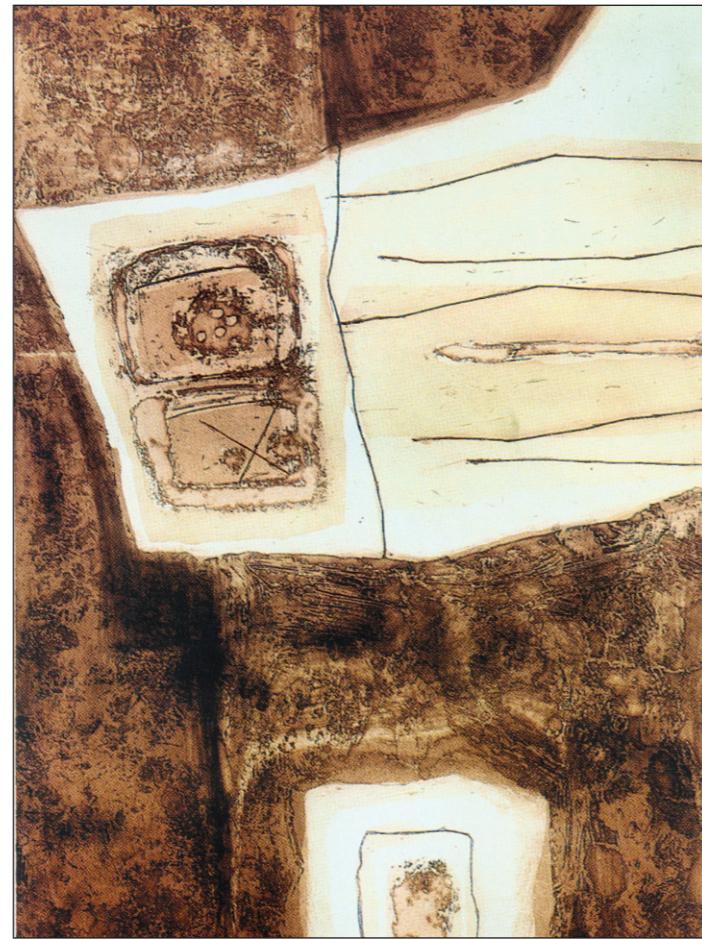
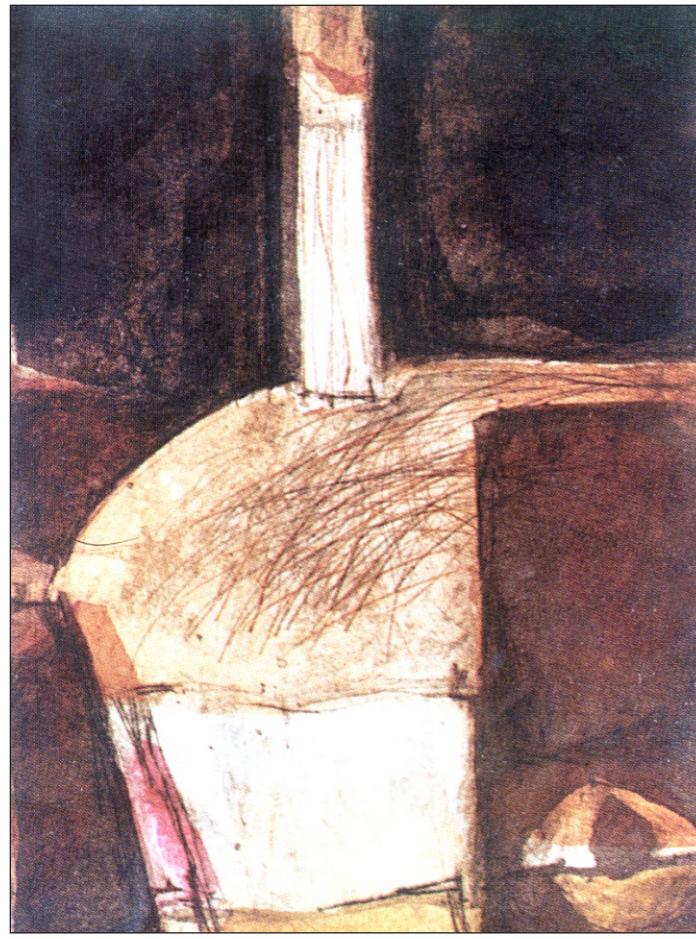


## Profile

## Abul Barq Alvi: A master of subtle abstracts



An untitled work (L) and From the Nature by the artist

FAYZA HAQ

**A**BUL 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 skies, 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

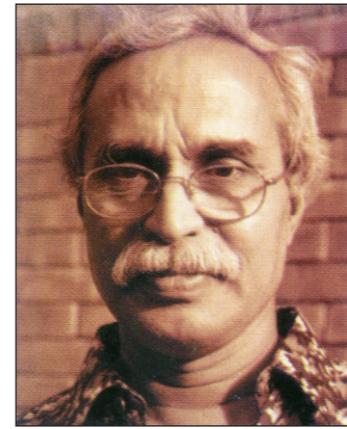
the life and the living around him. Like many of his colleagues, he is tuned into Uchcho Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet, jazz, baroque music; and the writings of poets and novelists like Tagore, Jibanananda Das, Michael Madhusudan Datt, Shakespeare, and even Maugham. Art films, specially Russian ones after 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 Bauhaus 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 mélange 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. 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 Agran Bank Award in 1996.



