

## 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 Kawser 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 Abdul 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 per the price policy set by the government.

But the cable operators 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.

STAR PHOTO

## health,bus services,airlines&train timing

### OSPITALS & CLINICS

Square Hospitals Ltd Emergency: 8144466, 8144477, 8144488, 0171337773, 01714477774, 01713377775. Fax: 880-2-9118921	Greenland Hospital 8912663	Ratan's Dental Clinic 9111090	Drooti 8014563
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992	Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6	Eagle Paribahan 7101504	Aeroflot 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787
Holy Family Hospital 8311721-25	Samorita Hospital Ltd 9131901	Green Line Paribahan 9339623, 9342580, 8353005	Air India 8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591
Islami Bank Hospital 933739	Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital 912560-78	Hanif Enterprise 9120116	Biman Bangladesh Airlines 8917400-19, 9560151, 9559610 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005
Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital 9008919, 8051618	Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital 8828855, 8827575	Keya Paribahan 7101894, 7101250, 9121280	British Airways 8815111, Fax: 8815346,
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka 9891680-4, 01713046684/85 Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000	Labaid Cardiac Hospital 8610793-8	Modern Enterprise 9123743	Cathay Pacific 9557117, Fax: 9562667
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital 9118202, 8115843	Marie Stopes Clinic 8821874	Neptune A/C Coach Service 7101945, 7101951, 9123092	lines Druk Air 9862243, 9892862,
Medinova Medical Services Ltd 8620353,	BLOOD BANK	Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd 9334152, 8316766, 8126293	Emirates 9892801, 9885574-75
Monowara Hospital 8318135, 8319802	Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank 9116563	Shoukhin Paribahan 8014397, 9001796	GIMG Airlines 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
Pangu Hospital 9112150, 9113041	Modern Clinic & Blood Center 9883948	Silk Line 7102461	Biman Bangladesh Airlines 8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005
PG Hospital (BSMMU) 9614545-9, 9612550-4	Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College 9668690	Shyamoli Paribahan 9333803	Gulf Air 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
Rashmoni General Hospital 8617208, 8617383, 8620178,	8317606, 9557354, 8317819		British Airways 8314711-18, 8914343

### BUS SERVICES

Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank 9116563	Subarna Express Mahanagar Prabhati Mahanagar Godhuli
Modern Clinic & Blood Center 9883948	Turna Parabat Express
Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College 9668690	Joyantika Express Upaban Express
8317606, 9557354, 8317819	Tista Express Ekata Express Upakul Express
	Agnibena Express

### AIRLINES

lines Aeroflot 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	Druk Air 9862243, 9892862, Emirates 9892801, 9885574-75
Air India 8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	GIMG Airlines 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
Biman Bangladesh Airlines 8917400-19, 9560151, 9559610 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005	Singapore Airlines 8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005
British Airways 8815111, Fax: 8815346,	Gulf Air 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
Cathay Pacific 9557117, Fax: 9562667	Thai Airways 8314711-18, 8914343

### LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128 Shilpkala 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