

PICK OF THE WEEK



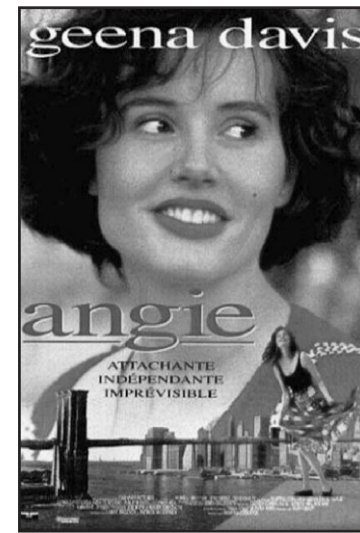
The Movie

Ransom
On HBO Monday, 16th December at 10:00 PM
When 2 gifted talents join forces, the resulting collaboration is bound to be powerful. Acclaimed director Ron Howard and international superstar Mel Gibson (The Patriot), himself an accomplished Oscar-winning director, give us this riveting tale.



The Sport

Coca-cola second test
Live cricket on ESPN from Chittagong on December 16 at 9:30 a.m.
Bangladesh
Vs
West Indies



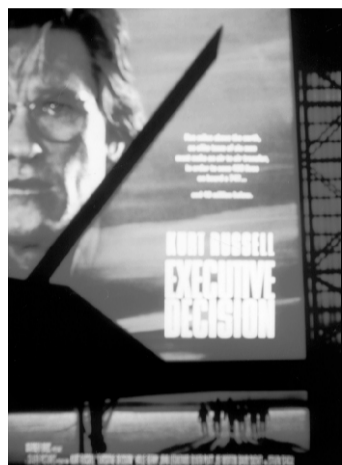
Our Choice

Angie
On Star Movies on December 17 at 8.45 p.m.
Angie lives in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, N.Y. and dreams of a better life than everyone she knows. When she finds that she is pregnant by her boyfriend Vinnie, she decides that she will have the baby, but not Vinnie as a husband. This turns the entire neighborhood upside down and starts her on a journey of self discovery.

Satellite TV



Zebra Lounge
On HBO Friday, 13th December at 01:00 AM
Alan and Wendy Barnett, (Cameron Daddo and Brandy Ledford) a boring married couple looking for a way to put some spice back into their lives. Desperate, they place a personal ad in a swinger magazine searching for another couple interested in swapping mates. To their surprise, they receive some positive responses and are led to the titular Zebra Lounge, where they meet Jack and Louise Bauer (Stephen Baldwin and Kristy Swanson), a pair of seasoned swingers. The 4 soon start to date and engage in swapping partners. While the Barnetts find the swinging exciting at first, they soon decide it may be doing more harm than good to their marriage -- an observation made after realizing how clingy, obsessed and down-right psychotic Jack and Louise can get. But easing the Bauers out of their lives will prove to be neither simple nor safe.



Executive Decision
On HBO Sunday, 15th December at 9:30 PM
2 big Action stars team up to recapture a hijacked airliner in this high-flying Thriller that "gives the adrenaline-crazed Action audience more than its money's worth... two crowded hours of tension and thrills" -- NY Post. Arab terrorists are taking the plane to Washington, DC with a full load of hostages and a secret cargo of deadly nerve gas that could wipe out the city! "A good, taut movie for red-meat Action audiences" -- NY Times. "Its Action-& excitement quotient is top-notch" -- Variety. With Halle Barry, John Leguizamo, Oliver Platt, Joe Morton, David Suchet and BD Wong.



Rush Hour
On HBO Thursday, 19th December at 10:00 PM
In his Hollywood feature debut, Jackie Chan stars as Detective Inspector Lee, Hong Kong Police's finest cop. When a gang of antique smugglers in Los Angeles kidnap a Chinese Consul's 11 years old daughter, Lee flies in to handle the case as a personal request from the consul. However, the FBI is not willing to have an outsider interfere with their investigations and decides to distract him with LAPD's finest and most notorious detective James Carter (comedian Tucker) to baby-sit Lee. Reluctant partners at first, they eventually overcome their cultural and personality differences to take on the criminal mastermind behind the abduction. Expect one hell of roller-coaster ride as Jackie supplies the punches and Chris the punch lines -- it's a hilariously explosive



