

RECOMMENDATIONS

Audio CD launching

August 16
Renowned Tagore singer Kaderia Kibria's audio cassette and CD album 'Din-er sheshey' gets launched at Hotel Purbani in the city at 5:30 p.m. It is produced by Tonatuni Productions. Kaderia Kibria returned home from The United States after twenty years.

Poetry reading

August 17
17BC, an international poetry group holds an evening of English Poetry Recital at Bengal Shipalaya from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Poet Shamsur Rahman, Poet Kaiser Haq, and Poet Sudeep Sen will be present on the occasion. Its open to all.

Australian Film Festival

August 15-16
Australian High Commission in Bangladesh hosts an Australian film festival on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh. A total of ten films, of different lengths, will be screened at the British Council auditorium in the city. Free passes are available at the British Council office.

Sculpture exhibition

August 12-28
A sculpture exhibition of artist Ferdousi Priyobhansini continues at Bengal art gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition runs everyday from 12:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Dance Festival

September 15-17
A dance festival is to be organised by Nitya Dhara, a local dance institution, at the auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum at Shaahbagh in the city that will be participated by over 100 dancers from across the country including tribal performers from Marna, Santal, Pankho, Chakma and Manipuri communities.
A seminar on the trend and status of Bangladeshi folk dance will also be held during the three-day session that will be attended by reputed dance artists, instructors, critics and cultural personalities from across the country.

Puppet show

Hand Puppetry - a new venture in cultural quests

Center for Asian Theater holds hand puppet show at the Goethe Institut

AZIZ AMIRUL

WHAT could be another of those usual cultural events, turned out, instead, to be an extravaganza in puppet theatre that provided immense amusement for a large group of the audience, comprising of children and adults who were present at the auditorium of Goethe-Institut at Dhanmondi in the city on August 13. This was to witness a hand-puppetry show performed by the members of Center for Asian Theatre (CAT).

Performers of the theatrical troupe demonstrated some relatively newer methods of puppet handling through their innovative home-grown technical, rather, manual advancements. The puppets, glued on top of long hand-held sticks, appeared almost 'alive' on stage as those received apt maneuvering from 'players' behind curtain backstage. The puppetry experts lent their voices through necessary dialogues at a theatrical play. A narrator adorned in colourful costumes, described through rhythmic songs, various situations and developments of the depicted plot. He was assisted by a couple of instrumental musicians and a percussionist who were too, was present on stage.

The play titled, 'Al Amin', the name of a young boy, revealed a quite common yet dreadful plight of children of our society who are almost routinely smuggled out to Gulf countries by racketeers in exchange of large amounts of foreign currency. The children, in most cases, are being forced to work as camel jockeys whose job assignments have been forcing them to ride on backs of racing camels from where they have often fallen to death, and finally being trampled under the hoofs of the desert animals.

Al-Amin, the fictitious character of young boy in the play have been shown trafficked to a country in the Middle East and forced to work as a camel jockey where he apparently met a tragic end of his life, after a



Hand puppetry is a new concept in local culture

nasty fall. As the synopsis revealed, Al-Amin was a good student but his poor parents had failed to provide him with a comfortable life. Mannan Miah, a sly and deceitful villager, who soon turned out to be a professional child trafficking pimp, promised to alter Al Amin's life into a bright one but instead took the boy to a far away land in the desert kingdom. The father handed Al-Amin over to the pimp, though the mother was against the arrangement. Instead of being sent to the boarding school, Al-Amin had been sold to a second middle-man in India, who, in turn, made money by re-selling the boy to a Karachi dweller. Al-Amin eventually ended

up as a camel jockey in the Middle-East and never returned home.

Al-Amin was made with a number of purposes, firstly, to raise awareness among slum dwellers of the city against child trafficking as well as entertaining them, an approach commonly referred to as theatre-in-education. In addition to raising awareness on trafficking, the play also comprised of other elements aimed at decreasing negative attitude of the common mass on respective issues in the society.

