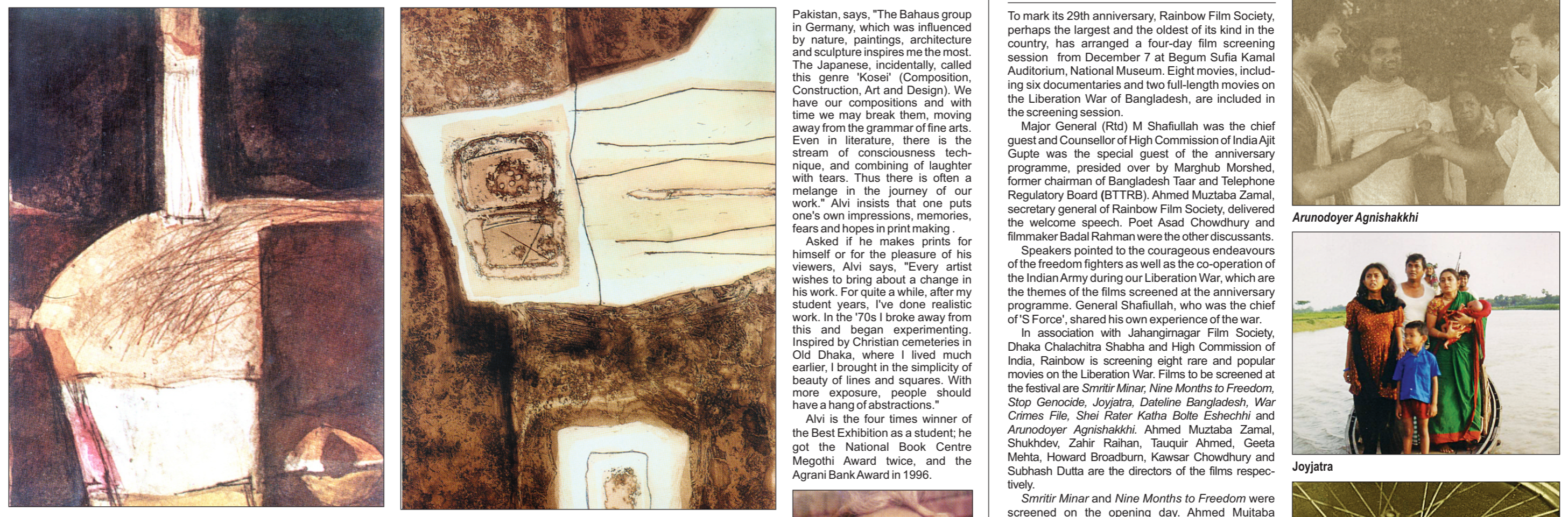


Profile

Abul Barq Alvi: A master of subtle abstracts



FAYZA HAQ

Abul Barq Alvi, a well-beloved professor of print making, is affable and vociferous when one gets to sit with him and discuss the state of fine arts in Bangladesh. Self-effacing and soft-spoken, this professor with egret white hair breathes life into his work and that of his students – and such has been the case for decades. Although his subtle lines and muted colours might appear a trifle difficult to comprehend at first, this prince of painting has a superb array of art works to offer.

His work is influenced by his immediate teachers such as Zainul Abedin, Safiuddin Ahmed and Mohammed Kibria. He is also, naturally, affected by Picasso, Bracque and Gauguin. Along with Van Gogh, not forgetting Matisse and Cezanne, Miro is also a source of his inspiration. He brings in the flora and the fauna of the Bangladesh scenario with quick dexterous strokes. He seeks to present the beauty of the golden fields, the waving trees, the sunlit hills, along with suggesting the trill of the birds and the hum of the bees.