Universal Soldier: The Return
On HBO Saturday, 14th December at 10:00 PM
The "Muscles from Brussels" kicks his way back into the limelight with this follow-up to the 1992 Roland Emmerich-Dean Devlin production. This time, Luc Devreux (Van Damme) must face off against an evil supercomputer, SETH and its minions -- killer cyborg soldiers known as Unisols. When the Unisol's leader (White) initiates a campaign of terror, destroying everything & everyone in their path, it seems that Devreux is the obstacle standing between them and their goal. High kicking thrills and spills in another non-stop action extravaganza from the man known for his kick-ass athleticism and gymnastic prowess.

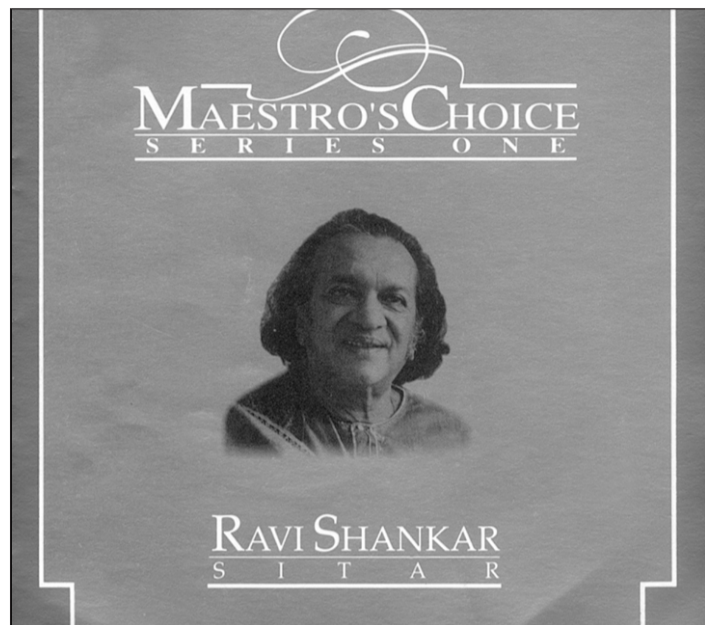


Me, Myself and Irene
On Star Movies on December 16 at 7.00 p.m.
A man with multiple personalities falls in love with a woman, only to find out that his other personalities have also. They end up fighting each other for her hand.

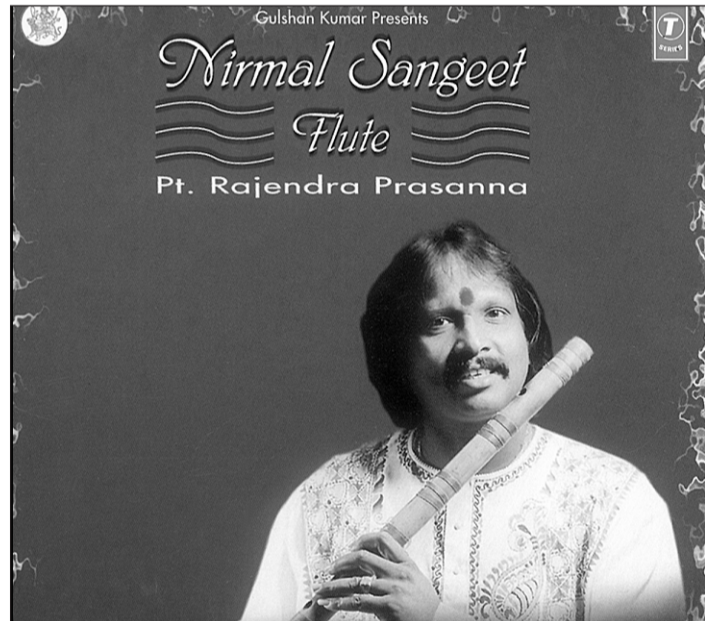


Freddy Got Fingered
On Star Movies on December 15 at 7.00 p.m.
Tom Green plays Gord Brody, a slacker who dreams of becoming an animator for cartoon shows. He is forced to move back in with his parents, but then refuses to leave. Along the way, he sexually pleases various farm animals, licks open flesh wounds, accuses his father of molesting his brother, goes scuba diving in a toilet, plays an organ with several sausages attached to it which are suspended in midair, and does a bunch of other stuff that is too insane, offensive, disgusting, or weird to be mentioned here.

