

News

PM distributes awards among best UP, NGOs



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributing awards among best family welfare assistants, union parishads and field workers after the inauguration of World Population Day at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday distributed national awards among the best union parishads, family welfare assistants, non-government organisations at divisional level and mother and child-welfare centre (MCWC) at national level, for their contributions in respective fields in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The union parishads which received the award are: Birishairi Union of Netrakona district under Dhaka division, Haimchar Union of Chandpur district under Chittagong Division, Srirampur Union Parishad of Lalmonirhat under Rajshahi Division, Kathuli Union of Meherpur district under Khulna Division, Tobegi Union of Bhola district under Barisal and Rajhat Union Parishad of Moulvibazar district under Sylhet Division.



Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, offering munajat after laying the foundation stone of a new railway station in Sylhet on Saturday.

'Biotechnology can help revolutionise development in various fields'

By Staff Correspondent

Biotechnology has ushered in a tremendous prospect for marking the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

The lecture was attended by a large number of scientists, researchers, academicians and students. Eminent botanical scientist Prof Ahmed Shamsul Islam presided.

He said that scientists from both Bangladesh and India have been working on improving jute and rice varieties through genetic manipulation and stressed on the increased need to share their knowledge.

Delivering a lecture on "Biotechnology-Past, Present and Future" at the LGED Bhaban yesterday, the renowned cytogeneticist said that biotechnology may save the human race from the clasp of deadly cancer and help the 'green revolution' to gain momentum by increasing agricultural production.

Denouncing criticism that biotechnology is a threat to biodiversity, Prof Sharma said a lot of varieties can be produced by using biotechnological process and it is not a threat to nature since it is in harmony with the changes of nature.

Prof Islam said both Bangladesh and India could collaborate in producing Hepatitis B vaccine and sought Indian expertise to develop the five recently established tissue culture-based companies in Bangladesh.

He said that the hybridisation of plants, commercial production of human antibodies, nitrogen fixation, molecular documentation of crops and DNA finger-printing system are highly prospective ways of bringing about revolutionary changes in diversified fields.

Following the lecture, Prof Sharma gave answers to a number of queries from the audience.

Dr Sharma is a Professor of Botany at Calcutta University. He is a fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences (Italy) and the Indian Academy of Sciences. He has also led various national and international scientific organisations and was awarded various prestigious prizes, including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Padma Bhushan and Paul Broshi Memorial Medal.

Arranged by the High Commission of India in Dhaka, the lecture was held as part of the

Kim Jong moves to assume DPRK presidency

SEOUL, July 12: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on Sunday announced the district from which he will run in upcoming parliamentary elections, a move seen as preceding his rise to the president's office, reports AP.

Since the death of his father Kim Il Sung in 1994, the 56-year-old son has been running the Stalinist country as the supreme military commander and head of the ruling Workers Party.

Conference of imams held in Comilla

COMILLA, July 12: A conference of imams was held at district council auditorium today, reports BSS.

The conference was organised by Islamic Foundation, Comilla unit. State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Md Nurul Islam was present as the chief guest.

Director General Islamic Foundation Moulana Abdul Awal was special guest.

1000 Eritreans to be deported from Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, July 12: Ethiopia said on Saturday it had detained another 1,000 Eritreans who would be deported for subversion against their host country, reports Reuter.

Government spokesman Selome Tadesse said that those detained were members of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and it had been proved that they were engaged in subversion.

Nat'l seminar on 'industrial relations' begins in city today

A four-day national tripartite Seminar on 'Globalisation and Industrial Relations' will begin in the city from today, says a press release.

The main objective of the seminar will be to facilitate consensus building among senior trade union leaders, top employers and senior government officials on critical industrial relation issues such as privatisation, labour law reform, employment relations in the Export Processing Zone, minimum wage and problems facing the trade union movement in Bangladesh.

The seminar, organised by the Labour and Manpower Ministry and the International Labour Organisation, will include a panel discussion chaired by Dr. SA Malek, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister, former finance ministers M Syeduzzaman and Saifur Rahman, Farook Sobhan, Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment, SH Kabir, Chairman of Renata Ltd, and Chowdhury Mohammad Mohsin, Additional Secretary, ERD are expected to address the session.

Representative of WFP discuss dev programme with Muzammel

Representative of World Food Programme (WFP) in Bangladesh Dr Werner Kien called on State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Muzammel Hossain at his Secretariat office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues related to food assisted development programmes in Bangladesh including VGD programme.

The state minister highlighted the importance of the VGD programme for the rural poor women to enhance their social and economic condition. He said a total of 4.5 lakh poor women of the country are being assisted with a monthly food ration under the programme.