He does not only dwell on his past but puts a magical wave of his wand so that his subtle lines and evocative colours bring us the integral beauty of both the scenes of the metropolis and the rural areas. Like many of the senior abstract painters of Bangladesh, Alvi insists that there is nothing vague about his work but that he brings in the shapes and hues of the life and the living around him. Like many of his colleagues, he is tuned into Uchcho Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet, jazz, baroque music; and the writings of poets and novelists like Tagore, Jibananondo Das, Michael Madhusudan Datt, Shakespeare, and even Maugham. Art films, specially Russian ones after World War 11, also makes him tick, and, intuitively, everything is grist for the mill of this superbly confident artist.

Speaking over a cup of coffee, Alvi, who was trained in Japan and Pakistan, says, "The Bahaus group in Germany, which was influenced by nature, paintings, architecture and sculpture inspires me the most. The Japanese, incidentally, called this genre 'Kosei' (Composition, Construction, Art and Design). We have our compositions and with time we may break them, moving away from the grammar of fine arts. Even in literature, there is the stream of consciousness technique, and combining of laughter with tears. Thus there is often a melange in the journey of our work." Alvi insists that one puts one's own impressions, memories, fears and hopes in print making.

Asked if he makes prints for himself or for the pleasure of his viewers, Alvi says, "Every artist wishes to bring about a change in his work. For quite a while, after my student years, I've done realistic work. In the '70s I broke away from this and began experimenting. Inspired by Christian cemeteries in Old Dhaka, where I lived much earlier, I brought in the simplicity of beauty of lines and squares. With more exposure, people should have a hang of abstractions."

Alvi is the four times winner of the Best Exhibition as a student; he got the National Book Centre Megothi Award twice, and the Agrani Bank Award in 1996.

ErsHAD KAMOL

To mark its 29th anniversary, Rainbow Film Society, perhaps the largest and the oldest of its kind in the country, has arranged a four-day film screening session from December 7 at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum. Eight movies, including six documentaries and two full-length movies on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, are included in the screening session.

Major General (Rtd) M Shafiullah was the chief guest and Counsellor of High Commission of India Ajit Gupte was the special guest of the anniversary programme, presided over by Marghub Morshed, former chairman of Bangladesh Taar and Telephone Regulatory Board (BTRTB). Ahmed Muztaba Zamal, secretary general of Rainbow Film Society, delivered the welcome speech. Poet Asad Chowdhury and filmmaker Badal Rahman were the other discussants.

Speakers pointed to the courageous endeavours of the freedom fighters as well as the co-operation of the Indian Army during our Liberation War, which are the themes of the films screened at the anniversary programme. General Shafiullah, who was the chief of 'S Force', shared his own experience of the war.

In association with Jahangirnagar Film Society, Dhaka Chalachitra Shabha and High Commission of India, Rainbow is screening eight rare and popular movies on the Liberation War. Films to be screened at the festival are *Smritir Minar*, *Nine Months to Freedom*, *Stop Genocide*, *Joyatra*, *Dateline Bangladesh*, *War Crimes File*, *Shei Rater Katha Bolte Eshechhi* and *Arunodoyer Agnishakshi*. Ahmed Muztaba Zamal, Shukhdev, Zahir Raihan, Tauquir Ahmed, Geeta Mehta, Howard Broadburn, Kawsar Chowdhury and Subhash Dutta are the directors of the films respectively.

*Smritir Minar* and *Nine Months to Freedom* were screened on the opening day. Ahmed Mujtaba Zamal's documentary *Smritir Minar* features the Victory Celebration of Eastern Command of Indian Army on December 16, 2006. The Eastern Command led by General Aurora made a remarkable contribution to our Liberation War. In memoriam of this cooperation, the command arranges programme at its headquarters in Kolkata, in which many Bangladeshi freedom fighter also participate. Mujtaba's documentary features the courageous past of these heroes.

The second show of the evening was Indian director Sukhdev's documentary *Nine Months to Freedom* which is a compilation of the footage taken during the Liberation War. The documentary ends optimistically, portraying the emergence of a new nation named Bangladesh.

Arunodoyer Agnishakshi

Joyatra

Shei Rater Katha Bolte Eshechhi

Ethnic Diversity Theatre Festival postponed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The scheduled five-day theatre festival titled 'Ethnic Diversity Council', slated to begin today at the two venues of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, has been postponed.

Theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, the convenor of the festival committee, said, "Though most of the participants from different corners of the country have come to Dhaka to perform, due to the unstable political situation we have shifted the dates for the festival."

Mamun hopes to arrange the festival at the end of February.

TV Watch

'Ochena Adhar': Suspense and thrill in serial

Channel i is currently airing the drama serial *Ochena Adhar*. Directed by Tarek Mintu, the play revolves around Borsha, a girl who met a tragic end when she was burnt alive in her house. After the ghastly incident, her parents point the finger of suspicion at her husband Amiruzzaman. Her father, Mirza, files a case against the latter and Amir is put on trial. The verdict goes in favour of Bosh's husband and the jury declares him innocent. The father however, refuses to accept the verdict as he firmly believes that his beloved daughter was murdered.

The play is aired every Tuesday at 6:20pm on Channel i. The cast includes Bulbul Ahmed, Khurshiduzzaman Utpal, Diti, Khairul Alam Shobuj, Ahmed Rubel, Tazin, Aruna Biswas and others.

Anupam Kher in an Ang Lee film

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has been roped in to play an Indian immigrant in Oscar-winner director Ang Lee's forthcoming espionage thriller *Lust, Caution*.

He now wings his way to Shanghai, where the film will be shot.

Less well known is the fact that the prolific actor has decided to donate his remuneration from the film to a Shanghai-based NGO. This is not the first social cause for Kher; previously he had given away a plot of land in Karjat, India for SOS villages. He also makes it a point to visit at least one orphanage whenever he visits a new city or country. "This move is just a part of a ritual that's become my life," says Kher.

Set in Shanghai during the post World War II era, *Lust, Caution* is an out and out thriller. If Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and *Brokeback Mountain* were poles apart, with *Lust, Caution* Lee reaches another level of filmmaking. Kher plays the role of an English-speaking Indian who has settled in China. "It is an amazing feeling to know that I'm going to be a part of his film. I don't care about the length of the role because I don't want to be an international star. I'm content with my experiences," he says, adding he can't wait to meet Ang Lee. "I watched *Brokeback Mountain* with much reluctance, but at the end of the film, I shed tears," reminisces Kher.

Source: Internet

Jolie painting stirs controversy

A North Carolina artist intrigued by the public obsession with celebrity has found herself feeding that obsession with a painting of actress Angelina Jolie as the Virgin Mary hovering over a Wal-Mart checkout line.

Kate Kretz has painted for 20 years but none of her previous work has garnered the attention given *Blessed Art Thou*, showing last weekend at Art Miami, an annual exposition of modern and contemporary art.

The painting has gotten much attention from celebrity web sites and blogs. Since the buzz started, the number of daily unique visitors to Kretz's own blog has jumped from an average of 30 to 15,000.

The painting – acrylic and oil on linen – depicts an angelic Jolie in the clouds, holding her newborn daughter, Shiloh, with children Maddox and Zahara at her legs. Below them is a Wal-Mart checkout line. The painting is for sale for US \$50,000 through Chelsea Galleria in Miami, which represents Kretz.

On her blog, Kretz, 43, said the painting addresses "the celebrity worship cycle." She said she chose Jolie for the subject "because of her unavoidable presence in the media, the worldwide anticipation of her child, her 'unattainable' beauty and the good that she is doing in the world."

Source: AP

# TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time.  
The Daily Star will not be responsible  
for any change in the programme.

## \* News Bulletin

### BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55  
am.12:10 pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00  
pm. 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm. 5:00  
pm. 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English)  
11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla  
channels).

### CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am,  
2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm,  
12:15am.

### ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am.10:00am.  
2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am,7:00pm  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m. 10:00  
am, 11:00 am. 1:00pm.3:00 pm.  
4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

### ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am.  
12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00  
pm. 7:30 pm. 10:30 pm.

### CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am.  
12:00pm. 2:30pm. 6:30pm.  
7:30pm. 10:00pm. 12:30am

### BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am. 2:00pm.  
6:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at  
9:00pm

News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

### RTV

News (Bangla) at 7:00am. 3:00pm.  
7:15pm. 10:00pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at  
10:30am

## CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey  
Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Tritiyomatra  
11:05 Cricket Online (Live)  
12:30 Citycell Tarokakothor  
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shangbad Potrey  
Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Selected Drama  
04:05 Amader Gaan  
04:25 Sharif Melamine  
Shangeet Mala  
i Speed  
05:30 Klanto Shomoy  
06:20 Drama Serial:  
Ochhena Adhar

07:50 Talkshow: Aktel Shaf  
Kotha  
09:35 Rup Rohoshyo  
Drama Serial: Shada  
Ranger Swapno  
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker  
Shangbadpotro

## ntv

08:35 Ajker Shokal  
09:30 Crime Watch  
10:05 Bhinnio Swader  
Khorob  
10:30 Music Express  
11:00 Cine Gaan  
12:05 Drama  
01:00 Muktagon  
03:15 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu  
Gaan

03:50 Drama Serial: Bhalo  
Basha Mondo Shada  
Gallery  
04:25 Din Dorpon/Ithasher  
El Diney  
05:20 Apnar Jigyasha  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:50 Frankly Speak-  
ing  
08:25 Drama Serial:  
Labonyo Prokha

09:00 Joyitar Joy Jatra  
09:50 Drama Serial: Neer  
11:25 Din Dorpon

## Rtv

09:10 Talk Show: Khola  
Money  
10:00 Look At Me  
10:30 Praner Manush  
Achihey Praney  
Cinema Ar Cinema  
12:00 Public Reaction  
01:00 Aj Potrikay  
03:45 Black and White  
04:20 Ict Today or Tomorrow  
05:10 Talk Show: Ei Mon  
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh  
06:35 Amar Desh  
08:00 Shapmochon  
08:50 Magazine  
Programme: Char  
Deyal

10:45 Rtv Exclusive

## CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprovat Bangla-  
desh  
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi  
10:30 Bangla Feature Film  
01:00 Mot Motantor  
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar  
Kaak  
04:00 Gaaner Khata  
04:30 Bioscope  
05:15 Shukh Tara  
06:00 Saaj Bela  
06:30 Top News  
06:45 Ithasher Path Dhorey  
07:00 Nongor  
08:15 Drama Serial: Daar  
Kaak

09:00 Rupantorer Golpo  
09:30 Fusion Biz  
10:50 Expression

## BANGLAVISIO

08:35 Shubho Shokal  
09:05 Raat Birateley  
09:30 Shamol Bangla  
10:10 Krishno Pokho

## Shonar Phool

On Banglavisian at 8:10pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Raisul Islam Asad, Shahiduzzaman Selim

11:05 Public Forum  
12:05 Drama Serial: Guest  
02:30 Cookery Show  
03:05 Drama: Shourabh  
04:20 Desher Pathhey  
05:00 Cinebit Shada Kalo  
05:30 Diner Sheshey  
06:30 Khola Money  
08:10 Drama Serial: Shonar  
Phool

09:15 Agamir Kontyo

## STAR MOVIES

08:15 Mrs Doubtfire  
10:20 Dungeons &  
Dragons: Wrath Of  
The  
12:15 Bad Girls  
02:00 First Kid  
03:45 Avp: Alien Vs.

