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OVERHEAD CABLES

# Removal order runs into snag

*Cable operators, ISPs find it impossible to remove within Oct 31 deadline*

**PANKAJ KARMAKAR**

The cable TV operators and internet service providers (ISPs) have expressed their inability to comply with the government decision to remove the risky overhead cables from electric poles across the capital by October 31.

SM Anwar Parvez, former president of Cable Operators Association Bangladesh (COAB), at a press conference on Sunday demanded extension of the deadline for at least one year to remove the overhead cables and setting up a common duct for underground transmission

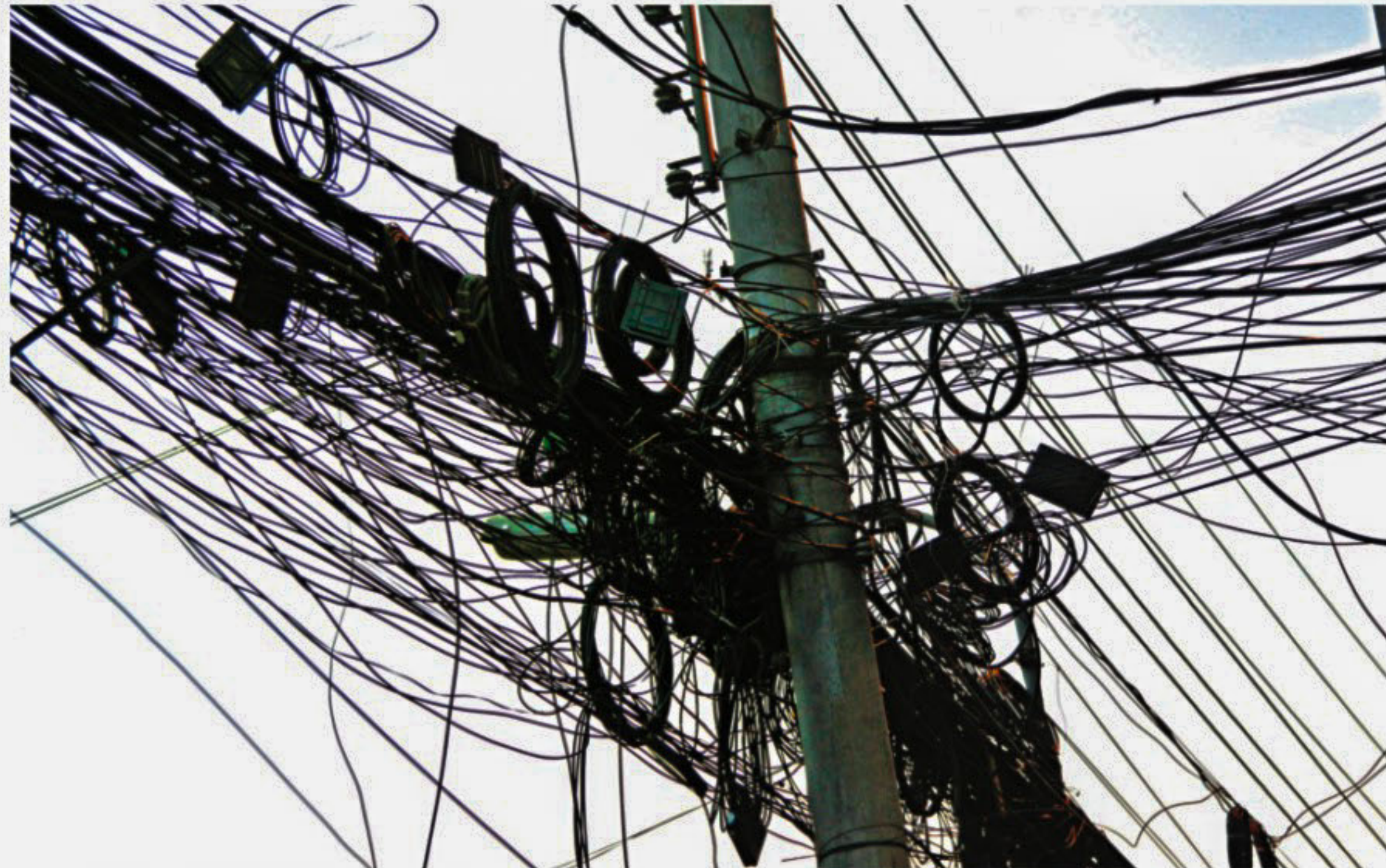
system by the government.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) asked the cable operators and ISPs to remove the risky overhead cables from its electricity poles by October 31.

