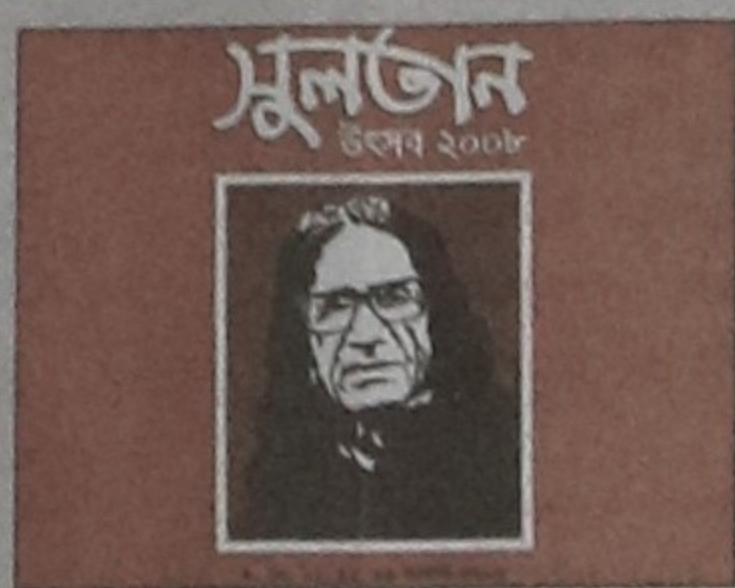


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sultan Utsab '08
84th birth anniversary of artist S.M. Sultan
Organiser: S.M. Sultan
Jamnatsab Udayon Parshad and S.M. Sultan Shishu O Kurukola Foundation
Venue: Sultan Manicha and Shishuhargo, Narail
Date: August 9-13
Time: 6pm onwards everyday
Sponsored by Banglalink



Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Title: My loving friends & The Nature
Artist: Ferdousy Priyabhashini
Venue: DOTS Contemporary Arts Centre, 191/A, Tejgaon I/A
Date: August 1-13
Time: 11am-8pm (2pm-8pm on Friday)



