Unwinding the wires

MD HASAN

The telecom regulator has decided to take overhead cables underground to free Dhaka from a tangle of cables from sight.

Under the move, all overhead wires that are used to provide internet and cable television services will be transferred to an underground transmission system.

Operators used overhead cables to provide services as it was easy to build a network by using the city's electricity poles.

However, overhead cables are becoming quite a nag because of an increase in stealing services and frequent cable cuts due to natural disasters. Both operators and users are fed up of resuming services repeatedly.

In Dhaka, more than 10 lakh internet users are connected through overhead cables. Additionally, more than 3.5 lakh television viewers are also connected with overhead cable to the television networks.

Two projects are expected to start within the next three weeks to begin work on the move -- one will be from Gulshan to Uttara and another from Shahabag to Jahangir Gate.

Initially, operators will be connected to the underground network of Fiber @ Home Ltd, a nationwide telecommunication transmission network (NTTN) service provider.

Dhaka city has been jampacked with the overhead cables ever since Bangladesh got connected with the submarine cable that helped people log on to the internet.

A common scene: Tangled cables in our midst. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

"It is high time the city is freed from this mess of cables," said Aktaruzzaman Manju, president of Internet Service Providers Bangladesh (ISPAB).

He said the capital should have an aesthetic appeal and be attractive to both foreigners and locals. "We feel the overhead cables destroys the beauty of this city."

Fiber @ Home Ltd has developed 1,200-kilometers of countrywide networks that cover 23 districts and 90 upazillas.

Summit Communications Ltd, the second NTTN service providing company, received a license from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in December 2009 to provide the same service to operators.

"Overhead cable users must connect with the underground cable networks," said Zia Ahmed, chairman of BTRC.

He said the commission decided to make this happen, considering the need to develop the image of Dhaka.

"We have to adopt modern technologies that can benefit both customers and operators," said Parvez Anwar, president of Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB).

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Barracuda Networks announces its presence

IT.TELECOM REPORT

With the slogan "To save Dhaka from huge IT infrastructure establishment," Barracuda Networks, one of the world's leading security, networking and storage solution providers, has made a debut in Bangladesh.

Barracuda and its distributor in Bangladesh, Technics Computers Private Limited, jointly organised a gala ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on April 29 to mark the debut.

Barracuda Networks Inc combines premise-based gateways and software, cloud services, and sophisticated remote support to deliver comprehensive security, networking and storage solutions.

The company offers protection against email, web and instant messaging threats as well as products that improve application delivery and network access, message archiving, backup and data protection.

Andrew Lee, sales manager for Asia Pacific region of Barracuda, demonstrated their security solution appliances (Barracuda Spam & Virus Firewall, Barracuda Web Filter, Barracuda IM Firewall and Barracuda Web Application Firewall), networking solution equipment (Barracuda Load Balancer, Barracuda Link Balancer and Barracuda SSL VPN) and storage equipment (Barracuda Message Archive and Barracuda Backup Service) at the ceremony.

"Introduction of Barracuda Networks spearheads the ICT market of Bangladesh to the next level of security and management of networks and data," Lee said.

He added that many big firms and institutes like Pizza Hut, Fed Ex, the US Department of Defence and the US Army were the clients of Barracuda as it achieved name and goodwill in the market for reliability.

"We offer our customers the best price available," said Lee in response to a query.

After Lee's presentation, senior manager for IT of ICDDR,B Md Farhad Hossain shared his experience of using Barracuda Networks products at the ceremony attended by the IT professionals and dignitaries from various sectors.

Launching in Bangladesh

Jobs attacks Adobe Flash as unfit for iPhone

AP, New York

For iPhone users who've been wondering whether their devices will support Flash technology for Web video and games anytime soon, the answer is finally here, straight from Steve Jobs: No.

In a detailed offensive against the technology owned by Adobe Systems Inc., Apple's CEO wrote Thursday that Flash has too many bugs, drains batteries too quickly and is too oriented to personal computers to work on the iPhone and iPad.

This is not the first time Jobs has publicly criticized Flash, but the statement was his clearest, most definitive and longest on the subject.

In his 1,685-word "Thoughts on Flash," Jobs laid out his reasons for excluding Flash the most widely used vehicle for videos and games on the Internet from Apple's blockbuster handheld devices.