The state minister said these women also received training and credit to improve their social and economic condition in a sustainable way.

Dr Kien appreciated the role of the Ministry in improving the effectiveness of the VGD programmes and assured of continuing WFP assistance in future.

Razzak for smooth research work, planning to control flood

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday pleaded for smooth research work and planning to control recurring floods in the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Reliability Analysis for the Planning of Flood Control and Environment Conservation' at Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh.

Presided over by the chairman of Civil Engineering Department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the seminar was participated, among others, by former vice chancellor of the BUET, Prof M Shahjahan, Dr S I Khan and Dr M Firoz Ahmed.

Earlier, Dr Muhammad Mofizur Rahman presented the keynote paper on reliability analysis for the planning of flood control and environment conservation.

Chaining of boy condemned

Shishu Adhikar Sangjog (SAS), a child rights organisation, yesterday condemned the chaining of a nine-year-old boy Badal at the city's Nayabazar area.

In a statement the organisation said that the chaining of Badal was a gross violation of human rights.

The incident is also a violation of the rights of the child as envisaged in the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Bangladesh is a signatory, the statement added.

The organisation also urged the authority concerned to take necessary steps to ensure his release immediately.

Regarding preservation of environment, the minister said the government is planning to plant trees along the flood protection embankments.

He said there are differences of opinion among the engineers and environmental workers on the varieties of trees to be planted along the river banks and embankments.

Regarding dredging of the river beds, the minister said it is a costly matter for a poor country like Bangladesh. He asked the engineers to evolve ways and means for carrying out dredging activities at a cost within the limit of Bangladesh.

He joined the BUET as an assistant foreman instructor in 1966.

He was buried at his village home Saturday.

Razzak described floods in riverine Bangladesh as a blessing as well as curse for the people and said we shall have to live with floods.

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Taliban capture key city

ISLAMABAD, July 12: The Taliban militia today captured a key city in northern Afghanistan after heavy fighting with opposition troops loyal to ethnic Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam, a private Afghan news service reported, says AFP.

Islamic thinkers' call to attend July 15 grand rally

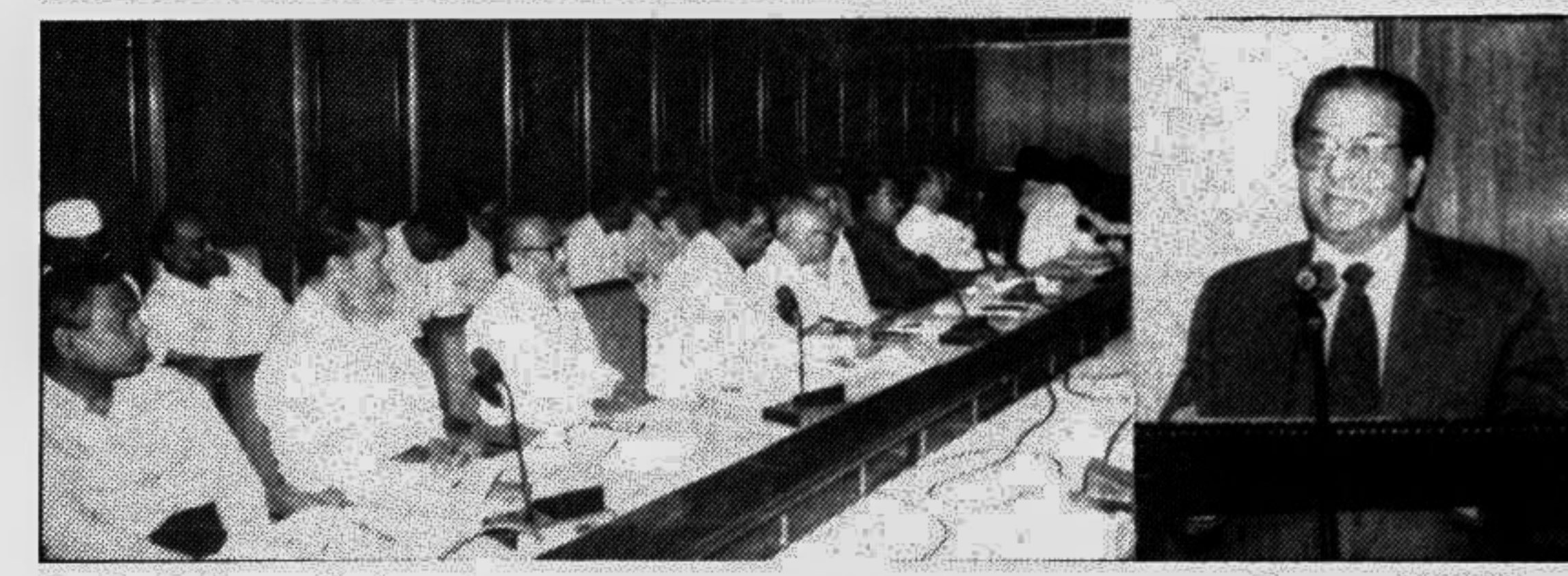
One hundred one renowned Islamic thinkers of the country yesterday urged the people of all spheres irrespective of a caste, creed and religion to attend the July 15 grand rally at the Falan Maidan where a civic reception will be accorded to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

