

# Abstractions in pristine white by Ali Akbar



Ekta Bangladesh (left) and Ghurey Firey Bangla by Ali Akbar

FAYZA HAQ

ALI Akbar, based in USA, has studied in California College of Arts and Crafts and South Eastern Oklahoma State University. "The knowledge of the contemporary western painting scene that my teacher Brad Cushman introduced me to totally changed my concept of the art-form. I also got more familiar with acrylic," says Akbar.

Every weekend he went to the contemporary galleries and this was a great eye opener for him, said the artist. Among the Bangladeshi artists, he greatly admires the works of Mohammed Kibria, Monirul Islam, Abdul Baset and GS Kabir. He likes the photography-based artworks of UK artists Gilbert and George. He also admires the works of David Hockney, Mark Rothko and Francis Bacon. Currently Akbar is holding a solo exhibition of his minimalist



works at Kaya Gallery in Dhaka.

At this moment, Akbar said, he is journeying in a landscape after his father passed away. After the death Akbar expressed his feelings for his father on canvas. The artist says he felt his father's presence in shades of white. This is the point of beginning of the white landscapes that he has created. He plays with titanium white and zinc white. Akbar has done a series on the landscape of Toronto – a place he found amaz-

ing. In the paintings he has used three basic colours – blue, red and yellow. The sky is an arch of varied colours while the snow is a mass of white abstraction. This series is justifiably called "Toronto".

"War and peace" brings in an imaginary landscape. This is a view of a group of flying white birds seen against the snow. In the mass of white is the depiction of the sky, ground and water. The work reflects both conflict and calm. Akbar has

used white as the dominant hue as he feels that this is the source of energy. "I go in for abstracts for I think these are what our final thoughts may resemble," he says.

A series of three mixed-media paintings, "Ekta Bangladesh" brings in the map of our country, seen behind cascading colours. The land mass looks like a burst of white light behind bars of colours. Acrylic, enamel, texture gel, sand and air brush have been used in them. In one of the paintings the viewer finds the map in a fairly realistic form. The map appears again in another work, in a semi realistic image, and purely abstract in the last one.

Professor Sara Cardona says that Akbar's paintings are landscapes of dreams and longings. They are also real places where his soul journeys. His paintings oscillate; expanding and contracting through layers of colours – each associated with the time and space his mind occupied at that moment. "Eventually this physical process resembles breathing," she says, "Like the body inhales and exhales to stay alive, the paint expands and contracts until it reaches a physical form that represents an interior landscape of the artist's spirit."

Akbar has had group and solo exhibitions in Dallas and Dhaka.

The exhibition ends on June 15.

# "Swopnodanay" goes to Shanghai Film Festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Swopnodanay*, directed by Golam Rabbany Biplob and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, will have its Asian premiere at the 10th Shanghai International Film Festival. The festival is scheduled to start from June 16.

The film has been selected for screening in the "Asian New Talent Award" category. Ten films have been selected in the category. *Swopnodanay* is the first Bangladeshi film, to be screened at the prestigious festival.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd, and Rabbany will attend the festival as special guests.

*Swopnodanay* follows the lives of a few individuals living in a remote village in the Northern part of the country. The protagonist Fazlu (played by singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu) is a peddler. One evening he returns home with a used trouser for his son. While washing the trouser, Fazlu's wife (Rokeya Prachy) finds some foreign currency in the pockets. The family

gets over-excited at the possibility of acquiring a sizeable amount of cash. Fazlu and his pal Siraj (Fazlur Rahman Babu) roam around the rugged locales of 'Barendrabhumi' on a beat-up motorbike, trying to exchange the foreign currency for Taka. Greed surfaces and the central characters – Fazlu, his wife and Siraj – start weaving their individual dreams. Desire and deception change the relationships forever.

The film will be premiered soon in Bangladesh.



Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Rokeya Prachy in *Swopnodanay*

# "Lil' Bush": A cartoon take on the US president

AP, New York

Like most political satire, *Lil' Bush* pinpoints the logical extreme of real life.

Take its title character. Lil' George Bush is a pushy if none-too-swift lad making mischief with his pals from Beltway Elementary: Lil' Condi, Lil' Cheney and Lil' Rummy (pint-size versions of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Vice President Dick Cheney and former Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld). Another thing: Lil' George resides in the White House.

This new *Comedy Central* cartoon show does take lil' liberties with the truth. For instance, *Lil' Bush* is set in the present, yet George H.W. (not current president George W.) Bush is the nation's chief executive. And though Lil' Cheney mutters in an indecipherable growl, his practice of biting off the heads of live chickens has no basis in real life.

On the premiere, Lil' George and his chums go to Iraq in hopes of tracking down some good news about the war to cheer up his dad for Father's Day.