He cited "reliability, security and performance," and the fact that Flash was designed
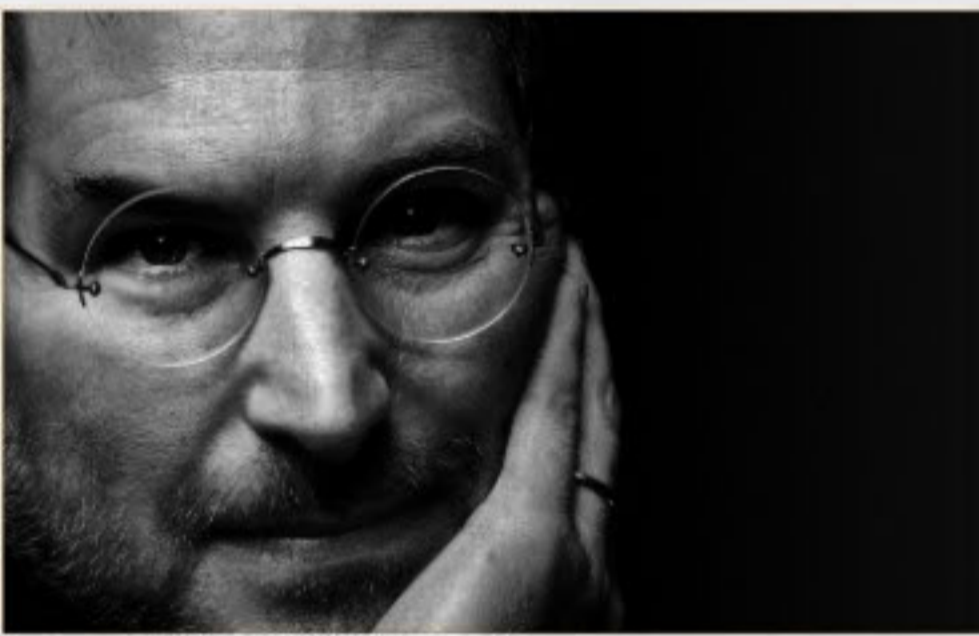

"for PCs using mice, not for touch screens using fingers" as some of the reasons Apple will continue to keep the program off its devices.

But he said the most important reason is Flash puts a third party between Apple and software developers. In other words, developers can take advantage of improvements from Apple only if Adobe upgrades its own software, Jobs wrote.

Adobe representatives did not have an immediate comment Thursday. But in a March 23 conference call, President and CEO Shantanu Narayen said his company is "committed to bringing Flash to any platform on which there is a screen."

That certainly includes Apple's devices, and Narayen said at the time the Flash ban "has nothing to do with technology."

"It's an Apple issue and I think you'll have to check with them on that," he said.

Introducing the flagship N8

IT.TELECOM DESK

Nokia launched their flagship N series device, the N8, in Finland recently. The new smartphone, which will be available in selected markets from the third quarter of 2010, boasts heavy specs and a revamped operating system, says a press release.

The multimedia-heavy N8 features a 12 megapixel camera and HD video recording, with hardware capabilities to make an iPhone user jealous. The N8 can take photos with its 12 megapixel camera with flash and shoot HD videos in 720p, and edit them with an intuitive built-in editing suite.

An additional secondary video camera on the front may be used for video calls. The recordings can be viewed on the phone's 3.5" capacitive touch screen or the device can be connected to any home theater system via the built-in HDMI port, making the N8 a true home theater experience with HD quality film and Dolby Digital Plus surround sound.

Social networking is second nature to the device as people can update their status, share location and photos, and view live feeds from Facebook and Twitter in a single app directly on the home screen.

The N8 features Wi-Fi in addition to Bluetooth 2.1; it also comes with GPS and A-GPS positioning systems, with Nokia's free and complete navigation solution from Ovi Maps. The device comes with 16GB of on-board storage (expandable via microSD cards up to 32GB).

The N8 is Nokia's first phone featuring the revamped Symbian 3 OS; there are several new features, such as multi-touch, flick scrolling, and pinch-to-zoom in addition to features found on rival smartphone platforms, like multiple home screens and home screen widgets for Facebook and Twitter.

Microsoft's competition for secondary school teachers

IT.TELECOM DESK

Microsoft Bangladesh arranged a competition among secondary level school teachers from all over Bangladesh on April 30 at TTC auditorium in the city, said a press release.

The objective of the contest was to help assess the skills of the teachers acquired by attending Microsoft Partners in Learning Level 1 training and ITN Advanced Level 2 training programmes.

Microsoft partners in Learning programme started back in April 2006 in association with

Microsoft's country manage Firoz Mahmud speaks at the event

the Ministry of Education.

The vision of the programme was to help teachers from different secondary and higher secondary school to enhance their IT skill.

The programme was a part of Microsoft's Corporate Social Responsibility agenda in Bangladesh.

Later in the evening, Feroz Mahmud, country manager of Microsoft announced top 20 performers of the competition who will go for more advanced learning programme next year.

TECHPHOTO

Street-view

Picture shows cars equiped with special cameras, used to photograph whole streets, at the Google street-view stand at the world's biggest high-tech fair, the CeBIT in the northern German city of Hanover. Some 4,157 companies from 68 countries displayed their latest gadgets at the fair held in March.

PHOTO: AFP