

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

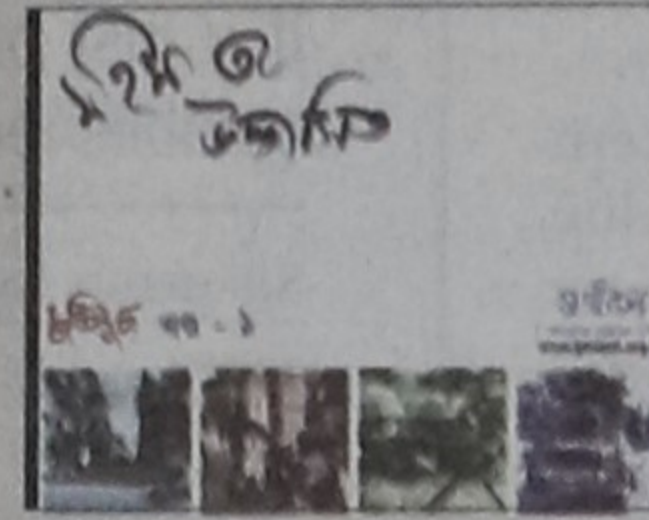
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain  
Title: Contemplation  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2  
Date: December 11-24  
Time: 10 am-8pm



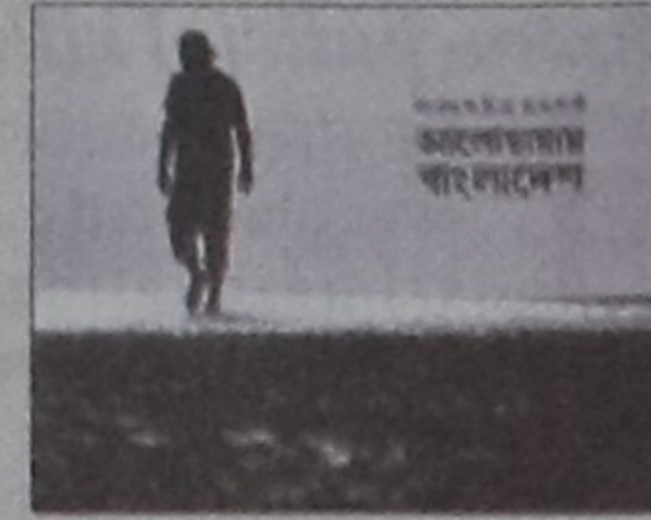
**Victory Day Celebration**  
Songs, films, theatre, exhibition and more  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises  
Date: December 14-22  
Time: 5pm onwards



**CD Launch**  
On the Liberation War  
Organiser: Gunjan War  
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shegunbagicha  
Date: December 18  
Time: 5pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Alo-Chhayay Bangladesh  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: December 16-22  
Time: 2pm-8pm



## Victory Day celebration by Channel i

### "Bijoy Mela" at Tejgaon

MAINUL HASSAN

Channel i celebrated the 38th Victory Day through a daylong 'Bijoy Mela' at the channel's Tejgaon office yesterday. This was the third 'Bijoy Mela' by Channel i.

"We have been holding this event annually since 2007. The mela is aired live so that Bangladeshis from all over the world can enjoy victory day celebrations," said Shykh Seraj, head of news and director, Channel i.

The mela began at 11 am. The inauguration was well attended by freedom fighters, artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, members of the Swadhin Bangla football team, cultural personalities, veteran journalists and others.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director, Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i; Shykh Seraj; veteran Tagore artist Ajit Roy; singers Tapan Mahmud, Khurshid Alam, Subir Nandi and Fakir Alamgir; poet Asad Chowdhury and actress Afroza Banu, among others, were present at the inauguration.

Throughout the day freedom fighters and members of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra



The 'Bijoy Mela' was well attended by freedom fighters, artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and cultural personalities.

recalled their memories of the Liberation War.

A total of 19 colourful stalls were set up at the mela venue. A stall by Channel i, called 'Ekattur-er Diary' featured journals of freedom fighters -- providing an insight into the war and lives of the valiant guerrillas, some of whom never made it back home.

"Independence came at a very high price. Through the

mela we hope to inform the post-war generations on the proper history of our nation," said Shykh Seraj.

A total of 20 diaries belonging to freedom fighters and family members of martyred individuals, recording their experiences during the war, were on display. At the mela, Channel i honoured freedom fighters and their family members.