## PICK OF THE DAY

## Commander In Chief

On Star World at 10:30pm

TV Series

Cast: Geena Davis, Donald Sutherland

11:55 V First Day First  
Show-Starplu  
11:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa  
12:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay  
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa  
Bandhan

02:00 Bhabhi  
02:30 Kesar  
03:00 Saarthi  
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi  
Bahu Thi  
04:00 Kahiin To Hoga  
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa  
05:00 Thodi Si Zameen  
Thoda Sa Aasma  
05:55 V First Day First  
Show-Starplu

06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
06:30 Mickey Mouse And  
Friends  
07:00 The Legend Of Trazan  
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus  
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan  
07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
Bandhan

08:30 Kesar  
09:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay  
09:30 Viraasat  
10:00 Karam Apnaa  
Apnaa  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi  
Bahu Thi  
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga  
12:00 Paraya Dhan

## STAR WORLD

08:30 Cheers  
09:00 The Simpsons  
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey  
Show  
10:30 My Wife And Kids  
11:00 The King Of Queen  
11:30 Grey's Anatomy  
12:30 Everybody Loves  
Raymond

01:00 Frasier  
01:30 Commander In Chief  
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show  
03:30 The Bold And The  
Beautiful

04:00 General Hospital  
05:00 Desire: Table For  
Three

06:00 Arrested Development  
06:30 The Simpsons  
07:00 Cheers  
07:30 Friends

08:00 Seinfeld  
08:30 Falcon Beach  
09:30 Ghost Whisperer  
10:30 Commander In Chief  
11:30 Desire: Table For  
Three

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:30 Flooded Desert  
09:30 Unwind  
10:30 Telemal: Sauna Belt  
Telemal  
11:00 Nat Geo Encores  
11:30 Nat Geo Encores  
01:30 Osama Rising  
02:30 Wild Safari  
03:30 Unwind  
04:30 Nat Geo Junior  
05:00 Nat Geo Genius  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Nat Geo Junior  
06:30 Unwind  
07:30 Triumph of Life  
08:30 Naked Science

09:30 Is It Real?

10:30 Unwind  
11:30 Rated W

## DISCOVERY CHANNEL

08:30 Wild Discovery Call of  
the Coorong

09:30 Massive Engines with  
Chris Barrie Diggers  
10:00 Mean Machines Ships  
10:30 Future Perfect Homo  
Futurus: The Inside  
Story

11:30 Extreme Machines  
Diving Deep  
12:30 Honey We're Killing  
The Kids Too Much  
Too Soon

01:30 Wildest Week Wildest Asia  
02:30 Detective Stories The  
Prosecutors-Deadly  
Revenge

03:30 Future Perfect Future  
Storm: Hell On Earth  
04:30 Wild Discovery Call of  
the Coorong

05:30 Extreme Engineering  
Malaysia Smart Tunnel  
Life on the Edge  
Xtremists

07:30 Wildest Week Wildest  
Antarctica  
08:30 Honey We're Killing  
the Kids Boiling Point  
Bringing Home Baby

09:30 Little Duke  
10:00 Amazing Baby Videos  
Man Made Marvels  
10:30 Asia Hit-A Space  
Rocket

11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive  
Escape from the  
Amazon

## STAR SPORTS

10:30 Master Stroke - Vvs

11:00 Laxman (Cric  
Sri Lanka Tour Of New  
Zealand (C

03:00 Sports Max 2006/07  
(Extreme Spor  
Full Toss? Haste  
Rehna Boss (The  
Tna Archive (Wres-  
tling)

04:00 International  
Motorsport News 20  
Tna Archive (Wres-  
tling)

05:30 2007 Euromilhoes  
Dakar (Auto Rac  
07:30 Hitz (Cricket)

08:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New  
Zealand (C  
09:30 Cricket Crazy (Cricket)

10:30 Tna Archive (Wres-  
tling)  
11:30 Scoop - Phi Special  
(Field Hocke

## ESPN

09:30 Nba Action (Basket-  
ball)  
10:00 Nba Basketball  
(Basketball)

12:30 Fa Cup 2006/07  
(Soccer/Futbol)  
02:28 Kfc Twenty20  
International

05:30 Ashes Heroes  
(Cricket)  
06:00 Football Focus With  
John Dykes

07:00 Indian Premier  
Hockey  
League

09:30 Sportscenter India  
(Sport News)  
Close Encounters  
(Cricket)

10:30 Sportscenter India  
(Sport News)  
11:00 Sportscenter Asia