

PICK OF THE WEEK



Our Choice

Vanity Fair (IMDb rating 6.2)
On HBO, January 28 at 09:30pm
Directed by Mira Nair
Genre: Drama/Romance
Reese Witherspoon, James Purefoy, Natasha Little, Eileen Atkins, Jim Broadbent
The British Empire flowers; exotic India colours English imaginations. Becky Sharp, the orphaned daughter of a painter and a singer, leaves a home for girls to be a governess, armed with pluck, a keen wit, good looks, fluent French, and an eye for social advancement. Society tries its best to keep her from climbing.



The Sport

India Tour of Pakistan
Allianz Cup
3rd Test
Live from Karachi
On Ten Sports
January 29-February 02 at 10:45am



The Movie

Snatch (IMDb rating 8.0)
On Star Movies, February 01 at 10:25pm
Directed by Guy Ritchie
Genre: Comedy/Crime/Thriller
Jason Statham, Stephen Graham, Alan Ford, Brad Pitt, Benicio Del Toro
Turkish, an unlicensed boxing promoter is pulled into trouble when he becomes involved with big time criminal Brick Top, who wants him to "fix" a fight. Meanwhile, a diamond theft goes down but the 84 karat stone goes missing. This leads Avi, the boss who was supposed to receive the stone, to come to England to search for it, with the help of his cousin, Doug the Head and Bullet Tooth Tony.

Satellite TV



The Italian Job (IMDb rating 6.9)
On HBO, January 29 at 10:30pm
Directed by F Gary Gray
Genre: Adventure/Action/Crime/Thriller
Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron, Donald Sutherland, Edward Norton, Jason Statham
A gang of robbers, lead by career criminal Charlie Croker, create the largest traffic jam in Los Angeles history, giving them time to pull off a theft of gold bullion. They get away in their Mini Coopers, which are small enough to drive on sidewalks so they can make a clean get away before the traffic jam clears.



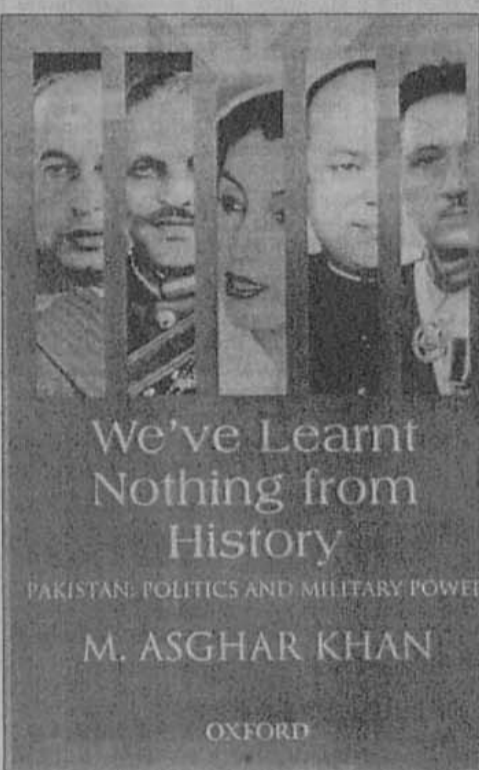
Something's Gotta Give (IMDb rating 6.8)
On HBO, January 30 at 09:30pm
Directed by Nancy Meyers
Genre: Comedy/Romance/Drama
Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Keanu Reeves, Frances McDormand, Amanda Peet
Harry Langer is an aged music industry exec with a fondness for younger women like Marin, his latest trophy girlfriend. Things get a little awkward when Harry suffers a heart attack at the home of Marin's mother Erica. Left in the care of Erica and his doctor, a love triangle starts to take shape.



Rising Sun (IMDb rating 6.0)
On Star Movies, January 31 at 10:25pm
Directed by Philip Kaufman
Genre: Crime/Drama/Mystery/Thriller/Action
Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, Tia Carrere, Steve Buscemi, Tatjana Patz
Police detective Web Smith is called in to investigate the death of a professional mistress at a party at a Japanese corporation office. Before getting there, he gets instructions from a caller to pick up former police captain and Japanese affairs expert John Connor. On their arrival, Web thinks that everything is obvious but Connor tells him that there's a lot more going on. Connor discovers that the woman was kept by Eddie Sakamura, the son of a man Connor knew in Japan. And while Web thinks that they should bring Eddie in, Eddie asks Connor for some time to prove his innocence.