The nation is grateful to the prime minister for her contributions in signing of the peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, holding of the national elections under a caretaker government, institutionalisation of democracy, establishment of parliamentary form of government, formation of a government of the national consensus and the signing of the water treaty on the Farakka, said the Islamic scholars.

The Islamic scholars urged the country's ulema, imams of the mosques and the Muslim devotees to join the July 15 peace rally to further consolidate the process of peace, and the national development and progress.



Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a rally as part of its Home Ministry gherao programme in the city yesterday.



Lutfur Rahman Sarker, Governor of Bangladesh Bank addressing a conference of divisional chiefs of Bangladesh Bank at the conference room of the bank yesterday.

The Daily Star TV Guide

Monday 13th July (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change)

BTV 3:00 Opening announcement. Al-Quran, Programme summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 My Little Fairy Tale 3:30 Sports programme 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Dosh-O-Biggan 4:45 Open University 5:25 Dolan Champa 6:00 Bansharee 6:30 Khabar 6:40 Programme of Chittagong Centre 7:25 Aiyatara 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Mini series: The Beast 11:00 Shipa Banijha 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:40 Tuesday's programme summary 11:45 Close down

BBC 8:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:40 USA Direct 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today 9:40 USA Direct 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: Earth Report: Kids Number 12:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Living: Future Fantastic: Brainstorm 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 BBC World News Followed by

Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machine: 4/6 5:00 The World Today 6:30 Wild World: The Natural World: The Call Of Kakadu 2/2 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: How Buildings Learn - Flow 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 Style 11:00 The World Today 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Focus: Window On Europe 2:00 BBC World News Inc World Business Report 2:10 World Business Report Followed by Weather 2:30 World Living: The Travel Show 3:00 BBC World News 3:10 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Business Report 4:45 Asia Today Followed by Weather 5:00 BBC World Headlines 5:05 USA Direct 5:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 5:30 World Living: Earth Report: Kids Number 7:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 7:30 Asia Today 7:40 World Business Report

CHANNEL V 6:30 Amped 7:00 Turn On TV 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T [V] 9:30 House Arrest 10:00 Turn On T [V] 1:30 By Demand VJ First 2:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 3:00 Channel [V] Out There 3:30 Turn On T [V] 4:30 Volume

Double 5:30 Turn On T [V] 6:30 By Demand VJ First 7:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 BPL Oye 9:30 Turn On T [V] 10:00 Liberty-First Day First Show 10:30 Hot Seat - Kajol 11:00 Turn On T [V] 11:30 Over the Edge 12:00 Turn On T [V] 2:30 By Demand VJ Trej 3:30 Turn On T [V] 4:00 Speak Easy 4:30 Simply South 5:00 Channel [V] Presents The Drum

STAR PLUS 6:00am Travel Asia 6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 The Trial Show 9:30 Bakeman's Coh La La 10:30 Living On The Edge 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 To The Manor Born 12:30 L A Law 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 3:00 Manziel 3:30 Swabhi-maan 4:00 Rahee Naye Naye 4:30 Bombay Times 5:00 WWF Shotgun Challenge 6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 6:30 Kohra 7:00 Tehkikaat 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Dress Circle 8:30 Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Saans 9:30 Star News 10:00 A Question of Answers 10:30 Heartbeat 11:30 A Mouthful of Sky 12:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 12:30 Star News 1:00 Newhart 1:30 The X Files 2:30 Fire 3:30 Charles Angels 4:30 Santa Barbara 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

PTV 8:00am TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/ HAMD/NAAT 8:20 CARTOON 8:30 KHABRAIN 8:45 Abb pata Challa 9:05 KHAT FARMAISH 9:20 Sargam Sargam 9:45 LAAJ-BIL-GHIZA PAKISTAN 10:05 Shab Daigh