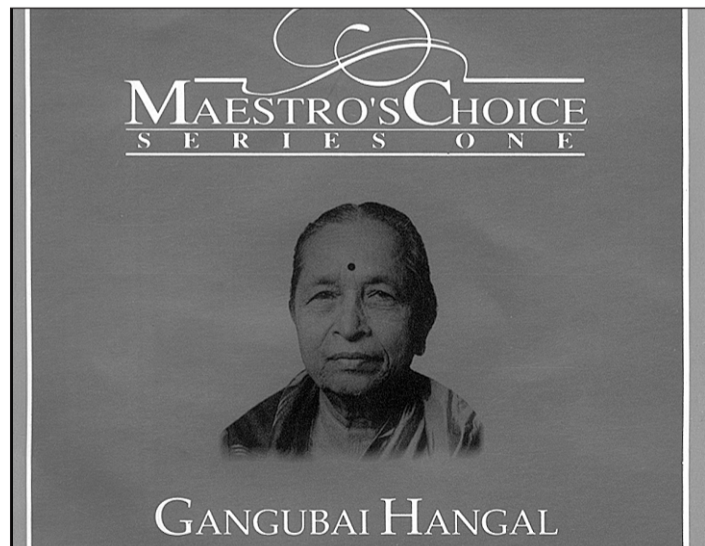
Audio CD



Ravi Shankar Sitar
Maestro's Choice Series One. Price: Tk. 400.00
Series One comprises of Hindustani tune and Pt. Ravi Shankar through his magical Sitar tune, presents Raga Asa Bhairav, Raga Kausi Kanhra and Mishra Ghara Dhun.



Nirmal Sangeet: Flute
Pt. Rajendra Prasanna
Price: Tk. 125.00



Gangubai Hangal Vocal
Maestro's Choice: Series one
Price: Tk. 400.00
Maestro's Choice is a rare collection of great moments from the legends of our musical heritage. The series presents great masters of Indian classical music, both Hindustani and Karnatic, in the ragas of their choice. Giving their own unique expression to a matchless variety of melodic moods through ragas and kritis, which they have specially selected for this series.

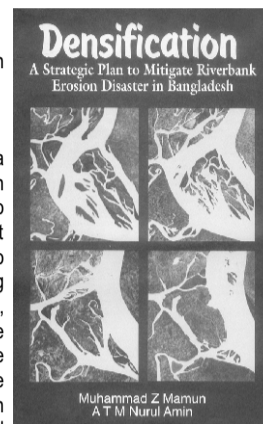


Kishori Amonkar - Vocal
Maestro's Choice Series One. Price: Tk. 400.00
Hindustani vocalist Kishori Amonkar presents in this mesmerizing album compositions like Raga Ahir Bhairav and Raga Sampurna Malkaus.

Source: Gaan-er dali, Yakub super market 2/B elephant road Dhaka (Ph: 9671520)