But once they arrive, where will the kids look? "Right here: Baghdad!" says Lil' George between explosions. "It's got 'Dad' right in it!"

The episode's other tale finds Lil' George, inexperienced with the opposite sex, betting his friends he can get a girl to kiss him. "What about me, Lil' George?" says Condi, who suffers from an unrequited crush on him. "Yeah," says Lil' George, as oblivious as always, "you can be in on the bet, too."

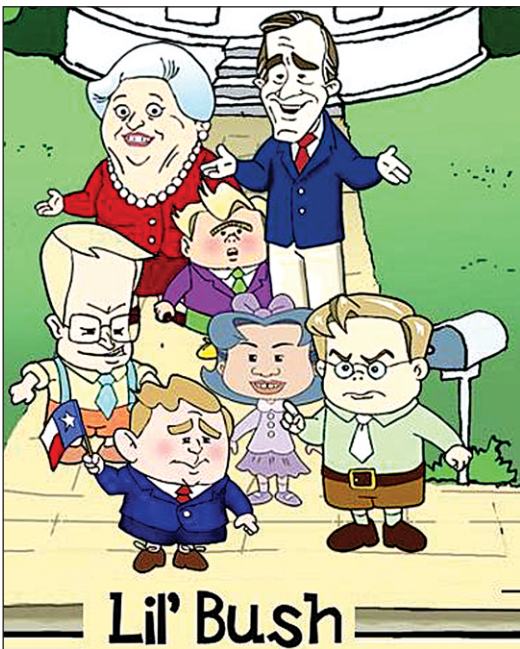
Created by Donick Cary, whose credits include writing for talk show host David Letterman and a stint on *The Simpsons* as writer-producer, *Lil' Bush* is "this fantastical Bush World bridging the two Bush presidencies, where anything can happen."

"Now that I've gotten inside Lil' George's head, I really like the guy," adds Cary. "He's got nuclear weapons and little-kid emotions!" Indeed, when Lil' George is left by

Dad unsupervised in the Oval Office, he launches nukes at schoolmates Lil' Hillary (Clinton) and Lil' John Kerry.

Although Cary thinks D.C.'s political scene resembles a class of rowdy 10-year-olds, he contends the man who inspired Lil' George is better suited than most to a show like *Lil' Bush*.

"Somehow, this president that we have lends himself to thinking in a simplistic, cartoonish fashion," Cary says. "He's always been about sound bites, one-word answers, move ahead, act from the gut."



# Underexposed talent needs tapping

KAVITA CHARANJI

A boat ride away from Mohakhali is a group of shanties located in Korail. Here is a group of 35 lively girls in the age group of 11-18 years. They have gathered in a tin roofed classroom to attend a session of BRAC's Adolescent Development Programme (ADP). The programme is geared to increase the girls' knowledge of social issues such as

gender equality, child rights and non-violence. In the course of their two-hour weekly session they will get to peruse newspapers, magazines, books and play games.

The bright-faced girls dance and sing to a patriotic song called *Eito ritu gorar desh*. It is hard going to zero in on just one or two talents but for reasons of space *The Daily Star* talked to one young girl who showed promise in the arts.



Mukta dances at the Brac School

Jannatul Ferdousi Mukta

A student of Class VII in Mohakhali Modern School, Mukta dances as her peers sing. Her forte, she says, is folk dance though she also likes singing. The visitor gets to see her sing *Ek tara tui desher kotha bol re ebar bol*. Later, she burst into a ghazal, *Allah amar rab*. One marvels at the talent of the young girl despite the limitations she faces – her father has a poultry business, while her mother tends to the family of two daughters and one son. Her school, says Mukta, provides no dance classes. At the most she dances on special occasions, at the ADP sessions and on weddings. Nevertheless, dance is a passion for her. "I love the bright, pretty costumes, the joy of dance and the therapeutic qualities of dance," she says, adding that her parents have encouraged her in her pursuits.

Mukta is abreast of the cultural world of Bangladesh; she has been an avid watcher of *Closeup 1* and is a great fan of singers such as Nolak, Rajib, Beauty and Salma. As for the future, she aspires to go to university and continue to dance and sing.



Tonight's episode of *Aloye Bhupon Bhora* features noted human rights activist and executive director of "Manusher Jonno" (an organisation that promotes good governance and human rights), Shaheen Anam. Hosted by Aly Zaker, the talk show will be aired tonight at 9:35 on Channel-i



Detail of the new computer model of ancient Rome shows the steps on the back side of the Caesarian Rostra, or speakers' platform, in an image released June 11, 2007. *Rome Reborn*, the largest simulation of an ancient city ever made, was unveiled last Monday showing the city within the Aurelian walls at its peak in 320 AD, under the emperor Constantine when it had grown to a million inhabitants

# 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, 7:15pm, 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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00pm.