STAR MOVIES 7:30am Family: The Case of the Witch Who Wasn't 9:30 Comedy: Young Frankenstein (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Film Club: Bitar

ZEE INDIA TV (For mer-EL TV) 7:00am Jag ran 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Zee Business 8:30 Zee News: Hindi 9:00 Fat or Fat 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:00 Question Hour 10:30 Naye Nagmen 11:00 Positive Health Show 11:30 Zee News Update 11:50 Zee Business News 12:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Haaseen Pal (Trailer) 1:00 The Tech Show 1:30 Zee News: Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Aap Ki Adalat: Aap Ki Faisala 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Teer Kaman 3:30 News Line 4:00 A shiana 4:30 Hum Honge Kamyab 5:00 Naye Nagme 5:30 Zee Hit 6:00 Funakshetra 7:00 Haaseen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 Disha Samwad 8:00 Zee Business Show 8:30 Zee News: English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 Best Of India 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:00 Agenda: 2000 10:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News: Hindi 11:00 Verdict 98 11:30 Zee News Round Up 12:00 The Ent Shows 12:30 Zee World 1:00 India Debates 1:30 BBC 2 Zee News: Hindi 2:20 Zee Face To Face 2:30 Positive Health Show 3:00 Zee News: Hindi 3:30 Ek Aur Nazariya 4:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W)

MUSIC ASIA 7:30am Aalaap 8:00 B & W Gems 8:30 All Time Hits (Hindi Songs) 9:00 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 9:30 Aalaap 10:00 All Time Hits 10:30 B & W Gems 11:00 Pehlu 11:30 B & W Gems 12:00 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 1:00 B & W Gems 1:30 Sham-

E-Gajal 2:00 Music News 2:30 Bajaj: Music Box (Trailer Show) 3:00 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 3:30 Bagpiper: Jharokha 4:00 Pop Busters 4:30 Bajaj: Music Box (Trailer Show) 5:00 All Time Hits 5:30 Bagpiper: Jharokha 6:00 B & W Gems 6:30 Music News: 6:45 Coca-Cola: World Premiere 7:30 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 8:00 Coca-Cola: World Premiere 8:30 Bagpiper: Jharokha 9:00 Bajaj: Music Box (Trailer Show) 9:30 Old Is Gold 10:00 Gaaya Ja 10:30 Bagpiper: Jharokha 11:00 Aalaap 12:30 All Time Hits 1:30 Jharokha

DD 7 10:30am Gaane Gaane 10:35 Daily Soap: Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Soap: Rajeshwari 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 12:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 TBA 1:00 Series: Asha 1:30 Simarekha (Serial): 2:00 Kushta Zakhan 2:30 Daily Soap: Oga Priyatama 3:00 Serial: Maha Prabhu 3:30 Serial: Abar Janani 4:00 Serial: Parama 5:05 Nepal Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Tarunde Janyan 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Janamabhumi (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinand 8:00 Serial: Priyatama 8:30 Serial: Surja Sman 9:00 Jannabhumi (Serial) 9:30 Daily Soap: Rajeshwari 10:00 Bengali Movie

Boss 10:30 Different Strok (Hindi Dub) 11:00 Bewitched 11:30 Zamana Badal Gai 12:00 TBA 12:30 Kahene Pe Kya Harz Hai 1:00 Aahat 1:30 Cine Clips 2:00 Who's The Boss 2:30 Serial: Shrikant (Sujata Mehta) 3:00 Humlog (Serial): 4:00 Cine Malene: Hindi Feature Film 7:00 Different Strok (Hindi Dub) 7:30 Bewitched 8:00 Cine Clips (Trailer Show) 8:30 Humse Barger Gog 9:00 Toofan Mail 9:30 Chamatkar 10:00 Thoda Hai Thoda Jarurat Hai 10:30 Movers & Shekher 11:00 Cine Hits 12:00 Hum Aap Ke Hai Countdown 12:30 Kahne Mai Kya Harz Hai 1:00 Indian Holiday: Travel Shows 1:30 Bhavay: 2:00 TBA / Indian Holiday: Travel Shows 2:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 3:00 Cine Nite Show: Hindi Feature Film

ZEE TV 6:00am Yadoon Ki Pal (B/W Songs) 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 Do Aur Do Paanch 8:30 Parampara 9:00 Disney Hour (Cartoon) 10:00 Ek Nazar 10:30 TVS Saregama 11:30 Dastaan 12:00 Jui... No Problem 12:30 Khana Khazana 1:00 Naye Nazare (Film Songs) 1:30 Daily Serial: Shanti 2:00 Hum Paanch (Rerun) 2:30 Campus (Rerun) 3:00 Aasha 3:30 Shantir 4:00 Amar Prem 4:30 Geet Gata Chal 5:00 Naya Dour 5:30 6:00 Palli Katha 6:00 Aur Ek Minute 6:30 Ek Nazar (Hindi Film Trailer) 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Jhootha Saach #P: 8:30 Cine Clips 10:00 Who's The