The theatrical puppet production also contributed in raising awareness on the importance of education and literacy of guardians in



Lyrical narration gives extra boost to puppet show

order to understand problems better and to make the best out of one's own situation and to take adequate care of the family. The plot of the production also highlighted on the equal sharing of decisions between husband and wife about children's future. The message of maintaining a small family with lesser number of children also came up as due to a large family and increasing pressure of feeding numerous mouths, Al Amin's parents failed to raise their children properly, hence, sent Al Amin to some unknown destination for earning bread.

Center for Asian Theatre (CAT) produced Al-Amin after a script was made into a theatrical drama by performers of a workshop conducted under the coordination of Kamaluddin Nilu, Secretary General and Artistic Director of CAT. This was an experimental theatre work mixed with puppet maneuvering as well as live performance.

"Our hand puppet production is a result of a fresh innovation and implementation of one of the easiest technical planning", said Kamaluddin Nilu, while he elaborated on the hand puppetry topic. As Nilu further mentioned, Bangladesh has had puppet traditions since early times in rural areas and it received further boost through modern-day exposure by puppet experts like Mustafa Monwar and others. However, the new kind of hand puppets, created by CAT members seemed to be the most handy type of toys those could be carried from place to place and performed live along with combination of human narrators under almost every circumstance, in slum areas, schools, streets and other locations. Making of these puppets also meant very little expenditure.

Future plans of CAT involving Hand Puppet Theatre included new productions with fresh themes alongside performance before cross-section of audience across the country, for the betterment of the society.

Event

Moisture, passion, wet-earth and skin

Bengal Foundation's publication debut with Sudeep Sen and Mahmud's lyrical and well crafted book, Monsoon

SAIFUL ISLAM

SUDEEP Sen's *Monsoon*, with its fluid poetic prose, illustrated by Mahmud's striking photographs was recently published by the Bengal Foundation. After years of working for the advancement of fine arts and music in Bangladesh, the Bengal Foundation has come up with a laudable new initiative of publishing. From now on, the foundation will also provide an outlet for established and emerging writers of Bangladesh and Bengali themes.

In the publisher's note in the colophon, the Bengal Foundation

discover new things through Sudeep Sen's insights; make us contemplative, as in the chapter 'Knowledge, Need'. The titles of other chapters like the one cited above, are clever and impregnated with meaning and allusions. The two-word titles of the chapters throughout are double-edged in themselves. But in some cases, as in the chapter 'Heavy Metal', the title is foreboding the text that follows here talks about the misery of the lives of ship-breakers in Chittagong's eerie dockyards.

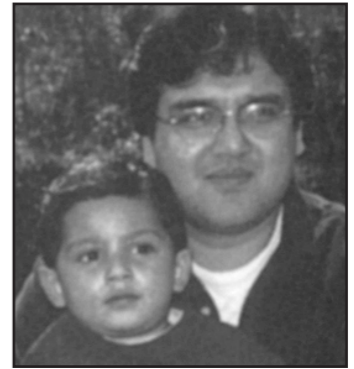
The intimate shape of the book is classy and reader-friendly. The

ory of languorous expectations that takes me back to the monsoons I once knew. This little book is a marvellous multi-media production, a book that is a seamless transition between prose and photos."

The writer, Sudeep Sen, was born in New Delhi in 1964. He has written and edited over twenty books, including *Postmarked India: New and Selected Poems* (HarperCollins), which was awarded the Hawthornden Fellowship (UK) and nominated for a Pushcart Prize (USA). He has written for numerous prestigious publications, among others, the *Times Literary Supplement*.



