

CULTURALFEAST

Saying no to drugs

Cultural personalities contribute to the cause



AHSAN HABIB

An anti-drug cultural evening on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking, organised by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA), was held on June 26. This was to promote the anti-drug message to youths, telling them that there are better alternatives to having fun than substance abuse. The programme was held at the National Theatre Stage.

With the slogan *Nesa noy gaan, juddho noy praan*, the programme featured prominent artistes of the country performing and campaigning for the anti-drug cause. Factual information on drug abuse and its social consequences were presented in between the performances.

The show started with an anti-drug song *Jibonto etkai tobe keno koro ophochoy*, rendered by non-professional singer Shafi Kamal, one of the directors of BSA. Noor-e-Hafza acted out a monologue that narrates the tragic story of a drug-addict from a mother's point of view. Fieldworkers of Anti-Drug Campaign performed a group dance directed by Deepa Khondoker, accompanying the song *Shorbonasher dikey amra pa bariyechhi*. Anima Mukti rendered an

anti-drug song, *Esho na boli madok ke na boli*.

A number of group dances directed by MR Wasik, Shafikur Rahman, Sultana Haider and Sarwar Ahmed Belayet Hossain Khan were also presented.

Subir Nandi, Ferdous Ara, Joyonto Mukherjee Shibu, Nashid Kamal, Pagla Bablu, Wrishti Shilpi Gosthi and rock bands -- Feedback and Maksud O Dhaka -- also rendered their popular songs at the show and talked about the benefits of living drug-free lives.

Adviser to the Caretaker Government, Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, was the chief guest while the director general of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Quamrul Hassan presided over the programme.

Though the programme was not a part of the Academy's regular activities, BSA intends to take up such extra responsibilities because of its commitment to the nation, said Quamrul Hassan. He also informed that the performers participated in the programme without taking honorarium and many of them have contributed to the programme.

Speaking at the event, Geeteara Safiya Choudhury urged every citizen regardless of age, gender or class to fight against drug abuse through generating awareness.

(Clockwise from Top-Left) Subir Nandi sings at the programme, a group dance performed by artistes of Shilpkala, Fieldworkers of anti-drug campaign present a group dance



PHOTO STAR

OUR TALENTS

Bande Ali Mia: Articulating the simple rural life

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

Yesterday, June 27, marked the 28th death anniversary of poet Bande Ali Mia. Bande Ali was a poet, novelist, playwright and attained much acclaim for his works for children. The noted litterateur also tried his hand at painting.

Bande Ali was born on January 17, 1906 in the village Radhanagar, by the river Ichhamoti in Pabna district. Poet Bande Ali had passed his childhood in this town. He passed the Entrance examination from Majumder Academy, Pabna in 1923. He studied painting at the 'Indian Art Academy' in Calcutta and got his diploma from the institution in 1930. For some time he worked as a journalist in the magazine *Islam Darshan*, and then taught at a Calcutta Corporation school (1930-1950). He subsequently moved to East Pakistan, where he worked at the Dhaka and Rajshahi radio stations.

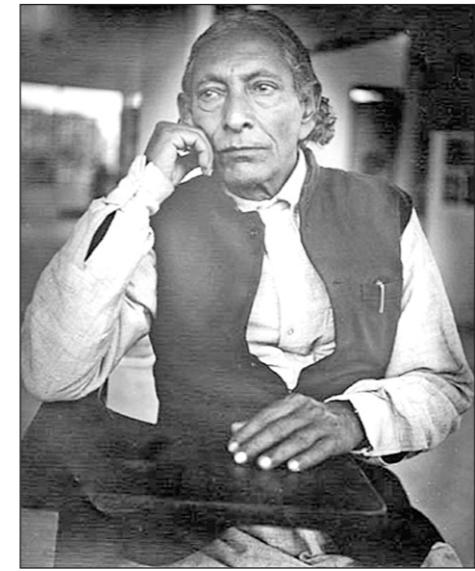
"His simplicity has encouraged me. I love the unpretentious language and presentation portraying the innocence of childhood," Poet Sufia Kamal once remarked on Bande Ali in her writing.

Bande Ali's first book, *Chor Jamai*, was published in 1927 by Calcutta Ashutosh Library. In total Bande Ali wrote 84 books including poetry, prose, drama and lyrics mostly centring on rural life.

His popular collection of poems *Maynamotir*

Char was published in 1931 by D.M Library, Calcutta. In *Maynamotir Char* Bande Ali depicted the quintessential rural life in 19th century Bengal, with unmistakable simplicity.