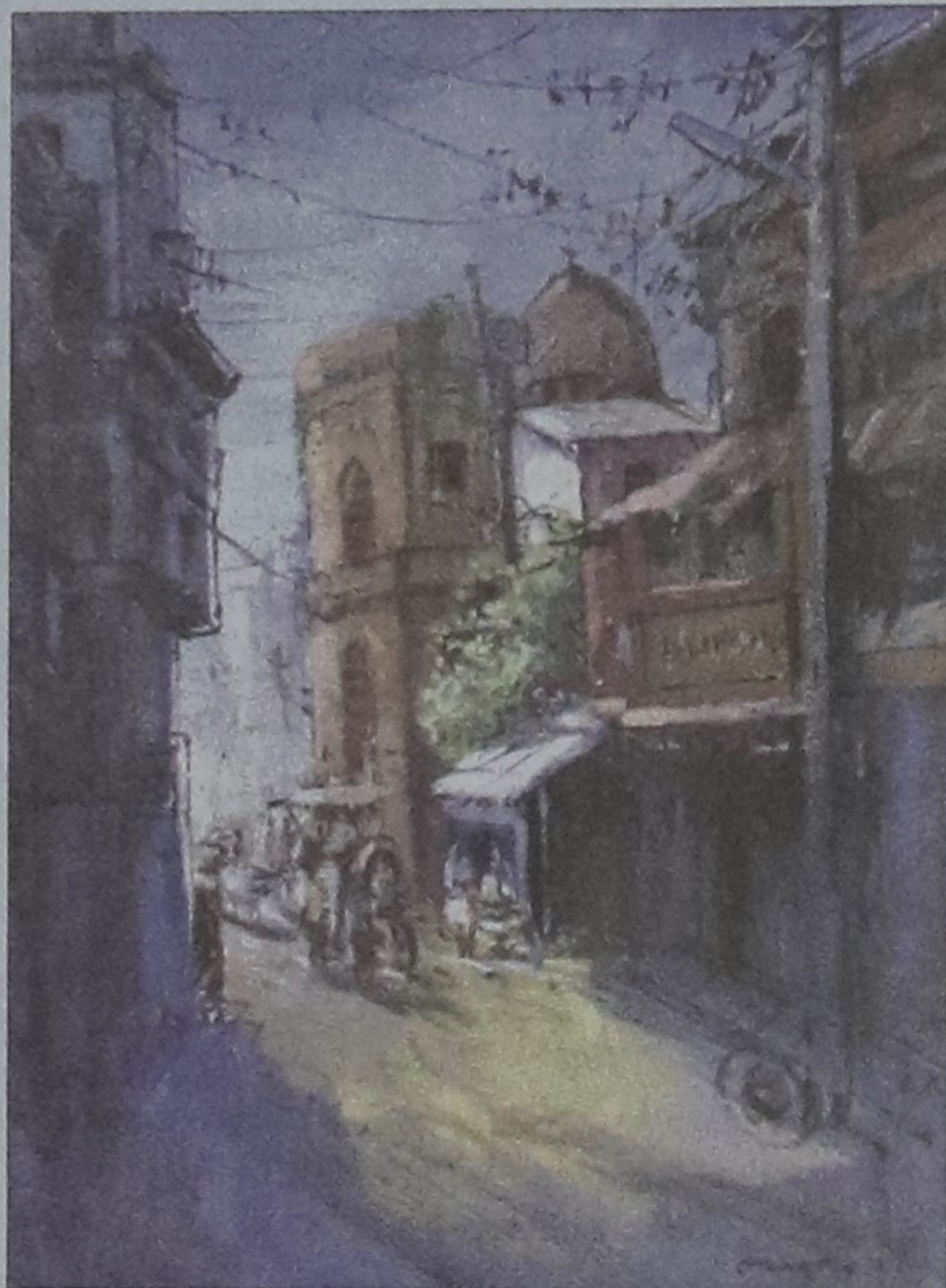
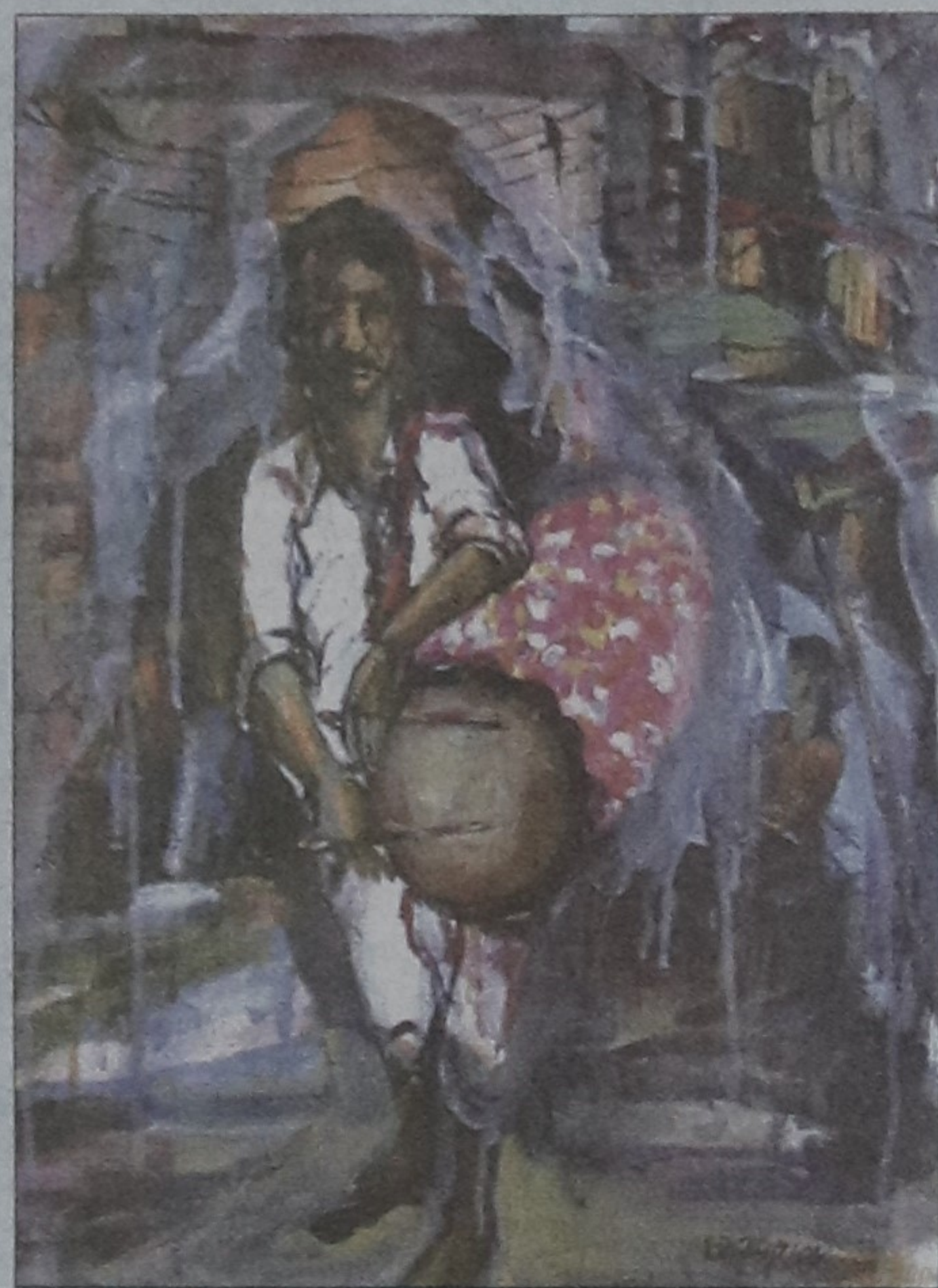
Group Art Exhibition
Featuring works of 19 renowned artists
Title: Mukti
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: August 9-25
Time: 10am-7pm