Cover of the book



Poet Sudeep Sen with his son



Photographer Mahmud

state: "In *Monsoon*, two Bengals from the two Bengals, across two countries have powerfully created much more with their beautifully quiet and controlled gestures, than what is achieved through politics and clever diplomacy." ÉÉÉ

Both Sudeep Sen and Mahmud seem preoccupied with rain with its whimsical lyricism, its moisture, its beauty and treachery. In this beautiful new book, the metaphors draw our sight towards rain and charge our senses with objects such as a rain-drenched bursting stamen that titillates the powders of the pollens. Monochromatic photographs are juxtaposed with sensuous lines, as precise poetic prose drizzles with provocation.

Even though some scenes and stories in the book are not entirely unfamiliar to those who know the rain it is the way they are presented, in their exquisite prose and design, that they make us stop on each page and lead us to ponder and think. We

artistic collaborator the writer Sudeep Sen and the photographer Mahmud are perhaps inspired by Plato's dictum: "Beauty of style and harmony and grace and good rhythm depend on simplicity". This extract is appropriately printed as an epilogue on the last page of the book.

Dr Firdous Azim, a well-known literary critic and scholar, writes in her response to this book: "Kneedeep in mud, soaked in rain, going through pot-holes that's what we are experiencing at present. Put on the TV and you are faced with news-items that talk about the haze that is covering South Asia, resulting in droughts in other parts and floods in ours. Who cares for the monsoon any longer? It was in such a mood that I opened the new book *Monsoon*, a composition of lyrical prose and lyrical photo images. The fluidity of the prose as it merges with that of the black and white photographs evokes a nostalgic feeling, a mem-

ment, *Guardian, Independent, Harvard Review*, and BBC. He lives and works in Dhaka, New Delhi, and London.

The photographer, Mahmud, was born in Assam in 1961, but grew up in Dhaka. He co-founded MAP, the first co-operative photo agency in Bangladesh, of which he is still an integral member. His first book of black and white photographs, *Our World: Women in Bangladesh* was published in Dhaka in 2000. He divides his time between Bangladesh and Nepal.

Monsoon is "a beautiful and inspiring treasure of a book", and it ought to be a matter of great honour and celebration for the writer Sudeep Sen that it is endorsed boldly in the beginning by the 1992 Nobel Prize winning poet Derek Walcott: "At the end of this sentence, rain will begin".

[*Monsoon* is available at 'Arunya', 60 Kemal Ataturk Avenue Banani.]

TV GUIDE

BTV

- 8:30 a.m. Opening
- 8:35 Alor poetry
- 9:00 News
- 9:05 Sports
- 9:30 Sushtho thakun
- 10:00 The News
- 10:05 Children's news
- 10:10 Drama serial
- 10:40 Naton kuri
- 11:00 News headline
- 12:00 p.m. News headline
- 12:15 Azan
- 3:10 News headline
- 3:15 Patriotic songs
- 3:20 Bangla feature film
- 4:00 News headline
- 4:30 Akjer shongbadpotro
- 5:00 News
- 5:45 Pustitthooya
- 6:00 News
- 6:10 Cartoon
- 6:35 Chittagong BTV
- 7:00 News headline
- 7:05 Malancha
- 7:30 Drama serial
- 8:00 News
- 8:30 Songs
- 9:00 News headline
- 9:05 Saptadina
- 10:00 News at ten
- 10:25 Samakalin Orthoniti
- 10:30 Boi potro
- 11:30 News
- 11:45 Clsoing
- 12:00 EKUSHEY
- 12:05 Ekushey Middays
- 12:20 Patrikay Ei Shoptaho
- 12:40 Islami Song
- 1:00 Interval
- 2:00pm Ekushey Headlines
- 2:05 When Century Was Young
- 2:15 E Shoptaher Bishsho
- 2:35 Classic Cartoons
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Bangla Film: Bondhon
- 3:30 Gillette World Special
- 4:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 4:05 Serial: Alif Laila
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Mukto Khobor
- 7:30 Ekushey Shongbad
- 8:00 Ekushey News
- 8:05 Adventure Bangladesh
- 8:40 Ganer Hat
- 9:00 Shukrobarer Natak: Nivreatto Nebas
- 10:00 News : Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Surma Parer Gaan
- 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News
- 11:30 Ei Shoptaho
- 12:00 Ekushey Headlines

