

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE

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SPECIAL MENTION

BANGLADESH

Piracy and enforcement deficiencies: IIPA members express concern about alarming piracy levels in Bangladesh, affecting works such as published materials, optical media, music cassettes and theatrical prints. There seems to be little or no political will to implement and enforce the copyright law

Rampant book piracy is practically pushing legitimate publishers and distributors out of the market altogether. This scourge affects all categories of books, including English language learning books, higher education textbooks, medical books and other professional titles, computer books, trade fiction, dictionaries and more. These books can be found throughout the country, at universities, professional schools and international schools as well as in book markets in cities such as Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. Publishers estimate that fewer than one in ten books in use in Bangladesh is a legitimate version. To date, the government has taken virtually no action to combat this pervasive problem.

In addition, optical media and cassette piracy is blatant and there is almost no enforcement. Two pirate optical disc plants, with three lines each, are operational in Bangladesh, one of which is owned by a major Pakistani CD pirate producer. Furthermore, pirate CD-R duplication is spreading rapidly.

Finally, the motion picture industry has experienced repeated instances of theatrical print piracy, with titles being changed and fraudulently cleared through the Board of Film Censors. In some cases, these fraudulent prints are then contracted for exhibition throughout neighboring countries. Right holders are unaware of the presence of these pirated theatrical prints unless they are reported by legitimate distributors in the affected territories.

IIPA encourages the government of Bangladesh to work with the appropriate right holders in taking steps to significantly reduce these piracy levels.