Books

We've Learnt Nothing from History
Pakistan: Politics and Military Power
M Asghar Khan
Price: Tk 675.00
In this book, the author presents an insider's view of Pakistan's struggle for democracy from the 1960s to the present. The book expounds on the early entry of Pakistan's armed forces into the country's politics and the author's opposition to military rule that began in 1968 with the movement for the restoration of democracy. This movement resulted in the ouster of President Muhammad Ayub Khan in 1969 after eleven years of military rule. The author describes his continued opposition to autocratic and dictatorial rule, especially General Yahya Khan's policy of brutal suppression through military action in East Pakistan. He also recounts his strong criticism of the General's refusal to hand over power to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League, winners of the first-ever free and fair general elections held in Pakistan. The author recalls Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's rise to political power during the 1970s, and General Ziaul Haq's dogmatic and iron-fisted military rule during the 1980s, and elaborates on some pertinent features of Pakistan's domestic and international situation.



There and Back Again
A Diplomat's Tale
KM Shehabuddin, Price: Tk 525.00
On the night of March 25, 1971 KM Shehabuddin, a young Pakistan Foreign Service officer, was posted in Delhi. The news that filtered in from East Pakistan led him to renounce his allegiance to Pakistan and pledged loyalty to the unborn state of Bangladesh. The first career diplomat to join the war—even before the formation of the Mujibnagar Government—he became the first head of Bangladesh's Delhi mission. From April to October 1971, he played a leading role on the diplomatic front of the liberation war. Shehabuddin was also able to witness at first-hand India's participation in the liberation war.

Promoting the Rural Non-farm Sector in Bangladesh
The World Bank, Price: Tk 500.00
Promoting the Rural Non-farm Sector in Bangladesh reviews the role of non-farm sector in fostering economic growth and reducing rural poverty in Bangladesh during the last decade. The report evaluates the potential for future growth in the non-farm activities and examines the critical constraints to such growth focusing on sectoral, distributional and spatial issues such as the development of agricultural value chain, growth of rural towns and peri-urban areas, enhancement of productive efficiency of micro, small and medium enterprises, and access of the poor to better rewarding non-farm jobs. The report outlines some options for promoting growth of the rural non-farm sector in Bangladesh.

Source: University Press Limited, Ph: 9565441, 9565444, E-mail: upl@bangla.net



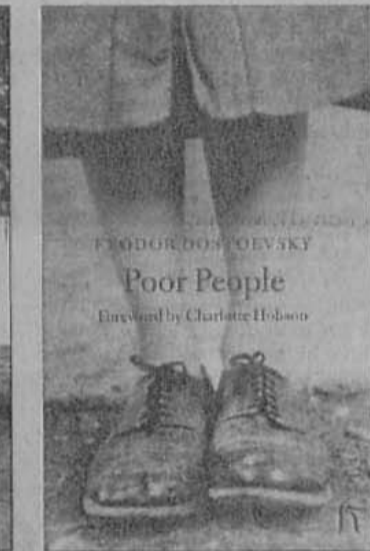
The Book of the Virgins
Gabriele D'Annunzio, Price: Tk 500.00
A spinster lies dying of typhus, her Virgin body shrivelled and corrupted by disease. The priest performs extreme unction—no hope is held out for recovery. But Giuliana does not die, and gradually her life returns: first a ravenous hunger, then a repairing of the flesh, finally a total spiritual renewal. She is left a newborn adult, sensually aware, all taste for her past chaste life gone; but this new hypersensitivity, coupled with a complete sexual innocence, heralds an awakening of tragic proportions. *The Virgins* is the first of four stories, all of which deal with themes of repressed sensuality and sexual transgression.



Prophecies
Leonardo da Vinci, Price: Tk 500.00
Leonardo da Vinci is renowned throughout the world as the creator of beautiful works of art. Few know him as a writer. Yet his literary work—prophecies, aphorisms, fables and thoughts—reveal the extent and texture of his musings on mankind, nature and the divine. Containing writing of a phenomenal style and tone, Leonardo's Prophecies is a rare and fascinating reflection of the mental life of one of the world's greatest artists. As Giuseppe Pontiggia remarked, 'Antiquity left us with fragments of works. Leonardo left us a work of fragments.'