ATN BANGLA

- 5:30 Islamic Prog
- 7:00 Islamic Prog: Sundor Jeebaner Jannee
- 7:35 Film based prog: Cine Magazine
- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 Music prog: Music Time
- 9:00 Mage Serial "Kun Semanay Mukte"
- 9:35 Talk show : Samokalin Prosongo
- 10:10 Reporting prog : Prekha Pot
- 10:50 Drama serial : Khusha
- 11:50 Islamic prog.
- 12:00 ATN Bangla News
- 3:30 Bengali feature film : Buker Don
- 6:07 Children prog : Cholo Gan Gai
- 6:45 Viewers opinion prog : Motamot
- 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:35 Mage serial: Mohine
- 8:10 Film Songs: Meril Tumar Janne Gan
- 8:45 Musical prog: Bether Sraon
- 9:20 Drama : Abahese
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Musical prog : Star Search
- 11:15 Bengali Feature Film : Paharadar
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News
- 12:00 HBO
- 7:00 Rag and Bone
- 8:45 Piranha II: The Spawning
- 10:45 Alive
- 1:15 Scent Of A Woman
- 4:15 Mr Money
- 6:00 Mr Jones
- 8:15 Rattled
- 10:00 The Last Supper
- 11:45 Cabin By The Lake
- 1:45 Truman
- 4:30 Alive
- 12:30a.m. Pacific Heights
- 3:30 Maiden Voyage
- 4:30 Fever
- 6:30 Finders Fee
- 9:15 Simian Line
- 10:00 Murder In The First
- 12:15p.m. Pacific Heights
- 2:00 Maiden Voyage
- 3:30 Houseguest
- 5:15 Here On Earth
- 7:00 Supremova
- 8:30 Maze
- 10:30 Simian Line
- 12:30a.m. 100 Girls
- 1:30 STAR PUPS
- 7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmein Hit

- 9:30 Sangeet
- 10:10 Fox Kids Daily
- 10:25 Hit Geet
- 10:30 Kyu Film Kya Geet
- 11:00 Small Wonder
- 11:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
- 11:30 Meri Saheli
- 12:00 Shanti
- 12:30 Hit Filmein Hit
- Sangeet
- 1:00 Kalash
- 1:25 Film Toopers
- 1:30 Eena Meena Deeka
- 2:00 TBA
- 2:30 Star Bestseller
- 3:00 Lat Train to Mahakali
- 3:30 Kashmakash
- 4:00 Jubilee Plus
- 4:30 Krishna Sharma CA
- 5:00 Kora Kaagaz
- 5:30 Hit Filmein Hit
- Sangeet
- 6:00 Small Wonder
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:10 Aaj Ki Baat
- 7:25 Kyu Film Kya Geet
- 7:30 Ghanwal Uparwali
- 7:55 Film Toppers
- 8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:30 Kyu Masti Kyu Dhuum
- 9:30 Khulja Sim Sim
- 10:30 Sssh... Koi Hai
- 11:30 Avinash IPS
- 12:00 Film Toppers
- 12:05 Aaj Ki Baat
- STAR GOLD
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Navrang
- 11:00 Bollywood Beats
- 11:30 Ikka Pe Ikka
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Anuraag
- 7:00 Bollywood Beats
- 7:30 Shaandaar
- Shukrawaar Laila
- Majnu
- 11:30 Avtaar
- STAR WORLD
- 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 8:00 MacGyver
- 9:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
- 10:00 Angel
- 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 12:00 NYPD Blue
- 1:00 Caroline In The City
- 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 2:00 Hollywood Squares
- 2:30 Family Ties
- 3:00 Baywatch
- 4:00 The Simpsons
- 4:30 Cheers
- 5:00 Star News Asia
- 5:30 Friends
- 6:00 Worlds Wildest
- 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 8:00 MacGyver
- 9:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer
- 10:00 Angel
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- 3:00 Baywatch
- 4:00 The Simpsons
- 4:30 Cheers
- 5:00 Star News Asia
- 5:30 Friends
- 6:00 Worlds Wildest
- 7:00 Police Videos