The cultural programme began with a group rendition of the Tagore song "Mukti Mandir Shopan Toley" by the finalists of 'Channel i Shera Kontho 2009'. Subir Nandi performed "Kedona Kedona Mago". Various cultural organisations, seasoned singers as well as upcoming talents performed at the event.

Fakir Alamgir, Indra Mohon Rajbangshi, Monoranjan Ghoshal, Kalyani Ghosh, Rebeka Sultana, Mahadeb Ghosh, Ferdous Ara and others presented solo renditions.

Group performances were staged by Wrishiz Shipli Goshthi, Dhruvotaan, Satyen Sen Shilpi Shangstha, Kranti Shilpi Goshthi, Nibedon, Rabirashmi and Shur Saptak.

Artistes of Nrityam, Sukonya and Spondon staged dance performances.

An art competition for children on the theme, Victory Day, was also held on the occasion. Leading artists Hashem Khan, Monirul Islam, Kanak Chapa, Biren Shome, Abdul Mannan, Moniruzzaman and others painted on the themes Liberation War and Victory Day.



Ferdous Ara (centre), along with other singers, performs at the event.

## "Clay and Life" by Harappa

### Exhibition of traditional pottery



A CORRESPONDENT

A nine-day exhibition and sale of traditional pottery is on at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. Titled 'Clay and Life', the exhibition has been organised by Harappa. The exhibition features a range of works by traditional potters from different parts of the country. A mix of both well known and emerging talents are featured at the exhibition.

The exhibition features an array of styles, techniques, colours and textures -- from household items to fountains and masks. A corner has been dedicated to replicas of artefacts excavated from the ancient city of Harappa.

The journey of the organisation Harappa began back in 2006, when a group of friends -- all sharing a passion for arts -- took the initiative to promote traditional pottery.

The exhibition is open to all from 3pm to 8pm everyday, till December 19.



The exhibition features a range of works by traditional potters.

## Cartoon Vs Corruption

### Exhibition by Transparency International Bangladesh

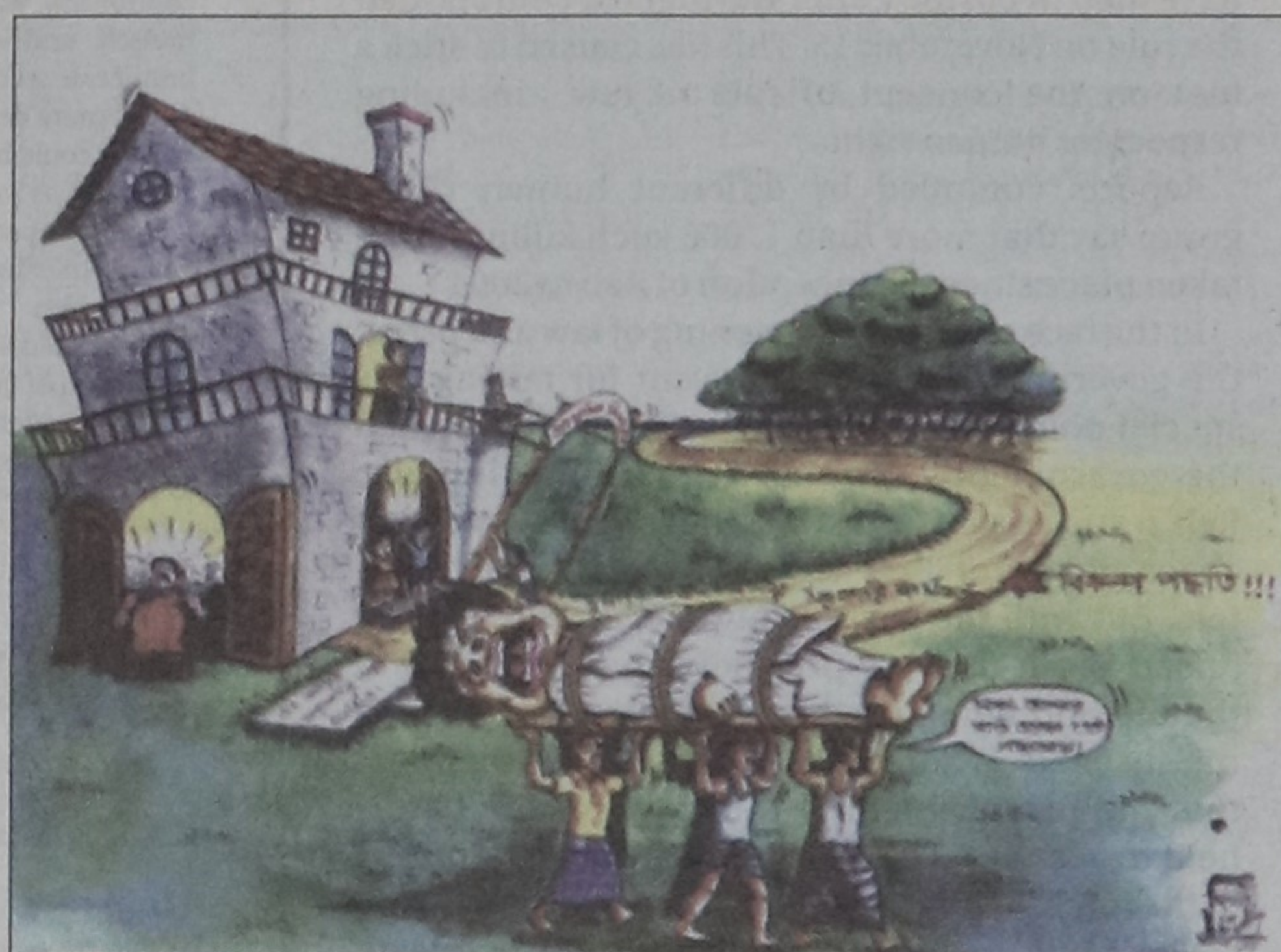
NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