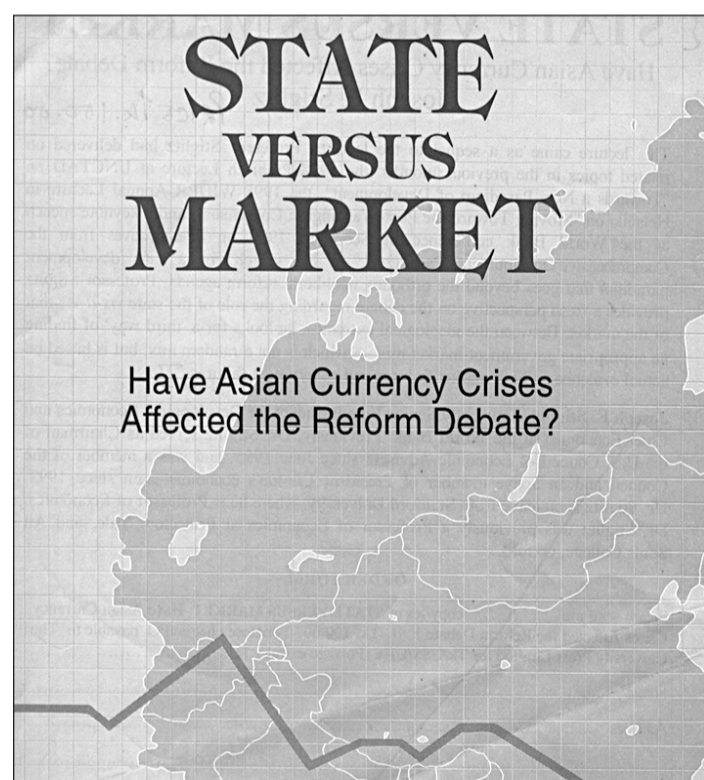
Books

Densification
A Strategic Plan to Mitigate Riverbank Erosion Disaster in Bangladesh by Muhammad Z Mamun
Price: Tk 400.00
AT M Nurul Amin
The book portrays a development strategy, based on a case study, to mitigate the impact of riverbank erosion disaster by densification of people and their settlement to safer zones. Exploration of this idea involves, in the first instance, to answer why densification is needed and who are the people to be involved in densification addressing issues such as erosion impacts, needs and response, awareness, migration and adjustment behaviour of the vulnerable people. The next focus is to highlight where the densification would take place. This involves defining the safer zones, finding the optimal distribution of population and investigating the scope of safe distance land management. Finally, the question of how the densification strategy to be achieved is addressed. The book highlights the effects of riverbank erosion on Bangladesh's socio-economic development. The climatic and physiographic characteristics of the land and its suitability/unsuitability for human habitation along with the prevailing settlement pattern are covered in-depth. A densification systems module for patterns, locations, densities of adjusted urban centres is proposed for the erosion-prone people along with appropriate provisions of physical, social and economic infrastructures.



From Patriarchy to Gender Equity
Family Law and Its Impact on Women in Bangladesh
Taslima Mansoor
Based on a detailed exposition of family law under the British colonial regime and Pakistani state law, the present study focuses on the more recent Bangladeshi legal developments. These were officially brought about to meet certain social needs and to improve the overall situation of women. However, apart from the reforms concerning the Family Courts Ordinance of 1985, and some glimpses of judicial activism, in reported as unreported cases, the existing family law reforms are shown to be mainly procedural. In particular they appear unable to protect women effectively from violence and economic deprivation.

Neo-Liberalism or Democracy?
Economic Strategy, Markets, and Alternatives for the 21st Century
Arthur MacEwan, Price: Tk. 450.00
At the turn of the new century, economic thought now faces, this book argues, a fundamental intellectual question, and one with the most profound consequences for all humanity. Is it really true, as the devotees of free market economics demand we assume, that there is no alternative to the neo-liberal ideology of (allegedly) self-regulating markets, the abandonment by governments of their economic management responsibilities, and the relentless pressure to cut both real wages and social expenditure? Professor Arthur MacEwan, in answering this question, subjects some of the central tenets of modern economics to trenchant examination -- including the case for free trade and the inevitability of ever more grotesque income inequalities. He argues that current policies are delivering neither sustained economic growth nor all those other things fundamental to people's wellbeing. But if modern Economics, and its variant 'Development Economics' applied to developing countries, are flawed both as intellectual constructs and as practical guides to policy, the question still remains: Realistically speaking, is there an alternative in the unipolar, post-socialist, globalised world we all now inhabit? Arthur MacEwan argues forcefully that there is. It is possible, and he provides clear indications of its possible contours, to construct and act upon a democratic economic development whose fundamental goals include not just growth, but meeting people's basic needs, on a basis of considerable quality, while protecting the environment, as well as securing local communities.