Cinhol: Jhalak (Trailer On Film) 9:30 Haad Kar Di #Ep: 1 (Drama Serial) 10:00 Mohandas BA LLB 11:00 Andaz #Ep: 199 11:30 The News 11:50 Zee Business/Cinhol: Jhalak (Trailer On Film) 12:00 Nirma Hum Paanch 12:30 Teacher 1:00 Chahat Aur Nafrat 1:30 Chandni #Ep: 45 2:00 ZEE Arabia: Zanjeeren #Ep: 28 (Serial) 2:30 Andaz #Ep: 199 / Hum Apke Hai...Woh! (Rpt) 3:00 Feature Film (B/W): Duniya Na Maane

STAR World (Northern) 6:30am Aerobics OZ Style 7:00 Fashion TV 7:30 Small Wonder 8:00 Batman 8:30 The Wonder Years 9:00 Molly Katzen's Cooking Show 9:30 Faulty Towers 10:00 Bergerac 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:30 Fashion TV 2:00 Faulty Towers 2:30 Molly Katzen's Cooking Show 3:00 Superman 3:30 Small Wonder 4:00 Batman 4:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 5:00 The Simpsons 7:00 The Wonder Years 6:00 Series: Due South 7:00 Series: Peak Practice 8:00 Series: The Ridge 9:00 Series: Santa Barbara 10:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 10:30 The Simpsons 11:00 Series: Due South 12:00 Series: Peak Practice 1:00 Series: The Ridge 2:00 All Creatures Great and Small 3:00 Bergerac 4:00 Aerobics OZ Style 4:30 Terry Toons

8:30 Perils of Penelope 9:00 Josie & Pussycat D 9:30 Drink The Little 10:00 Flinstione Kids onyx Series: Carl Grand Prix Of Cleveland 6:00 Sportscenter: International Edition 7:00 Racehorse Digest 7:30 Women's Pro Billiards 1998 WPBA Classic Tour 8:30 Knockout Night (ESPN2) 9:00 Motorsport Asia 9:30 Tour De France Stage #1 10:30 '98 USA National Wrestling Champs 11:30 Racehorse Digest

ZEE CINEMA 7:15am Saugandh 9:30 Zid 12:30 Baraat 4:00 Aankhen 7:15 Izzam (Govinda, Neelam) 9:00 Katha (Sabana Azmi, Nasiruddin Shah) 1:45 Aag Hi Aag 4:30 Ramu Ustad

STAR SPORTS 12:30 Pro-Box 2:30 Marathon Comrades: Marathon 1998 3:00 Golf Programming Crompton Greaves All-India Matchplay 3:30 Cricket Classic 4:30 Watersport World 5:30 Samsung Nationalities Cup 6:30 Australian Volleyball Federation 7:00 Pro-Box Master 9:00 Asian Football Show 10:00 Mobil Race Day 10:45 Formula One World Championship 1:00 Asia Sport Show 1:30 Marathon Comrades: Marathon 1998 1:30 Australian Volleyball Federation 2:00 Asian Festival Of Speed South East Asia Touring Car 3:00 International Motorsport News 4:00 Golf Programming Crompton Greaves All-India Matchplay 4:30 Trans World Sport 5:30 Australian Volleyball Federation 6:00 Golf Programming: European Golf Skills Challenge 7:00 Thai Kick Boxing 8:00 Sports Illustrated 8:30 SBK World Superbikes Championship 10:00 Formula One Boat Racing F1 UIM Powerboat World Cup 10:30 PGA Tour Golf Quad City Classic-2 Hr.

ESPN 2:00am Inside Drag Racing 2:30 Horseshow Jumping Festival Of Champions 3:30 Sportscenter: International Edition 4:00 Tour De France Stage #1 5:00 ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball San Francisco Giants vs Colorado Rockies Live 8:00 European Football Weekly 9:00 '98 USA National Wrestling Champs 10:00 Sportscenter: International Edition 10:30 Tour De France Stage #1 11:30 World Cycling Surfing Of Hawaii 12:00 Asian X Games Qualifiers 1:30 PBA Basketball: PBA Commissioner's Cup: Game 7 3:00 Tour