

What's on today

Workshop: The National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) has organised a workshop to discuss a draft law on the rights of disabled persons. Venue: Islamic Development Bank Bhaban auditorium, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30am to 4pm.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: A seminar on 'Rehabilitation of hawkers in Dhaka city' will be held. Venue: Nagar Bhaban seminar room. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

WFP undertakes special programme in CHT

KAHGRACHHARI, July 3: The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has undertaken a special programme in Chittagong Hill Tracts to bring back confidence of the hilly people and make the distressed hilly women self-reliant through VGD programme.

New chairman of BMRC elected

Renowned eye specialist and director of National Eye Institute and Hospital Prof Syed Modasser Ali has been recently elected chairman of Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) for the term 1998-2001, says a press release.

Till May 31 this year Number of AIDS cases in India 6,052

NEW DELHI, July 3: The total number of AIDS cases in India till May 31 this year was 6,052, according to figures placed in the Rajya Sabha today, reports PTI.

Saturday 4th July (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.) BTM Morning session 9:00 Opening announcement, Holy Quran, programme summary 9:05 Prescription 9:20 Moner Mukure 10:15 Movie of the week 12:10 Programme summary of second session and close down

9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Focus: The Sci Files - Surveillance Society 12:00noon BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Living: Earth Report - Vietnam 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World Headlines Followed by Weather 3:05 Weekend World: Wings Over Hong Kong 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: Holiday - Fasten Your Seatbelt 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:30 This Week 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:10 Memories of Diana 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Living: Film '98 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:05 Weekend World: The Last Governor 1/5 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:05 Weekend World: Wings Over Hong Kong 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 Style! 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 This Week



The footpaths in Baitul Mukarram are illegally occupied by stallkeepers. Construction equipment and materials also fill these sidewalks. -Star photo

Reception to PM July 15

By Staff Correspondent A meeting of the 'National Committee for Peace and Friendship' was held in the city yesterday in preparation of the planned July 15 reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The meeting, held at the TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University with Committee convenor Prof Kabir Chowdhury in the chair, discussed in details about people's participation in the civic reception, says a press release.

DDT blamed for falling male fertility in wildlife

The pesticide, DDT, is being blamed by scientists for falling male fertility and sex changes in wildlife, reports BSS. The largely circulated newspaper, The Times in a recent issue said a breakdown chemical of DDT is behind the worldwide fall in sperm counts, increase in undescended testis and shrinking penises in wild animals. The findings have been made by scientists at the University of North Carolina and the reproductive toxicology branch of the US government's Environmental Protection Agency.

SAARCFUW meeting ends Human resources dev programme to begin

The general meeting of the SAARC Federation of University (SAARCFUW) women concluded recently with decision of a regional programme on Human Resource Development with Education as the agent, says a press release. The meeting was followed by a two-day Workshop on Dys-functionality of Education with Focus on the Total Development of the Child in General and the Girl Child in Particular. Country papers depicted vividly the need for a gender focused approach to education both at primary and secondary level in at least four of the SAARCFUW countries.

Indian govt defers bill on women's quota in parliament

NEW DELHI, July 3: Indian political parties can't agree on passing a law setting aside federal and state parliamentary seats for women, so the government put the bill on hold Friday, reports AP. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led governing coalition said the bill would be introduced only after support was assured. The bill had been on the legislative calendar for Friday, but was taken off. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Madan Lal Khurana set a new date for tabling the bill, first introduced in 1996 by a previous government but never put to a vote.

BNP creating unrest out of jealousy of AL success: Zillur

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said BNP has taken the path of politics of hartal and anarchy to create unrest in the country out of jealousy of the success of Awami League government, reports UNB. "The leader of the Opposition could not threaten to overthrow the elected government if she has trust on people and respect to democracy," he said addressing the inaugural ceremony of water and power supply at Bawna dam area at section 11 in Mirpur. The Awami League general secretary told the function that the successive governments in the last 21 years could not do what the present government did in only two years. In this regard, the minister listed a number of successes of the present government, including signing of treaties on sharing of Ganges water and Chittagong Hill Tracts and construction of Bangabandhu Jamuna bridge.

41 important posts lying vacant for long Pabna Mental Hospital plagued with problems, mismanagement

PABNA, July 3: Pabna Mental Hospital, the only mental asylum of the country, has been plagued with numerous problems, including mismanagement and lack of psychiatrists, reports UNB. According to a competent source, proper treatment of patients and administrative works of the 400-bed hospital are being hampered as 41 important posts of the hospital have been lying vacant for a long time. The vacant posts include, four Clinical Assistants out of nine, four Medical Officers out of five and one Service Superintendent. More worrying is that there are no electric fans in most of the wards of the hospital and it even has no generator to tackle the loadshedding problem. Pathological department of the hospital remained under lock and key for a long time for lack of manpower and necessary equipment. Apart from this, many patients, who come to the hospital for admission from different parts of the country, have to go back for lack of accommodation. On the other hand, a good number of patients, who recovered 10 to 12 years ago, have not yet left the hospital. According to the sources, repeated appeals by the hospital authorities to their concerned guardians to take them back fell on the deaf ears. But the authorities cannot force them out on humanitarian ground. There is also an allegation that the patients are being deprived of adequate diet they need soon after their recovery. Besides, the hospital management has become hostage to the hands of a section of hospital staff. They allegedly intervene in the day-to-day administrative works of the hospital and enjoying its property, including lands and ponds, without giving necessary revenue to the government. Allotment of the hospital quarters is also under their control. A section of retired staff keep staying at the hospital quarters in collaboration with the terrorists.



Bangladesh Islamic Chhatra Majlish brought out a colourful rally on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladun-Nabi to be celebrated on July 7. -Star photo

The Daily Star TV Guide

11:55 The Flash Point 1:05 Urdu Feature Film: /Khas Khabrain: CLOSE DOWN. ZEE INDIA TV (Former-EL TV) 7:00am Jagran 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Zed It Pro 8:30 Zee News: Eng. 10:00 Vision Beyond 10:30 Naye Nagme 11:00 Hum Zamana 11:30 Zee News Update 11:55 Zee Business News 12:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Huseen Pal (Trailer Show) 1:00 Beech Shehra 1:30 Zee News: Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Help Line 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Shakti 3:30 News Line 4:00 Aashiana 4:30 Hum Hange Kamyab 5:00 Naye Nagme 5:30 Session With Sehan 6:00 Namaste India 7:00 Huseen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 Centre Stage 8:00 Mystery Unfolds 8:30 Zee News: English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 Ek Aur Nazaria 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News: Hindi 11:00 The Ent. Show 11:30 Zee News: Round Up 12:00 The Women 12:30 Disha Samwad 1:00 Agenda: 2000 1:30 BQC 2:00 Zee News: Hindi 2:20 Zee Face To Face 2:30 Hum Zameen 3:00 Zee News: Hindi 3:30 Zee Count