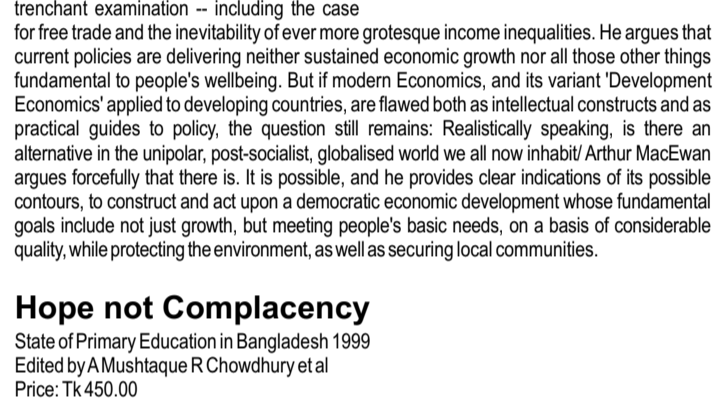


State Versus Market
Have Asian Currency Crises Affected the Reform Debate?
This lecture came as a sequel to the lectures Professor Stiglitz had delivered on related topics in the previous months: the 1998 Prebisch Lecture at UNCTAD on "Towards a New Paradigm of Development," the 1998 WIDER Annual Lecture in Helsinki on "Moving Toward the Post-Washington Consensus," and a keynote speech at the World Bank conference in Seoul in 1999 on "Perspectives from the Comprehensive Development Paradigm." In his search for a new development paradigm that goes beyond the orthodox neoliberal reform agenda, Professor Stiglitz provides a fresh perspective on the debate regarding the role of the state vis-a-vis that of the market.

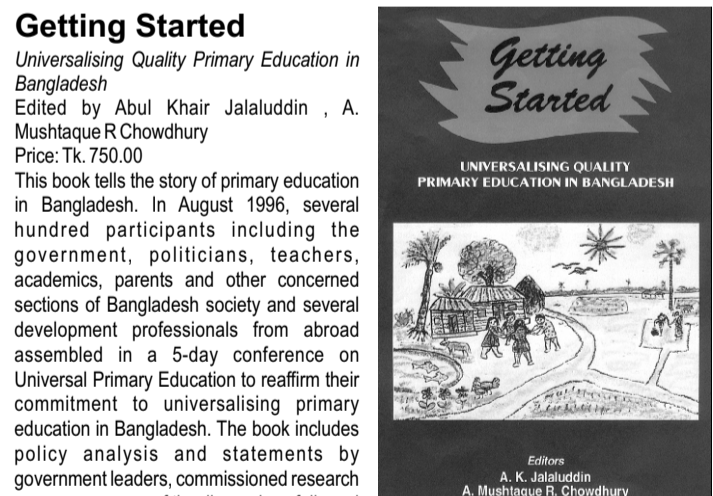
On Rights and Remedies
A Collection of Opinions
Mahammad Habibur Rahman, Price: Tk 950.00
This is a unique album of more than one hundred and seventy-five opinions on rights and remedies of the citizens of Bangladesh. The book deals with human rights under the constitution of Bangladesh and rights under the ordinary laws of the country. The prevalent practice of habeas corpus petitions and the court's obligation to protect and uphold a citizen's rights to life and personal liberty, citizenship of Bangladesh, rights to equality, freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of trade and business, parliamentary promulgates, the doctrine of basic structure of the constitution, the remedies under the constitution, the rights of citizens in the service of the Republic and constitutionality and the scope of powers of the administrative tribunals, and the power of the highest court in the country to do complete justice are some of the few constitutional matters that will immediately attract reader's attention. The book deals with the state's eminent domain, power to acquire property, property rights of an individual, rights of way, rights of pasturage, rights of preemption, rights and remedies of landlord and tenants, and licensees. The book also deals with questions of evidence, relative importance of secondary evidence, admission, statutory presumption, proofs as to parentage, interpretation of documents, the prosecutor's burden to prove his guilt and the accused's burden to bring home his plea in defence. There are opinions on the citizen's rights to criticise court's decisions and the court's right to punish for contempt of court.

