

October 16, 2011

To
The Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Attn: Hon'ble Secretary

Subject: Transmission Leasing/Sharing

Dear Sir,

On behalf of all the Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the ISP Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB), hereby earnestly requests for the Ministry's intervention and hope that the infrastructure sharing agreement between ISPs and the Mobile Phone Operators be extended so that we can continue running our services smoothly.

We have received letters from various Mobile Phone Operators informing us about the intimation letter from BTRC mentioning that the prevailing transmission leasing/sharing will not be extended after 10th November 2011 and that all connectivities shall be discontinued on or before that very day.

All ISPs are very anxious about this latest situation and we fear that there will be serious implication on the national economy. You know that Nationwide ISPs provide Internet & Intranet services all across the country by leasing/sharing transmission capacity from Mobile Phone Operators on the basis of Infrastructure Sharing guidelines of BTRC. As such if the services get disconnected from 10th November the impact will be very grave. Most Banks & Financial Institutes, Capital Market such as DSE, CSE & CDBL's automated trading system, eGovernment system, large and medium enterprises intranet system will be off line if transmission leasing/sharing with Mobile Phone Operators are shutdown abruptly by 10th November.

For your kind knowledge, the two private-owned NTTNs are in their very infancy state and they are short of network coverage and capacity within Dhaka. None of the two NTTN operators have their own infrastructure outside Dhaka city. Fiber@Home has leased fiber from Mobile Phone Operator and is providing limited service at few cities outside Dhaka. All ISPs are facing serious problem getting connections from them. The process of connecting a new client takes over 10-15 days. There is a lot of service disruption and average downtime is over 6-7 hours.

By migrating to NTTNs we have lost many clients and the costs for connectivity have risen dramatically. Now if our transmission leasing/sharing with the Mobile Phone Operators are shutdown, we will go bankrupt. Under this situation we hope the government will look into the issue seriously and help us to continue providing smooth services all over the country.

Thanking you for your understanding.

Sincerely



M. A. Hakim
GS, ISPAB

CC (Not Sorted in any hierarchy):

1. Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee for MoPT
2. Chairman, BTRC
3. Governor, Bangladesh Bank
4. Managing Director, Summit Communication
5. Managing Director, Fiber@Home
6. CEO & CTO, Dhaka Stock Exchange
7. CEO & CTO, CDBL
8. CEO & CTO, CSE
- ✓ 9. AMTOB
10. All ISPs