Oitijhya Boi Utsab
Celebrating 9th anniversary of the publication house Oitijhya
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh, Dhaka
Date: August 10-25
Time: 10am-8pm

বিত্তিহা

Projecting Old Dhaka in Germany



(From left) Works by Nahid Rokhsana Ananna (a student of BFA, Oriental, Dhaka University) and Kamaluddin (a student of Painting, Dhaka University).

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Dhaka's 400 years, Buriganga Arts And Crafts organised an art workshop at Shilpakala recently. Jamal Ahmed conducted this event, in which eager young artists participated. Professor Samarjit Roy Choudhury inaugurated the workshop. The paintings culled from the workshop was exhibited in Germany this month. The venue was FzKKE, Euskirchen.

Farzana Ahmed Urmi (student MFA print Making DU)'s landscape with boats, done in beige, blue and black, set on mirror like clear river, has delightful tiny houses and nature's verdure in the backdrop. In the mind of the artist, Buriganga with its present silt and mud is as picturesque as some Mediterranean resort. The simple details in the backdrop, as well as the presentation of the river, has a poetic touch.

Habiba Akther Papia (MFA, DU) introduces a long-legged female rag picker, trudging her lonely and tiring path onto to nowhere in particular. In the distance are simple geometrical blocks to denote the incursion of modern architecture, which is gradually

destroying the serenity and beauty of the place.

The gathering of people in "achkan" and fez, along with the milling and pushing crowd in rickshaws, including veiled women in silks and satins, present Muslim tradition in Zakir-us-Salam Russell's work. Zakir, freelance artist alike Habiba, includes good figure work.

Saniul Haque Bhuiyan Neon (MFA, DU)'s presentation comes up with a crumbling centuries-old temple, with its sloping roof and wild growth of greenery around. Along with this is an accompanying narrow lane in the backdrop that bring out the quaint charm of the older part of the metropolis.

Shantana Mannan's (MFA, DU) painting has hanging electric wires, peddlers with carts, and other interesting perspective details of an Old Dhaka lane. Done in simple and stark use of black crayons, with minimal use of blue and earthy colours, Shanta has caught the realism of the scene with photographic details.

Raqibul Islam Bulbul (BFA, DU) focuses on a segment of wall of a house, with simple washes and lines to present an unkempt road.

Along with this is the adjacent section of a house, with its unique door and accompanying window. Although this does not attempt to depict the gorgeous details of some of the ancient architecture of Old Dhaka, yet this arouses anyone's curiosity of the place, and arouses admiration of the viewer.

The old, dilapidated rickshaw stranded in the middle of nowhere has mature use of colour, line and composition. This is done by Sajjad Hoshen Khan MFA (DU).