**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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

**Rtv**  
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

**ntv**  
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

**ETV**  
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

**BTV**  
08:45 *Bishwa Bichitra*  
Drama Serial: *Shong Shoptok*  
11:15 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*  
12:30 Selected Programme  
01:00 *Modhuchanda*  
01:30 *Shukhi Poribar*  
02:15 *Sisimpur*  
02:40 Quiz Quiz  
03:05 Cartoon: Bananas in Pajamas  
03:30 *Cricketer Shekha*  
04:00 *Shilpo Prangon*  
04:30 *Hijol Tomal*  
05:05 *Abhijatri*  
05:30 Selected Programme  
06:10 *Pakkhik Barta*  
06:40 *Shondha Maloti*  
07:00 *Mati O Manush*  
07:30 *Oitijer Chalchitra*  
08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*  
08:35 *Agun Jhara Shondha*  
09:05 Drama Serial: *Shogholoker Chabi*  
09:30 Talk show: *Mithoskriya*  
10:30 *Shur Torongo*  
11:00

**ATN Bangla**  
10:30 Talk show: *Aktel Onyodristi*  
11:05 Talk show: Meet the press  
12:15 *Cinema Cinema*  
01:30 *Gane Shure Taruney*  
02:30 *Notun Chhobir Gaan*  
03:10 Drama Serial: *Bhalobashar Rang*  
03:45 *Shapla Shaluk*  
04:20 *Cooking Show*  
05:20 *Islamic Programme*  
06:20 *Thakur Mar Jhuli*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Noyontara*  
08:45 Drama Serial: *Bohemian*  
09:20 Musical Programme  
11:30 Musical Programme  
12:00 GrameenPhone Lead

**CHANNEL-i**  
09:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh*  
Public Reaction  
09:50 *Tritiyomatra*  
11:05 Sports Time  
12:30 *Citycell Tarokathan*  
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Shangbhadpotrey Bangladesh*  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Mega Serial: *Prio Bash*  
03:05 Talk show: *Microcredit Agrogotitey Bangladesh*  
03:30 Talk Show: *Shikkha Shujog Na Odhikar*  
04:05 Music Club  
05:30 *Mukti Judho Protidin*  
06:00 Drama Serial: *Shath Goenda*  
06:20 Cooking Programme  
07:50 *Jibon Jekhaney Jemon*  
08:20 Mega Serial: *Adhutorer Alo-e Bhubon Bhora*  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Nishidho Bonobhumi*  
12:00 *GrameenPhone Aiker Shangbadpotro*

**ntv**  
08:30 *Ajker Shokal Chokkor*  
08:55 *Chokkor*  
09:30 Frankly Speaking  
10:05 Science workshop  
10:30 Gallery  
11:00 *American Cinema*  
12:10 Talk Show: *Ei Shomoy*  
01:05 Japan Video Topic  
02:30 *Chokkor*  
03:15 Drama Serial: *Ranger Manush*  
03:50 Drama Serial: *Neer Enechhi Shurjir Hashi*  
04:25 *Apnar Jigyasha*  
04:50 *Ki Kotha Tahar Shatey*  
06:50 Cooking Show  
08:15

PICK OF THE DAY

**Noyontara**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Wahida Mallick Jolly, Dipa Khondokar

**The Mummy Returns**  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Action  
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz

**08:50** *Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan*  
Drama Serial: *Neer Ei Shomoy*  
11:30

**ETV**  
08:30 *Chondhey Chondhey*  
09:30 *Dishriti*  
10:30 *Chirontoni*  
11:00 *Shotabdir Alo*  
05:30 *Shoyong*  
07:30 *Deshjurey Shonglap*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Dibidho*  
08:30 Band Show  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Bondhon*

**BOISHAKHI**  
08:00 *Din Protidin*  
09:00 Cartoon  
10:00 Talk Show: *Tobu*  
10:25

**BANGLAVISION**  
08:35 *Shubho Shokal*  
09:05 *Amader Raina Ghar*  
09:30 Bangla Feature Film

**02:40** *Conan Raat Biratey*  
04:20 *Cinebit Shadakalo*  
05:00 *Diner Sheshhey*  
06:35 *Nana Ranger Din Guli*  
08:15

**05:40** *Media Bhuvan*  
09:30 Drama Serial: *Rupantor Amar Ami*

**02:00** Drama Serial: *Phera Holo Na*  
03:30 *Nijer Dhol Nijei Petao*  
05:00 Mouse TV  
05:30 *Amar Bangla Gaan*  
06:00 Cooking Programme: *Ranna Banna*  
09:15 Drama Serial: *Shey To Chirontoni*  
09:45 Talk Show