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- 9:05 p.m. **Saptadina**. Tanvir Rana and Rajin Ovi, two brothers, present jugobandi raag song in the program that also comprises of a wide range of other topics. Performance of the brothers has duration of five minutes. They prove that rich raag songs can also provide immense entertainment.
- 6:10 p.m. **Music Plus**. The forthcoming episode of the program presents a wide variety of musical items including new releases of song albums in audio and CD, interviews, latest music based news, and particularly, a song, 'Mon jodi chaey', rendered by upcoming artist Rumana Islam from her album 'Jodi aar dekha na hoy', produced by Tonatuni.

PICK OF THE DAY

- 12:00 **The Last Supper**
- On HBO at 10:00 p.m.
- Every Sunday, a group of five college buddies invite a guest over, and exchange views on various topics. When a heated discussion during one of these gatherings leads to the death of a racist visitor, it gives the quintet a warped idea: why not have an undesirable over each week -- and then kill and bury him!

- 2:00 Pratibimba
- 2:30 Aaj Kaal Parsur Galpo
- 5:00 Gaan Unltd.
- 5:30 Ingit
- 6:00 News In Bengali
- 6:30 Bideshini Bodhu
- 7:00 Shyaola
- 7:30 Mon Niye
- 7:25 Swartaal-Exposure
- 8:00 Pratibimba
- 8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 9:10 Chena Mukher Shari
- 9:50 Chokh
- 10:30 News In Bengali
- 11:00 Ingit
- 11:30 Nayanlara
- 12:00 Shyaola
- ZEE CINEMA
- 7:30 Taqdeer Ka Tamasha
- 10:30 Do Phool (Ashok Kumar, Aruna Irani)
- 1:30 Swarg Narak (Jeetendra, Mousami Phool Bane Angaarey (Rajnikant, Rekha)
- 6:00 Barsaat (Bobby Deol, Twinkle Khanna)
- ZEE MGM
- 9:00 Millennium
- 11:30 Doctor at Sea
- 2:00 Separate Ways
- 4:00 Secret Admirer
- 7:00 California Casanova
- 9:30 Number one Fan
- ZEE MUSIC
- 6:30 Zee Music Box
- 7:30 Sizzlers
- 8:00 Zee Music Box
- 8:30 Dil Se
- 9:00 Sizzlers
- 9:30 Hit Pit Hit
- 10:30 Hit Mix
- 11:00 Zee Music Plus
- 12:00 Dialogue
- 1:30 Hit Pit Hit
- 2:30 Zee Music Box
- 3:30 Jharokha
- 4:30 Tara Rum
- 5:30 Just Jammin
- 6:30 Zee Music Plus
- 7:30 Dialogue
- 8:30 Hit mix
- 9:30 Zee Music Plus
- 10:30 Compact Disc
- 7:30 Zee Music Plus
- 8:30 RAAAH
- 9:30 First Take/Sizzlers
- 10:30 Dil Se
- 11:00 Jharokha
- 11:30 Zee Music Plus
- 12:00 Phonnren Maal
- HALL MARK
- 6:00 Nurses on the Line
- 8:00 Journey Of The Heart
- 10:00 The Young Riders
- 1:00 Touched by an Angel
- 2:00 Sesame Street
- 3:00 Scholastic Clifford
- 3:30 Cailou
- 4:00 The Young Riders
- 5:00 Star Trek: Voyager
- 6:00 Touched by an Angel