Barashar jal shoriya giyachhe jagiya uthechhe char



Gang-shalikera garta khurhiya bandhitechhe ghar...

These elements enrich the poem that remains one of the most endearing pieces in Bengali literature. Admiring the book, Rabindranath Tagore wrote in a letter to Bande Ali in 1932, "These are enchanting imageries, you have painted in *Maynamotir Char* depicting the casual lives of people living in the Padma chars."

Among other books by Bande Ali are *Anurag* (1933), *Padma Nadir Char* (1933), *Swapno Shabd* (1936), *Madhumati Char* (1946), *Aranya Godhuli* (1958), *Tasher Ghar* (1954) and more. *Mejh Kumari*, *Jungle-er Raja*, *Shishuder Bishadhi Shindhu*, *Shonar Harin* and *Shiyal Pandit-er Pathshala* written for children became hugely popular.

The poet spent his last days in Rajshahi. Bande Ali passed away in 1979 at his Kazihatpara residence in Rajshahi town. He was buried at the premises of his ancestral home in Radhanagar.

This year in observance of the poet's death anniversary, Pabna district administration has arranged a weeklong programme, including drawing and recitation competition for school children. A discussion and prize distribution among the competitors will be held at 'Pabna Bonomali Institute' premise this Friday (June 29).

Profile

Mona's dreams in pastel chalk

FAYZA HAQ

Mona Mahmud Chowdhury, whose solo exhibition is due at the Bengal Gallery (scheduled to start from July 4), has a surrealistic style in which she blends her concept of nature and man. She is especially fond of rivers and trees and includes human figures and animals.

Mona studied at Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata in 1993. She completed her Masters in Fine Arts from Biswa Bharati, Shantiniketan in 1994. In 1993, she was selected as a working artist by Lalit Kala Kendra, Kolkata. She got her post-graduate diploma in Advanced Painting from Central Saint Martins College of Fine Arts and Design, London in 1996.

Mona says that her father, A.S Mahmud, always encouraged her with her paintings. "Since I worked hard and took my studies seriously my teachers were enthusiastic about my work. I had Partha Pratim, Dev Robin Mondal and Dharmarany Das Gupta as my teachers. At Shantiniketan I had Jogen Chowdhury and Sanat Kar as my guides. It was also my father's influencing words that told me that one could have a pleasant life despite difficulties. And those words saw me through my student days -- with the not so pleasant hostels. I enjoyed it greatly, however, when I went to the railway stations and *Santal Patti* while working in Kolkata and Shantiniketan. I tried to find beauty in my surroundings. I took pleasure in studying the history and aesthetics of art apart from my painting."

Her stay in England too had tremendous influence on her work. She went to museums, exhibitions and became more aware of the modern western trends in paintings. Ingrid Karma and Mike Thorpe were her teachers. While in India there is a lot of stress on "study work", as Mona puts it, in England the teachers encourage individual experimentation, and development of personal style.



Mona Mahmud Chowdhury

reaching influences. She has brought in the symbol of the kite in some of her paintings too: She feels this is the symbol of freedom and struggle. There are many flying figures such as cats and humans. A chalk pastel, titled *Powerful dream*, brings in a woman surrounded by the moon seen between clumps of trees. There are also images of people floating by in boats. It is in blue, purple and white. Another work from the series shows a dreaming woman, surrounded by snakes. A third artwork features a cityscape with a kite and clouds. The figures appear naive on purpose and the work uses chalk pastel, which Mona gets from abroad.

Just as a river moves from place to place, Mona feels our lives affect many around us and have far



An artwork by Mona

Buzz

Christina Aguilera, budding actress

AP, Shanghai

Christina Aguilera says she's reading scripts in search of the right role to launch an acting career.

"I am looking forward to moving into another form of what I feel is another creative outlet for me and that



would be acting," the 26-year-old singer told reporters last Monday in Shanghai, where she was to hold her first mainland China concert.

Aguilera, who married music executive Jordan Bratman in 2005, said she was taking her time reading and understanding the film industry.

"It is something that, when I attempt to do it, I want to do it right so it's important for me that I do choose the right first role for myself," said Aguilera, who performed Tuesday night at the Shanghai Grand Stage, host to earlier performances by the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and the Black Eyed Peas.