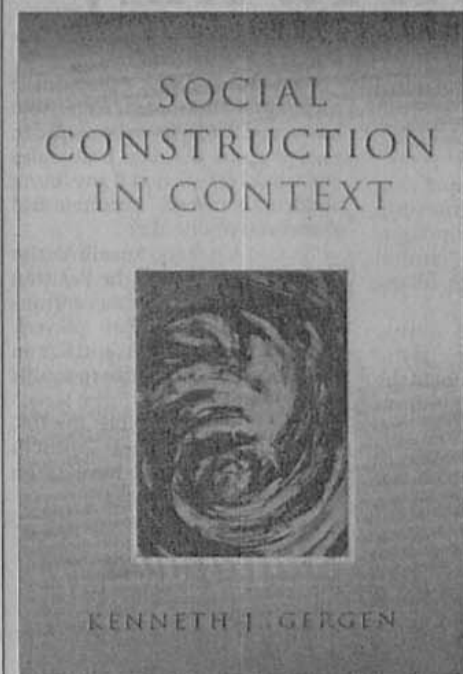


The Fox
DH Lawrence, Price: Tk 500.00
Banford and March live and work together on their meagre farm, surviving hardship only by sheer determination and dedicated labour. The farm is their world and a place of safety—that is, until a young soldier walks in and upsets the women's delicate status quo. Where once their biggest fear had been that the local fox would carry off their chickens, now with the boy comes a new threat. Full of his own ideas for the future of the farm, he conspires to employ all his powers of persuasion to make the women agree. Banford is determined to resist; but for March, the boy and the fox become one.



Poor People
Fyodor Dostoevsky, Price: Tk 500.00
Written as a series of letters, poor people tells the tragic tale of a petty clerk and his impossible love for a young girl. Longing to help her and change her plight, he sells everything he can, but his kindness leads him only into more desperate poverty, and ultimately into debauchery. As the object of his desire looks sadly and helplessly on, he—the typical 'man of the underground'—becomes more and more convinced of the belief that happiness can only be achieved with riches. There is a troubled, frustrated love that can only lead to sorrow.

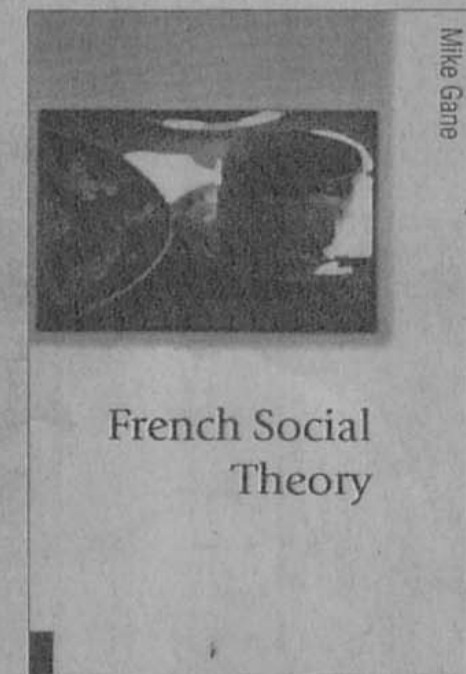
Source: Book Film Music (a Pathak Shamabesh branch), 411 Gulshan, Tejgaon Link Road (Fu-Wang Bowling Club building), Phone: 9861003, Mobile: 0173034440; e-mail: pathak@bol-online.com



Social Construction in Context
Kenneth J Gergen, Price: Tk 3500.00
This latest book, by one of the world's leading theorists in social constructionism, will be welcomed not only by psychologists but by students, academics and professionals across a wide range of disciplines. *Social Construction in Context* explores the potentials of social constructionist theory in diverse intellectual and practical contexts. It illustrates the achievements of social constructionist ideas across the social sciences and humanities and within practices of therapy, education and organizational development. It also demonstrates how a constructionist orientation can illuminate various aspects of cultural life. This book examines both the positive potentials and the limitations of social constructionist ideas when applied to a variety of domains. Written in an accessible and scholarly manner, it is suitable for a wide-ranging readership.



