.
"There is a slowdown in new migrant arrivals in Korea, the USA and the UK. But relatively few migrants have lost jobs and are departed following the recession."
However he hoped that the migrant receiving countries would take more migrants over the next decade.
"It (recession) is most likely to be a temporary hiccup," he said.
Martin suggested the migrant receiving governments collect and publish employment, lay-off and wage-related data by different sectors, migrant status and sex.
Embassies and consulates should post these data and provide a focal point for the migrants weighing their options, he said.

President calls for steps to increase Thai investment in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka
President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for necessary steps to increase the Thai investments in Bangladesh through expanding the trade volume between the two countries.
He asked the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Kazi Imtiaz Hossain to play the due role in this regard when the ambassador called on the president at Bangabhaban.
During the meeting, Rahman said there is ample scope to work for the country.



Rupali Bank gets new MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK
M Farid Uddin joined Rupali Bank Ltd as its managing director on March 18, says the bank in a statement.
Prior to the new assignment, he was the special officer-in-charge (managing director) of the finance ministry's bank and finance division.



Participants pose at a training programme on risk associated with trade finance, co-organised by Wachovia Bank and International Finance Corporation at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently. Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the programme that pulled in 58 participants from local banks.

BB governor firm to contain inflation

Hints at new convertible instruments for call money market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The average inflation rate will be around 6.5 percent and the point-to-point inflation around 10 percent this year, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Atiur Rahman yesterday.
He said the central bank will do everything to contain the point-to-point inflation.
The BB chief was speaking at the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) as the guest of honour at Westin Dhaka.
Rahman said the government will soon launch the value added agricultural project in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ensure better prices for growers.
"We will float energy and infrastructure bonds in the market soon to advance power and infrastructure to international standards," Atiur said.
Rahman asked private and public banks to finance small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to generate more employment.
"I particularly asked four or five banks to extend finance to the light engineering sector of Bogra, as at least 400 light engineering houses there have bright prospects," he said.
He said the agricultural sector has developed a lot and now proper marketing channels and preservation systems are needed to add more value and make the rural economy more viable.
In response to queries made by foreign investors in Bangladesh, the central bank governor said the price-earning ratio of the listed companies on the stock market is not rational at the moment.
The central bank will control any abnormal transaction on the stock market at any cost, he added.
Earlier, Ficci President AM Hamim Rahmatullah asked the government to make the central bank an independent body, separate from the finance ministry.
"The Travellers Foreign Exchange Annual Quota that was fixed more than a decade ago needs to be reviewed and raised for both Saarc countries and other countries," Rahmatullah said.
The government and the central bank needs to frame a policy that will allow connectivity for business executives to pay for their bonafide international roaming telephone expenses by setting up a mechanism, he said.
Meanwhile, at the launching ceremony of a digital system for interbank money market in the capital, the central bank chief hinted at introducing new convertible instruments to infuse dynamism into the market.
Dhakabiz.com, the first real-time financial information service of Bangladesh, introduced the Dhaka Money 2009, a digital trading platform.
Emphasising application of the latest technologies to maintain smooth fund-flow, Atiur Rahman said, "A skilled liquidity management system cannot be maintained without necessary information."
Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association, Tanveerul Haque Probal, president of Real Estate and Housing Association, Niaz Rahim, director of Rahimafrooz Group, and Nurul Amin, NCC Bank's managing director, were also present at the function.

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ
প্রকৌশল ডিপার্টমেন্ট, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ	সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রকৌশল ডিপার্টমেন্ট, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
২	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
৩	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ	সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর নিজস্ব পারচেসিং ম্যানুয়ালে বর্ণিত Open Tendering Method (OTM)
৪	বাজেট ও ফান্ড প্রকৌশল	সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর নিজস্ব ফান্ড
৫	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ
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১০	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
১১	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ	সংস্থাপন ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
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মোঃ মোহাম্মদুল হক
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

BCI to organise local products fair in June

UNB, Dhaka
A three-day Amar Panya Amar Desh 2010 Fair (exhibition of local products) will begin in the city on June 10, as part of the campaign to raise public awareness for the expansion of local products and services.
Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) in collaboration with Carnival and E3 Solutions -- two event management companies -- will organise the fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.
"We're going to organise the three-day fair in the city in a bid to showcase the country-made products and services to all," said Abul Kalam Bhuiyan, convener of the BCI Fair Committee, at a press conference at the BCI office yesterday.
He said that only the local entrepreneurs engaged in producing different kinds of products and delivering services will be allowed to take part in the fair.
"To help in the survival of the local products and finding new markets for the local industries is the main focus of the fair."
Bhuiyan said the Board of Investment (BoI) and leading business organisations, including FBCCI, have already extended their hands of cooperation to successfully hold the fair.
There will be some 150 stalls in the fair. The rent for each of the 8x8 feet stall is Tk 30,000, 16x8 feet Tk 60,000 and 16x16 feet Tk 120,000.
The fair will remain open everyday from 10 am to 8 pm. Visitors will be charged an entry fee of Tk 20. There will be arrangement for music concerts and fashion shows everyday at the fair venue.
BCI President Shahedul Islam (Helal), former BCI president AK Azad, E3 Solutions Managing Director Chanmoh Saha were also present at the press conference.
Replying to a question, BCI President Shahedul Islam said they will also organise fairs at the divisional and district levels in phases to create awareness about the local products among the local people.
He told a questioner that the local industries are going through a tough time. "We're trying to overcome the image crisis as well as to make the people aware about the local products and services," he said.

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