It is of prime importance to encourage anti-corruption attitudes among the youth. That is exactly what Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has set out to do. Over the last four years, the organisation has held countrywide competitions and exhibitions with participants in the age groups 13-18 and 19-35.

In keeping with this endeavour, the 'Cartoon Against Corruption Exhibition 2009' was held at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts from December 10-16. Prior to this, December 9 saw the inauguration ceremony and the distribution of awards.

At the exhibition, the playful colours and faces delineate a very dark issue. They reveal the most indigestible truths in a manner that the viewer cannot help but smile at the scrupulous message carved through ink and colours.

The most remarkable aspect of the exhibition is



to understand and make others realise just what is going on around us. Not to mention people in their 30s, who are meant to be hidden behind their stacks of office files, or other per-

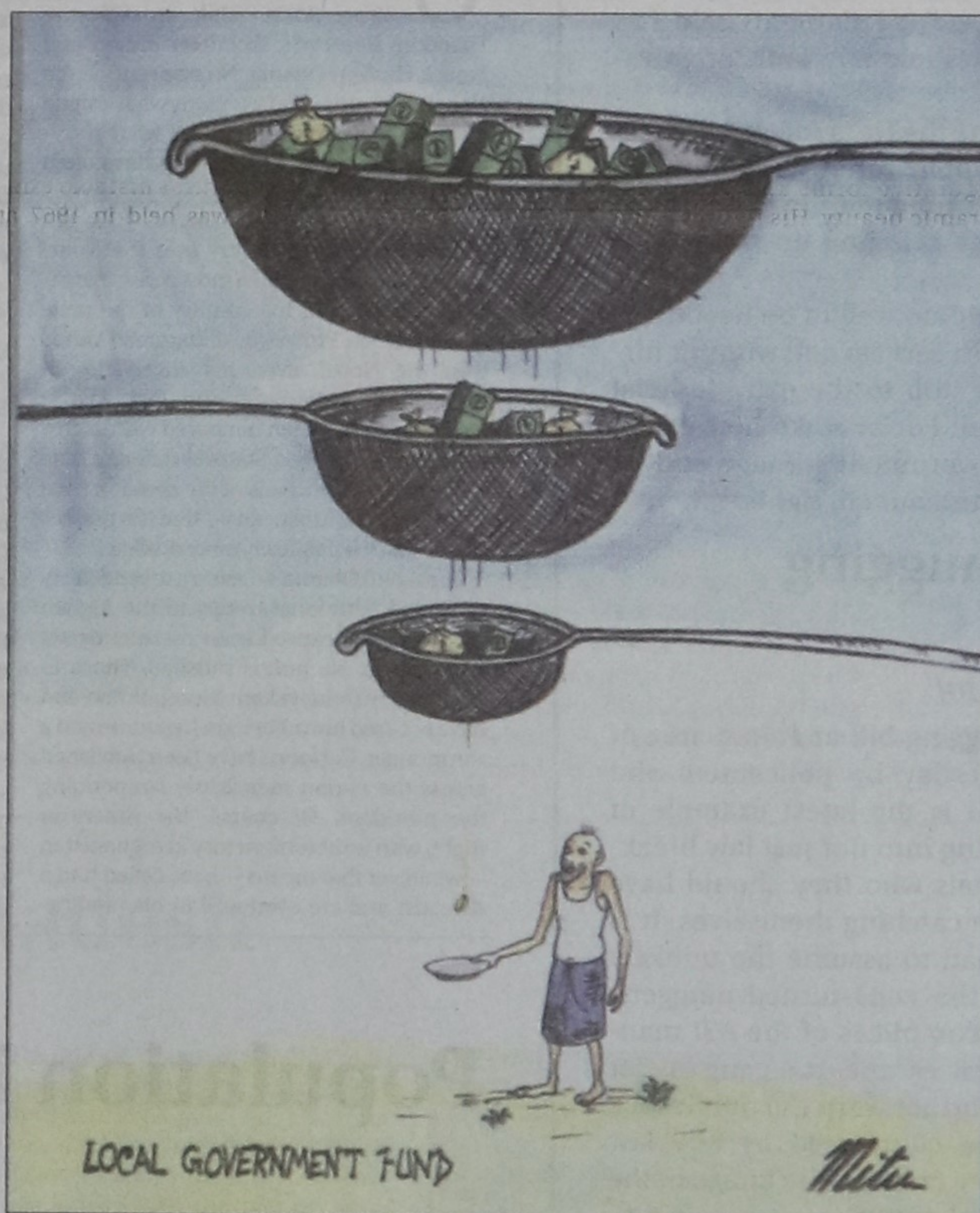
attitudes among the youth," said Lipi Amena, Outreach and Communication, TIB. "Not only in Dhaka, but also in 36 localities of six divisions, the Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) co-ordinates