Getting Started
Universalising Quality Primary Education in Bangladesh
Edited by Abul Khair Jalaluddin, A. Mushtaque R Chowdhury
Price: Tk. 750.00
This book tells the story of primary education in Bangladesh. In August 1996, several hundred participants including the government, politicians, teachers, academics, parents and other concerned sections of Bangladesh society and several development professionals from abroad assembled in a 5-day conference on Universal Primary Education to reaffirm their commitment to universalising primary education in Bangladesh. The book includes policy analysis and statements by government leaders, commissioned research papers, summary of the discussions followed by a series of recommendations relating to the current debate on educational reforms in Bangladesh. The information and analysis contained in the book provide an in-depth understanding of the policy issues faced by policy planners and would help them take decisive steps towards universalising primary education of an acceptable quality. Of particular historical importance and interest to the readers is the storehouse of authentic information and documents contained in the book in the area of primary and basic education in Bangladesh. The book should be of value to policy planners, NGOs, researchers and academics, international agencies, students of education and to anyone who needs to know about primary education in Bangladesh.

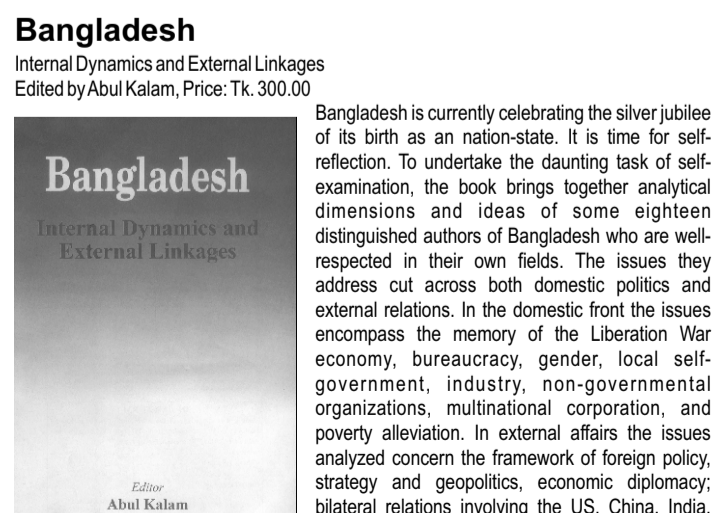
Hope not Complacency
State of Primary Education in Bangladesh 1999
Edited by A Mushtaque R Chowdhury et al
Price: Tk 450.00
Human capital formation is the sine qua non for improvement in the lives of people. Bangladesh has not performed to the best of its potential in developing this capital and remains a country where illiteracy is rampant. The Constitution of the country enshrines the right of the child to free and compulsory primary education. In recent times a number of interventions have been made in public, private and NGO sectors to attain the goal of universal primary education. However, no sector has invested enough in monitoring the progress towards the desired goal. This report projects a generally optimistic picture about the state of primary education in the country. There are hopes: as enrollment, particularly of girls, has increased in the recent past, the completion rate has risen and poorer and less educated parents have been sending their daughters in large numbers to schools. There are despair too. As progress in terms of increase in net enrollment is slow and the children were not learning much in school. The country is committed to imparting basic education to 80 per cent of its children. How far are we from it? Results presented in this book show that below 30 per cent of children passing through the primary school age are receiving any meaningful education. But the country has to move forward with hopes, dynamism and determination to meet the challenges of the new millennium. Other countries and territories have achieved it in a relatively shorter period. Why can't Bangladesh?



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Bangladesh
Internal Dynamics and External Linkages
Edited by Abul Kalam, Price: Tk. 300.00
Bangladesh is currently celebrating the silver jubilee of its birth as a nation-state. It is time for self-reflection. To undertake the daunting task of self-examination, the book brings together analytical dimensions and ideas of some eighteen distinguished authors of Bangladesh who are well-respected in their own fields. The issues they address cut across both domestic politics and external relations. In the domestic front the issues encompass the memory of the Liberation War economy, bureaucracy, gender, local self-government, industry, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporation, and poverty alleviation. In external affairs the issues analyzed concern the framework of foreign policy, strategy and geopolitics, economic diplomacy, bilateral relations involving the US, China, India, Saudi Arabia; and finally, the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), and international aid conditionalities. All these issues are critical to the nation, to its elite, and to the policy makers. In the totality of their analysis the author raise vital questions concerning the systems of governance, society, and economy of the country as well as the framework within which the country operates in the regional and international environment.



Source: University Press Limited