The scene in back and vermillion, showing the famous old gate, along with vehicles and plodding, heavily draped women show expertise with line and colour as in all other paintings of the exhibition. This is done by MM Maizuddin (MFA, Painting).

If a similar such exhibition, done earlier by senior Bangladeshi artists, held some time back at Shilpangan, could have been carried to any part of Europe or the US, it would perhaps help western eyes to comprehend and appreciate our culture better.

The exhibition ended on August 9 and it was dedicated to Mahbub Jamil Khasru who died this year.

Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People observed in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Indigenous communities in Tangail observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on Saturday with demands to ensure their rights to land and preserve their heritage.

On the occasion a cultural programme and a discussion were held at the Bhasani Hall in Tangail town. The theme was "Indigenous People's Economic and Social Rights".

With Joinshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad President Ajoy-a-Mre in the chair, Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akhter Ali Sarkar spoke at the discussion as chief guest.

Among others, Secretary, Tangail Chamber of Commerce, Alamgir Khan; Vice President of Tangail Public Library, Khandakar Nazimuddin; Sulekha Mrong, president of Achik Michik Society; Palash Chandra Burman, a leader of the Koach community; Shaoli Jharna, project officer, Oxfam GB and Headmaster of Jalchhatra Carpost Christy High School Maria Chiran spoke at the discussion.

Speakers expressed the view that the indigenous people are often deprived of their economic, social, and political rights.

Earlier in the morning, about a thousand indigenous people including the Mandi and Koach of Modhupur, Sakhipur and Ghatail Upazilas brought out a colourful procession from Tangail Shaheed Minar premises, which went through major streets in the town.

Executive Director of BLAST, Dr. Taslimur Rahman and President of Tangail Press Club, Ataur Rahman Azad jointly inaugurated the procession.

The programmes were jointly organised by Joinshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad, Adivasi Forum, IPDS, GASU, BAGSAS, Achik Michik Society, Bela, Nijera Kori, BLAST, Tribal Welfare Associations of Modhupur, Ghatail and Sakhipur Upazilas, Jalchhatra Carpost Christy High School and Modhupur Sarbik Manob Unnayan Shangstha with the help of Oxfam GB, Action Aid, Karitas and World Vision, Tangail.

In the concluding session, Mandis of Modhupur held a cultural programme featuring their traditional songs and dances.



A procession to mark International Day of the World's Indigenous People went through the major streets of Tangail town.



Indigenous artistes perform at the cultural programme.

Taslima Nasreen back in India

BBC NEWS, Calcutta

Controversial Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen has returned to India to renew her visa, which expired on Tuesday, officials said.

She flew in to Delhi from a European capital and was whisked off to an undisclosed location, they said.

Nasreen was forced to leave Calcutta last November after angry protests by Muslims. She spent four months in Delhi before moving to Sweden.

She fled her native Bangladesh in 1994 when her book attracted death threats.

Nasreen told some journalists by e-mail that she was keen to return to Calcutta to "gather her personal belongings, books and pet cats."

"I have to be in Delhi for renewing my Indian visa, but my heart is in Calcutta," Nasreen said in her e-mail.

But the West Bengal state government is not willing to let her return to Calcutta now.

"We have to assess the situation because her coming back may provoke violence again," said a senior police official in the state capital.

He said the Indian federal government had asked for the West Bengal government's opinion on whether Nasreen could be allowed to go to Calcutta, at least for a few days.

After spending several years in Sweden, she moved to Calcutta, an Indian city close to Bangladesh where her mother tongue



Taslima Nasreen

Bangla is spoken.

She was moved to Delhi last November after Muslim groups in Calcutta staged violent protests, accusing her of having insulted Islam.

Nasreen rose to prominence in 1993 after her first book, entitled *Lajja*, or Shame, angered some of Bangladesh's Muslims.

The book argued that Bangladeshis had mistreated the

country's Hindu minority.

A more recent novel by Nasreen, *Duikhondito* (Split in Two), was accused by some Muslim groups of causing offence to Islam.

She was also accused of calling for changes to be made to the Holy Quran to give women more rights.

Nasreen has vehemently denied making such remarks.

World Friendship Day celebration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A colourful cultural show and a reception of promising students were held in Tangail town to mark World Friendship Day on August 8.