There are around 600 cable TV operators and 92 ISPs in the city. More than 10 lakh internet users and 3.5 lakh television viewers are connected through overhead cables with their networks.

Akhtaruzzaman Manju, president of Internet Service Providers Association of

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The jungle of overhead cables in the city adds extra weight on electric poles, which might cause the poles to fall on pedestrians. The government has recently asked cable operators and Internet service providers to remove overhead cables. PHOTO: STAR

## KOKO, TARIQUE ISSUES BNP to defy ban to hold rally today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Ignoring the ban imposed by the police, the main opposition BNP will demonstrate against the government move to cancel Arafat Rahman Koko's parole and "propaganda" against Tarique Rahman in the capital's Muktangan today.

"Banning street demonstration through public

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## Jamaat city chief held

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested Dhaka city unit Jamaat-e-Islami chief Rafiqul Islam Khan from his Mirpur residence in the capital.

A team of DB police and Mirpur police picked up the Jamaat leader around 1:30pm and took him to the DB office at Minto Road for interrogation.

Mahmudur Rahman, DB additional deputy commissioner, told The Daily Star last night that DB police will verify all the cases filed against

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## Rain halts city life

*Many streets waterlogged*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A few hours of moderate rain-fall nearly halted life and trade of the city yesterday, as much of the capital was knee-deep in water.

The Met office said 31 millimetres of rain fell throughout the morning submerging streets and alleyways in areas like Shahbagh, Bijoy Sarani, Adabor, Mohammadpur and

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## NGOs charging high interest on micro-credit: PM

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the non-government organisations (NGOs) extending micro-credit are charging heavily from the poor borrowers across the country.

"The rate of interest is very high," she said when Fan Xiaojian, Chinese Minister of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development called on her at her office.

The premier informed the distinguished guests that the micro-credit system is contributing a lot in the economy of the country, but the interest rate that charged by the NGOs are very high.

She mentioned that the government is also providing micro-credit

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## ICU too costly for poor

*Facilities inadequate at public hospitals; private ones charge high in absence of proper monitoring*

**MAHBUBA ZANNAT**

Jasim, 22, a truck helper of South Begunbari, was severely injured in a crash in February. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors referred him to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

But the eight-bed ICU was already under huge pressure. Jasim was told he was 32 on the waiting list and was asked to go to a private hospital.

His mother Jyotsna Begum said they

would require Tk 12,000 every day if her son was admitted to a private hospital. As Jasim could not afford it, he decided to wait and eventually died after seven days in the corridor of DMCH without proper treatment.

The scene is the same at all the government hospitals. As a result, a good number of critical patients are forced to go to private hospitals where many of them receive treatment but come out penniless.

Different private hospitals are charging differently for the same ventilators,

monitors and other ICU equipment, as there is no government regulation or monitoring.

For instance, Comfort Hospital charges Tk 6,000 for ventilator support and Tk 3,000 seat rent at the ICU every day. This amount is very high for the middle income group and beyond the reach of low earners.

City's Popular Hospital charges Tk 6,000 and Tk 2,400 for the same per day. Holy Family Hospital takes Tk 2,400 for

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Prayer Timing		
August 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-16	4-26
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-37
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



City dwellers crowding at the counters in Gabtoli bus terminal to buy advance tickets for home during the Eid vacation. PHOTO: STAR

## Khaleda nephew Duke quizzed by CID again

*His passport seized*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday further interrogated BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nephew also her former personal secretary Saiful Islam Duke in the August 21 grenade attack case, and seized his passport.

CID also interrogated former industries secretary Nurul Amin in connection with the Chittagong Arms Haul case.

Sources said Duke appeared at CID headquarters along with his passport as he had been asked during the first interrogation on Tuesday by Abdul Kahar Akand, investigation officer of the case and

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## Publish ads in newspapers for 21 fugitives

*Court directs BDR authorities*

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to publish advertisements in two Bangla national dailies, asking 21 fugitive Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel to appear before it by September 22 in Pilkhana carnage case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hassan Talukdar passed the order after receiving reports from police on the execution of arrest warrants against the fugitives.

On July 26, another Dhaka court issued the arrest warrants against them as the BDR men have been absconding since the incident took place on February 25-26 last year. The court also passed an order to attach their properties.

It directed officers-in-charge (OC) of different police stations across the country to submit the reports on the execution of arrest warrants by yesterday.

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think the government will be able to complete the 21km expressway in the capital by 2013?

Yes (26.4%)  
 No (70.8%)  
 No Comments (2.8%)

**Total votes: 503**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Hajj pilgrims might face harassment following the home minister's order to prevent war crimes suspects, Rohingyas and militants from leaving the country in guise of pilgrims?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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