

# A lot more charges against cable TV men

CITY CORRESPONDENT

... Recent government steps to streamline the cable television business were not enough to check irregularities and anomalies in the whole system.

Cable TV subscribers alleged that many operators are still collecting high monthly charges in defiance of the government-fixed rate of Tk 300. Besides, they charge exorbitant fees for installing and reinstalling cables.

The subscribers said the operators deprive them of popular channels and show many unwanted channels. But the operators put the blame on distributors for this.

"We are utterly annoyed by the cable operators and dissatisfied at their acts," said Kawsar Ahmed from Bashabo. "They are mostly indifferent to our complaints."

"Things start right from the time of taking connection when

they demand additional fees for the service and cables. In my case I simply told them that I would buy my own cable. But I had to pay quite a high price as the cable was stolen within a month," he added.

According to the viewers, complaints regarding the service go mostly unattended.

"After experiencing a lot of static in most of the channels I lodged a complaint to my operator. After repeated reminders, they finally sent someone to look into my problem around three weeks later," said Nasheed Hasan from South Badda.

Mohammad Jamal Uddin, a resident of Green Road, echoed Nasheed.

"Complaining does not help much. However, funny thing is that all complaints and needs are attended in no time during the first week of the month when they come to collect monthly charge," said Jamal Uddin.

According to sources in the

Ministry of Information, a number of regulations specified in the Cable Television Network Operation Act of 2006 are going blatantly unheeded.

Section 3(2) of the Act prohibits advertisement, exhibition or airing of any other channels like video, VCD or DVD apart from the government approved ones.

However, compliance with this regulation is far from reality as almost every cable operator is airing their own video channels for their subscribers.

In subsection 3 of section 17 of the Act, the government has prohibited the distribution of multiple channels through one single package. The subsection suggests that each channel should be distributed with a price tag as decided by the government.

However, cable operators claimed that distributors compellingly sell multiple channels in one package and demand high prices for the whole package.

"We have to pay high charges for the pay-channels as they are distributed in packages. Subsequently, the government-fixed monthly subscription charges mean big losses for us," said Abul Kalam, a cable operator from Rayerbazar.

According to the operators, it has been made mandatory for them to buy the whole package that includes Star Plus, Star Movies, Star World, Star Gold, Star News, National Geographic, THC and Sky News from the distributor MGH.

However, distributors voiced different opinion. MGH officials said they do not compel cable operators to buy channels as a package.

"We simply ask them to take one or two additional channels with each channel. But we do not force them to buy all the channels," said Rafique Hasan from MGH.

Subsection 7 of section 3 of the Act implies that the pay channels

allowed by the government have to be distributed as par the price policy set by the government.

But the cable operations alleged that even a year after enactment of the law the government is yet to specify the price for pay channels.

Asked, information ministry officials told this correspondent that the process of finalising the price chart for the pay channels is in progress.

The distributors complained that the operators do not divulge the actual number of their subscribers, depriving the government of a huge amount of revenue.

According to unofficial sources, there are around 26 cable TV distributors in the city, who buy the pay channels and distribute the feed to around 370 local operators.



Two kids play intently on the railway track near Karwan Bazar risking mishap at any time. This is a common scene wherever there is a slum near a railway line in the city.

## health,busservices,airlines&traintiming

### OSPITALS & CLINICS

**Square Hospitals Ltd**  
Emergency: 8144466, 8144477, 8144488, 01713377773, 01714477774, 01713377775. Fax: 880-2-9118921  
Telephone: 8141522, 8142431, 8144400, 8142333, 8159457, 8129334, 01713141447.

**Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital**  
9008919, 8051618

**Apollo Hospitals Dhaka**  
9891680-4, 01713046684/85  
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000

**Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital**  
9118202, 8115843

**Central Hospital**  
9660015-19,

**China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd**  
8913674

**Dhaka Medical College Hospital**  
8626812-16

**Gana Shasthyo Kendra**  
8617208, 8617383, 8620178,

**Greenland Hospital**  
8912663

**Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic**  
8822738, 8812992

**Holy Family Hospital**  
8311721-25

**Islami Bank Hospital**  
9333739

**Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital**  
8828855, 8827575

**Labaid Cardiac Hospital**  
8610793-8

**Marie Stopes Clinic**  
8821874

**Medinova Medical Services Ltd**  
8620353,

**Monowara Hospital**  
8318135, 8319802

**Pangu Hospital**  
9112150, 9113041

**PG Hospital (BSMMU)**  
9614545-9, 9612550-4  
**Rashmono General Hospital**  
8317606, 9557354, 8317819

**Ratan's Dental Clinic**  
9111090

**Salimullah Medical College Hospital**  
7319002-6

**Samorita Hospital Ltd**  
9131901

**Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital**  
9122560-78

**Shishu Hospital**  
8116061-2, 9119119

**United Hospital**  
8836444, 0194001234

**Probin Hospital**  
Phone: 9129814, 9141404

### BLOOD BANK

**Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank**  
9116563

**Modern Clinic & Blood Center**  
9883948

**Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College**  
9668690

### BUS SERVICES

**Drooti**  
8014563

**Eagle Paribahan**  
7101504

**Green Line Paribahan**  
9339623, 9342580, 8353005

**Hanif Enterprise**  
9120116

**Keya Paribahan**  
7101894, 7101250, 9121280

**Modern Enterprise**  
9123743

**Neptune A/C Coach Service**  
7101945, 7101951, 9123092

**Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd**  
9334152, 8316766, 8126293

**Shoukhin Paribahan**  
8014397, 9001796

**Silk Line**  
7102461

**Shyamoli Paribahan**  
9333803

### AIRLINES

**lines**  
**Aeroflot**  
9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787

**Air India**  
8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591

**Biman Bangladesh Airlines**  
8917400-19 9560151, 9559610  
Airport Office: 8917400, Fax:8913005

**British Airways**  
8815111, Fax: 8815346,

**Cathay Pacific**  
9557117, Fax: 9562667

**Druk Air**  
9862243, 9892862,  
**Emirates**  
9892801, 9885574-75

**GMG Airlines**  
8825845-9, Airport Office:  
8960404,8915699, Fax: 8826115

**Gulf Air**  
9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573

**Indian Airlines Ltd**  
9555915, 9557813,  
**Kuwait Airways**  
9115182, 9118829

**Malaysia Airlines**  
9888211-20  
Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478

**PIA**  
9349293-5, Fax: 9345300

**Singapore Airlines**  
8811504-7, 9883259  
Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503

**Thai Airways**  
8314711-18, 8914343

**Virgin Atlantic Airways**  
8816324-5, Fax: 9896481



### TRAIN TIMING

**Subarna Express**  
**Mahanagar Prabhathi**  
**Mahanagar Godhuli**  
**Turna**  
**Parabat Express**  
**Joyantika Express**  
**Upaban Express**  
**Tista Express**  
**Ekata Express**  
**Upakul Express**  
**Agni Beena Express**

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm  
Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm  
Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm  
Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am  
Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm  
Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm  
Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am  
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm  
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15  
Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am  
Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

### LIBRARY & INFO-

#### Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407  
**Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Ford Foundation-** 8116133  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**Information Resource Center, The**  
**American Center -** 8813440-4, 9886395-9  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8850141-2  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412  
**Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB)** 9330081-4

9x8