Cultural organisation Tribeni in Tangail arranged the daylong programme at Bhasani Hall and Central Shaheed Minar premises in the town. The sponsor was Haji Abul Hossain Institute of Technology (HABHIT).

Acting Mayor of Tangail Poursabha Zafar Ahmed formally inaugurated the first session at Bhasani Hall in the morning.

With Tribeni President Nasir Uddin Mamun in the chair, the first session was addressed by, among others, Tribeni general secretary Tofazzal Hossain Khan Tofa, its members assistant judge Rezaul Karim and Prothom Alo senior reporter Fakrul Islam Harun.

In the second session, a total of 173 golden GPA-5 achievers in SSC and equivalent examinations this year from Tangail Sadar upazila were accorded a reception at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the town. Alongside, Bindubasini Government Girls and Boys High Schools in Tangail were given a reception as best educational institutions of the district.

Prominent Poet Nirmolendu Goon attended the session as chief guest. Among others, the speakers were HABHIT acting principal Professor Aminul Islam, Tangail Club secretary Harun-or-Rashid and local cultural organiser Mir Mehdi.

In his speech, Goon said that while most countries had locked horns with others, the Bangladeshis were an exception. "The Bangladeshis have only resisted the oppressors," he qualified, adding, "The Bangladeshis are peace loving. They shun destruction and only want to live in a fair and friendly environment," he added.

In the concluding session, local and Dhaka artistes performed at a colorful cultural show on the same stage. A huge crowd enjoyed the function.

Comedian and actor Bernie Mac dies at 50

REUTERS, Chicago

Comedian and actor Bernie Mac, who starred in few black sitcoms and appeared in the "Ocean's 11" movies, died in Chicago last Saturday after a bout with pneumonia. He was 50.

Publicist Danica Smith confirmed the death in a statement but gave no further details. "We ask that his family's privacy continues to be respected," she said.

Reactions poured in from Hollywood, which was taken by surprise because two days ago, Smith said he was "responding well to treatment" and remained in "stable condition."

"The world just got a little less funny. He will be dearly missed," said George Clooney, who starred with Mac in the "Ocean's" trilogy of hit box office films.

Mac was hospitalised in Chicago on August 1, and Smith said then his illness was unrelated to a chronic tissue inflammation called sarcoidosis, which had been in remission since 2005.

The Chicago-born comedian, whose given name was Bernard Jeffrey McCullough, was best known for his TV comedy "The Bernie Mac Show," which ran for five seasons until 2006.

Along with the "Ocean's" capers, he appeared in movies such as comedy "Guess Who" and

"Mr. 3000." He recently worked on a new TV show "Starting Under" and an upcoming film "Soul Men".

With his beefy frame and bulging eyes, Mac cut an imposing figure. His scathing comedic observations were inspired by his impoverished childhood in Chicago and honed by years on the stand-up circuit.

"I reflect on my childhood, my



young adulthood, the disappointments of life -- the problems I brought on myself, the self-pity I went through before I became a man," he said in 2003.

Mac achieved national prominence after joining the Kings of Comedy stand-up tour in 1997 with Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley and Cedric the Entertainer. Tapping into an under-served market of middle-class blacks, the dapper quartet sold out arenas across the country during their annual treks.

In 2000, director Spike Lee shot a hugely profitable documentary

about the tour.

The following year, "The Bernie Mac Show" debuted on Fox, drawing from Mac's personal life. He played a married stand-up comic reluctantly thrust into parenthood when he takes custody of his sister's three children after she enters rehab.

Mac's character often turned to the camera with such observations as "I hate my loved ones. They make me sick" or "I love my wife, but I hate her (golf) game."

While many contemporary TV dads get cheap laughs by playing clueless, Mac portrayed a level-headed family man unafraid to exert authority. He earned two Emmy nominations for his role.

"Losing him is like losing 12 people because he absolutely filled up any room he was in. I'm gonna miss the Mac Man," said comic actor Chris Rock in a story at E! Online.

Mac was born in Chicago on October 3, 1957, and raised in a tenement. His mother died when he was 15, and his father -- whom he met only a dozen times -- three years later. He credited his grandmother for keeping him grounded.

Married for more than 30 years, Mac largely eschewed Hollywood, choosing to live in Chicago. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a granddaughter.