Commodifying Bodies
Edited by Nancy Scheper-Hughes & Loïc Wacquant, Price: Tk 3500.00
Increasingly the body is a possession that does not belong to us. It is bought and sold, bartered and stolen, marketed wholesale or in parts. The professions—especially reproductive medicine, transplant surgery, and bioethics but also journalism and other cultural specialists—have been pliant partners in this accelerating commodification of live and dead human organisms. Under the guise of healing or research, they have contributed to a new 'ethic of parts' for which the divisible body is severed from the self, torn from the social fabric, and thrust into commercial transaction—as organs, secretions, reproductive capacities, and tissues—responding to the dictates of an incipiently global marketplace.



French Social Theory
Mike Gane, Price: Tk 3500.00
Providing the most satisfactory, provocative and up-to-date account of modern French social thought available, this book details how the current fin-de-cycle situation has its roots in the founding period of modern sociology at the birth of the social. The book provides a new and challenging account of French social theory from the aftermath of the French Revolution (St Simon, Bazard and Comte) to the contemporary scene dominated by Kristeva, Deleuze, Bourdieu and Baudrillard. It divides French social theory into three logically coherent cycles: 1800-1880 (the first developments of sociology); 1880-1940 (classical sociology and the birth of modern anthropology); 1940-2000 (the development of Marxist social theory). Each cycle reveals a trajectory through secular towards religious thought.

Source: Pathak Shamabesh Phone: 9662766, Mobile: 0172590129; e-mail: pathak@bol-online.com

CDs, DVD



A Man Called Horse (1970)
Directed by Elliot Silverstein
Cast: Richard Harris, Judith Anderson, Jean Gascon, Manu Tupou, Corinna Tsopei
Price: Tk 120.00
In 1825, John Morgan, an English aristocrat, is captured by a tribe of Sioux Indians. Hoping to save his own life by proving his worth, Morgan undergoes the long, painful Sun Vow ritual, where he is hung in a tree by the flesh of his chest. This film, which paints a very detailed portrait of the Sioux customs and lifestyle, spawned two sequels: *Return of a Man Called Horse* and *Triumphs of a Man Called Horse*.

Out of Africa (1985)
Directed by Sydney Pollack
Cast: Meryl Streep, Robert Redford, Klaus Maria Brandauer, Michael Kitchen
Price: Tk 120.00
A study of the life of Danish noblewoman and storyteller Karen ('Isak') Dinesen Blixen, from her marriage and departure for Kenya in 1913 until her return to Denmark in 1931. As she struggles to maintain a coffee farm through various struggles and disasters, and strives to improve relations with the local natives, her marriage of convenience to a titled aristocrat gradually gives way to an enduring romance with the noted hunter.



Mona Lisa Smile (2003)
Directed by Mike Newell
Cast: Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst
Price: Tk 120.00



Gunner Palace
Directed by Petra Eperlein
Price: Tk 120.00
The film reveals the complex realities of the situation in Iraq not seen on the news. Told firsthand by the troops, it presents a thought-provoking portrait of a dangerous and chaotic war that is personal, highly emotional, sometimes disturbing, surprisingly amusing and thoroughly fascinating.



Helo Chairman Saab
Directed by Naresh Bhuiyan
Cast: mahfuz Ahmed, Tarin, Sadek Bachchu, Lucky Inam



My Architect
A Son's Journey
Directed by Nathaniel Kahn
Price: Tk 120.00



The Merchant of Four Seasons
Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder
Cast: Irm Hermann, Hans Hirschmüller, Hanna Schygulla, Klaus Löwitsch, Ingrid Caven
Price: Tk 130.00
The film tells the story of Hans, a street fruit peddler and born loser. His choice of career upsets his bourgeois family, causing him to turn to drinking and violence.



Khonik Bashonto (2 parts)
Directed by Ahmed Sharif
Cast: Indrani Halder, Mahfuz Ahmed, Ahmed Sharif, Mehrun Ahmed, Nazrul Koreshi

Source: Laser Vision, 32 Sonargaon Road, Parkgate, Ph: 8622425, 9676191, 018949059