**STAR MOVIES**  
08:30 *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*  
10:00 *She Devil*  
11:40 Opening Night  
12:10 Find Me Guilty: The Jackie Dee Story  
02:10 8 Mile  
03:55 The 6th Day  
06:00 On The Lot  
07:00 The Mummy Returns

**09:10** Opening Night  
Star Wars: Ep. Iii - Revenge Of The Sith  
09:40 The 6th Day

**STAR PLUS**  
10:30 Aladdin  
11:30 Kim Possible  
12:00 Hatim  
01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
01:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
02:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa  
02:30 Saarthi  
03:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
03:30 Kayamath  
04:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni

**06:30** Kasturi  
04:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
07:30 Pritiviraj Chauhan  
08:00 Antakshian - The Gr8 Kids Snd  
09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
09:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni  
10:00 Kasturi  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii  
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:30 Kayamath  
12:00 Paraya Dhan  
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

**STAR WORLD**  
09:30 Heroes  
10:30 Life As We Know It  
11:30 Prison Club  
12:00 The O.C.  
01:30 Koffee With Karan  
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show  
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
04:00 General Hospital  
05:00 Prison Break  
06:00 Scrubs  
06:30 The Simpsons  
07:00 My Wife And Kids  
07:30 Friends  
08:00 Seinfeld  
08:30 On The Lot  
09:30 Heroes  
10:30 Grey's Anatomy  
11:30 Seinfeld  
12:00 Friends  
12:30 Scrubs  
01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
01:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
02:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa  
02:30 Saarthi  
03:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
03:30 Kayamath  
04:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni

**HISTORY CHANNEL**  
09:30 The Iraq War  
10:30 Tactical to Practical  
11:30 Eye - Max + English Guru  
12:30 Hitler: The Rise of Evil  
01:30 Modern Marvels  
02:30 Oklahoma City Bombing

**03:30** Vivian Leigh  
04:30 Reilly: Ace of Spies  
05:30 Muscle Cars  
06:30 Hitler: The Rise of Evil  
07:30 Multiple Personalities  
08:30 World War II: The Pacific  
09:30 Jewel in the Crown  
10:30 Engineering an Empire  
11:30 Baumeister Killings  
12:30 Jewel in the Crown

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
09:30 Spiritual Nation  
10:30 Baby Story  
11:00 Baby Whisperer  
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive  
12:30 Body Basics  
01:30 Bird Week  
02:30 Detective Stories  
03:30 Million 2 One  
4:00 Everything You Need to Know  
04:30 Wildest Week  
05:30 Mega Builders  
06:30 Impact Stories of Survival  
07:30 Bird Week  
08:30 Destination India  
09:30 Drama on Discovery  
10:30 Engineering the World's Rally  
11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 World's Deadliest Animals  
10:30 Sauna Belt  
10:15 Global Sky Shop  
11:30 Naked Science  
12:30 Is It Real?  
01:30 The Serpent  
02:30 Unwind  
03:30 Strange-Headed Snakes  
04:30 World's Deadliest Animals  
04:30 Mad Labs  
05:00 Honor Of The Killer Habu  
05:30 Backyard Science  
06:00 Snakes, Karma, Action  
06:30 World's Deadliest Animals  
07:30 Jean-Michel Cousteau

**08:30** Rolex Awards  
09:30 Inside The Forbidden City  
10:30 World's Deadliest Animals  
11:30 Return Of The Predator  
12:30 Rolex Awards

**ESPN**  
09:30 2006/07 Spanish League Highlight  
2007 State Farm U.S. Figure Skia  
American Dragster  
Major League Baseball  
India Down Under  
2007 Scripps National Spelling B  
06:30 Kia X Games Asia 2007 - Show 5  
07:30 Sportscenter At The U.S. Open  
08:30 Sportscenter India  
09:00 Sportscenter Asia  
09:30 Remember The Titans  
10:00 Great Finishes  
11:30 Hitz  
12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand

**STAR SPORTS**  
09:30 Race Day  
10:30 2007 Formula One World Champions  
12:00 Chequered Flag  
12:30 Ashes Heroes  
01:00 Wimbledon Classic Matches  
03:00 The Record Breakers  
04:00 Hitz  
04:30 Tna Impact  
05:30 Max Power 2007  
06:30 Tna Impact  
07:30 Roland Garros  
09:30 Hitz  
10:00 Engine Block  
11:30 Tna Impact  
12:30 The Ubs Golf Club  
Asian Tour Weekly 2007  
Golf Focus