Aguilera found fame alongside boy bands and Britney Spears, but caused a stir with the release of her second album, 2002's *Stripped*, with its accompanying sexual imagery and overall bad-girl attitude. The album received mixed critical reviews but racked up strong sales.

Her latest record, the double album, *Back to Basics*, and its accompanying tour were inspired by the blues, jazz and early soul music of the 1920s, '30s and '40s, along with the sexy, grown-up look of Hollywood divas like Marilyn Monroe, Jean Harlow and Veronica Lake.

"I wanted to revert back to a time and place in music that truly inspired me the most," Aguilera said.

Her sexy act apparently didn't faze China's cultural officials, who told the Rolling Stones not to sing some of their racier hits and cancelled a performance by Jay-Z after deeming the rapper's lyrics "vulgar."

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Koto Chena Koto Ochena
On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jitu Ahsan



The Mistress of Spices
On Star Movies at 8:45pm
Genre: Drama / Romance
Cast: Aishwarya Rai, Dylan McDermott

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

CHANNEL 1

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

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

11:40 Shotorupa
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Selected Programme
01:30 Shukhi Porbar
02:15 Swapner Deshey
02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi
03:05 Cartoon
04:00 Eka Sheeka
04:30 Banshuri
05:05 Sangeeta
05:30 Doctor Jokhon Durey
06:40 Dhormo O Jibon
07:00 Selected Programme
07:30 Swadesh
Shomphabona
Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:40 Drama: Swapner
Oparey
10:30 Shar Nirjor

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk Show: Akitel
Annodisti
11:05 Aja Kaa Porshu
12:15 Bangla Feature Film
Shundor Jiboner
Jonna
04:20 Obiram Bangladesh
05:10 Musical Programme
05:45 Islamic Programme: Islami Sowa O Jobab

CHANNEL-i

06:20 TV Serial: Mugly
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal
08:45 Drama: Koto Chena
Koto Chena
09:20 Drama Serial: Chhayamukh
11:30 Musical Programme
12:00 GrameenPhone Lead
News

CHANAL-i

09:50 GrameenPhone
Tritiomatra
12:30 Citycell Tarakakhan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbad Potery
Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Trito Matry Apni
03:05 Hridoye Mati O
Manusher Daak
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin
06:00 Tarzan
06:20 Amar Chhobi
07:50 D Rock Stars 2
09:35 Drama: Chander Gari
10:00 Drama Serial: Hridita
11:30 Ajantha Barti
12:00 GrameenPhone Ajker
Shongbadpotro

10:05 Joyitar Joyatra
10:30 Single Episode Drama
12:10 Talk Show
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:30 Chokkor
03:15 Drama Serial: Ranger
Manush
03:50 Drama Serial: Neer
Enchchi Shurjer Hashi
04:25 Mohilangan
Horlicks Genius
Bangladesh
Shonhiko Bash
Shonhiko Bash
08:50 Glamour World
09:45 Drama Serial:
Shokhna Bibi
Ei Shomoy

10:00 Din Protidin
06:30 Shoptaho Jurey
08:00 Drama Serial: Biyer
Golpo
11:45 Reporters File

08:40 Akbar the Great
09:20 Drama Serial: Briddha
Asrom
10:40 Rtv Exclusive
11:00 Magazine
Programme: Char
Deyal

01:30 Drishiti
05:30 Shoyong
06:15 Ekusher Shondha
07:30 Desh Jurey
11:00 Drama Serial: Biyer
Apon Shimany
03:40 Wide Angle
04:20 Apon Shimany
05:15 Drishiti
06:15 Ekusher Shondha
07:30 Desh Jurey
11:00 Drama Serial: Biyer
Apon Shimany
08:00 Drama Serial: Biraler
09:30 The One
11:00 Proshno Uttr
Gollachhut

06:00 Din Protidin
09:15 Ekusher Shomoy

10:00 Drama Serial:
Bondhon

11:45 Reporters File

10:30 Drama Serial:
Bridha
Asrom

04:30 Golla Chhut
06:25 Shurer Bhubon
08:15 Drama Serial: Dhula
Ura Din

03:10 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Drama Serial: Society
Rokhkhaki

04:00 Drama Serial: Nokol
Poshak
04:30 Baker Pathay
05:15 Golla Chhut
06:25 Shurer Bhubon
08:15 Drama Serial: Dhula
Ura Din

03:10 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Drama Serial: Society
Rokhkhaki

04:15 Sports vision
05:00 Children's Programme:
Ichhey Ghuri

04:3