- 7:00 Taking A Chance On Love
- 9:00 Star Trek: Voyager
- 10:00 The Inspectors
- 12:00 Steve Martin's Undue Influence
- ANIMAL PLANET
- 7:00 Animal Doctor
- 7:30 World of Horses
- 8:00 The Aquanauts
- 8:30 Animal Planet Safari
- 9:30 Weird N Wonderful Friday
- 11:00 The Jeff Corwin Experience
- 12:00 Vets on the Wild Side
- 12:30 Animal Hospital
- 1:00 Vet's School
- 1:30 Wild Rescues
- 2:00 Champions of the Wild IV
- 2:30 Cats
- 3:00 Animal Planet Safari
- 4:00 Animal Doctor
- 4:30 Weird N Wonderful Friday
- 6:00 Shark Gordon
- 6:30 O'Shea's Big Adventure
- 7:00 Vets on the Wild Side
- 7:30 World of Horses
- 8:00 Animal Planet Safari
- 9:00 Savage Wilderness
- 10:00 Animal Doctor II
- 10:30 Weird N Wonderful Friday
- 12:00 Shark Gordon
- DISCOVERY
- 7:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 8:30 Wild Discovery
- 9:30 Lonely Planet V
- 10:30 Friday Showcase
- Woman's Hour : A Makeover Story
- 1:00 Diet Bustlers
- 1:30 Wild Discovery
- 2:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 3:30 Discovery Kids : So You Want To Be? Action Zone : History of Football
- 5:30 Lonely Planet V
- 6:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 7:30 Family Time : Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Friday Showcase
- 10:30 Discovery Civilisation
- 11:30 After Midnight
- 12:00 Casino Diaries
- SONY
- 6:30 Music Mantra
- 7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Khol
- 7:30 Amrit Varsha
- 8:00 Sant AsaramVani
- 8:30 Charbusters
- 9:00 Good Morning Disney
- 10:00 Music Mantra
- 10:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest
- 11:00 Shree Ganesh
- 12:00 Malgudi Days
- 12:30 Pehchaan
- 1:00 Kkusum
- 1:30 Kanyadaan
- 2:00 Lajja
- 2:30 Milan
- 3:00 Hum Pardesi Ho Gaye
- 3:30 Thoda Hai... Thoda Ki
- 4:00 Zarurat Hai
- 4:30 Just Mohabbat
- 5:00 Alpviram
- 5:30 Khwaish
- 6:30 Shri Krishna
- 7:30 Disney Hour
- 8:00 Charbusters
- 8:30 Music Mantra
- 9:00 Boogie Woogie
- 9:30 Par Is Dil Ko Kaise Samjaye
- 9:30 Kkusum
- 10:00 Heena
- 10:30 CID
- 11:00 Achanak 37 Saal Baad
- 11:30 Bhanwar
- 12:00 The Making of a Dream
- SET MAX
- 7:30 Mini Movies : Inspector Eagle
- 8:30 Cahani Poori Filmi Hai: Deewar
- 9:00 Holiist
- 9:30 Khubsoorat
- 1:00 Kahani Poori Filmi Hai: Deewar
- 1:30 Sangam
- 5:00 Biographies
- 5:30 King Uncle
- 9:00 Holiist
- 9:30 Chal Mere Bhai
- 1:30 Parakh
- 4:00 Raaj Drohi
- VIJAY
- 8:00 Mudhal Pradhi
- 8:30 Mudhal Vanakkam
- 9:30 Kavyanjali
- 2:00 Agni Sakshi
- 2:30 Movie: (Vyazhan Kondattam) Pokkiri Ponn
- 5:30 Vijay Talkies
- 6:00 NGC
- 7:00 Mr & Mrs Public
- 7:30 Vijay Sethgaj
- 8:00 Agni Satchi
- 8:30 Kavyanjali
- 9:30 Nadhi Enge Pogiradhu
- 9:30 Marumagal
- 10:00 Payanam
- 10:30 Marupadiam Aval
- 11:00 Best of Nayandi
- 11:30 Durbar
- 11:30 Vijay Sethgaj
- 12:00am Star Hits