Abul Barq Alvi

## A medley of movies on Liberation War

Rainbow Film Society celebrates 29th anniversary

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 Shafullah was the chief guest and Counsellor of High Commission of India Ajit Gupte was the special guest of the anniversary programme, presided over by Marghul Moshed, former chairman of Bangladesh Taar and Telephone Regulatory Board (BTRB). 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 Shafullah, who was the chief of S Force, shared his own experience of the war.

In association with Jahangirnagar Film Society, Dhaka Chalchitra 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 *Smriti Minar*, *Nine Months to Freedom*, *Stop Genocide*, *Joyjatra*, *Dateline Bangladesh*, *War Crimes File*, *Shei Rater Katha Bolte Eshechhi* and *Arunodoyer Agnishakhi*. Ahmed Muztaba Zamal, Shukhdev, Zahid Raihan, Taquiq Ahmed, Geeta Mehta, Howard Broadburn, Kawas Chowdhury and Subhash Dutta are the directors of the films respectively.

*Smriti Minar* and *Nine Months to Freedom* were screened on the opening day. Ahmed Muztaba Zamal's documentary *Smriti 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. Muztaba's documentary features the courageous past of these heroes.

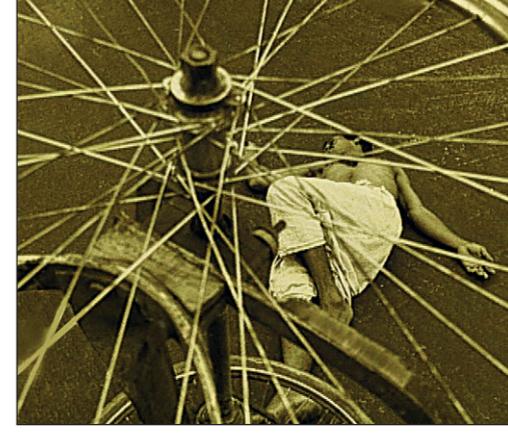
The second show of the evening was Indian director Sukhdev's documentary *Nine Months to Freedom* which is a compilation of the footage taken during the Liberation War. The documentary ends optimistically, portraying the emergence of a new nation named Bangladesh.



Arunodoyer Agnishakhi



Joyjatra



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 Shilpakar 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



Diti and Khurshiduzzaman Utpal in the TV 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 Borsha'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 check-out 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.

## CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey* Bangladesh  
09:45 *Public Reaction*

09:50 *Tritiyomatra*  
10:00 *Cricket Online (Live)*

12:30 *Citycell Tarokakothon*

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*

05:30 *Shangeet Mala*

05:30 *i Speed*

06:00 *Klanto Shomoy*

06:20 *Drama Serial: Ochhena Adhar*

07:50 *Talkshow: Aktek Shaf*

07:50 *Kotha*

09:35 *Rup Rohoshyo*

10:00 *Drama Serial: Shada*

12:00 *Ranger Swapno*

12:00 *Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro*

01:00 *Ajker Shokal*

09:30 *Crime Watch*

10:05 *Bhanno Swader*

10:30 *Khobor*

11:00 *Cine Gaan*

12:05 *Drama*

01:00 *Muktangan*

03:15 *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan*

03:50 *Drama Serial: Bhobo Monda Basha*

04:25 *Gallery*

05:15 *Din Dorpon/ Itihaser Ei Diney*

05:20 *Apran Jigysa*

06:20 *Shubho Shondha*

06:50 *Frankly Speaking*

08:25 *Drama Serial: Labonyo Proba*

## CHANNEL 1

08:40 *Shuprovat Bangladeshi Chokhe Mele Dekhi*

09:30 *Bangla Feature Film Mot Motantor*

03:30 *Drama Serial: Daar Kaak*

04:00 *Ganer Khata*

04:30 *Bioscope*

05:15 *Shukh Tara*

06:00 *Sajai Bela*

06:30 *Top News*

06:45 *Itihaser Path Dhorey*

07:00 *Nongor*

08:15 *Drama Serial: Daar Kaak*

09:00 *Rupantor Golpo*

09:30 *Fusion Biz*

10:00 *Expression*

10:15 *Public Forum*

05:25 *Mammoth*

07:00 *Star Wars: Ep. iii - Revenge Of The Sith*

09:20 *Walking Tall*

10:50 *Money Train*

06:30 *Khola Money*

08:10 *Drama Serial: Shonar Phool*

09:15 *Agamir Kontyo*

10:20 *Dungeons & Dragons: Wrath Of The*

12:15 *Bad Girls*

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