Corruption Day which falls on December 9."

The four judges were Syed Manzoorul Islam, Shishir Bhattacharya, Ahsan Habib and Shahrier Khan. The first position was jointly taken by Asim Chandro Roy who captured 'digital Bangladesh' in his cartoon and Mehedi Haque who drew a corrupt doctor smiling at the bribes he has managed to rake in. Other than the first, second and third positions, there were many works that received a special mention.

In one cartoon by Nasreen Sultana Mitu, the current system of local government fund was criticised where the fund first goes to the bureaucrats before 'dropping' to the needy people who actually deserve it. ASM Shahidullah Faruq showed how hard it is for an average patient to get proper treatment at a hospital, with unnecessary costs impeding him at every step. One cartoon shows ants discussing the stock of sugar and the rise in the commodity's price. This goes to show that the young are pretty much aware of the phenomenon of corruption.

"We have been holding such exhibits since 2006," said Sajjad Hussein, Senior Manager, TIB. "It mainly gives an opportunity to cartoonists who do not have any platform to exhibit their works. Besides this, we aim to encourage and alert the younger generation about the need to root out corruption. We try to reach out to the youth not only in Dhaka but even as far as the remote areas of Hill tracts in Chittagong where no exhibitions have been held so far. From next year, we will try to have both a photographic exhibition other than a cartoon exhibition."



The exhibition aims at encouraging anti-corruption attitudes among the youth.

that these works are mostly by artists in their teens and early '20s. At a time of their lives when they should be having fun, they spared their valuable hours trying

sonal/official burdens. And yet, they take the time and effort to alert the masses about the ills of corruption. "We do it mainly to encourage anti-corruption

programmes surrounding various occasions such as International Youth Day. These exhibitions are usually held worldwide to observe International Anti

## 10th Int'l Children's Festival of Performing Arts in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

The curtains went up on the 10th edition of the International Children's Festival of Performing Arts on December 16. Five thousand students from 30 countries are to congregate in the Indian capital to display their individual arts and spread the message of peace and harmony -- a glaring scarcity in this era of terrorism, violence and hatred. Apply the theme of the festival is: "I can I will".

For three days, the young ones in the 12-18 age group will occupy centre stage with around 200 performances: ballets, one act plays, street theatre, puppetry and folk dances, among others. Workshops and seminars are to run

alongside.

The Nrityanchal team is Bangladesh's flag bearer. On the first day the group is to present musical drama "Shambhashan" (Addressing), a composition that blends a variety of Bangladeshi folk dances.

What makes the festival stand apart is that it will not only feature the traditional art forms of theatre, dance and music that have become a staple in our part of the world but also rarer performances such as a circus (from Germany) and shadow puppetry (Turkey and South Korea). Moreover, children from economically weaker sections will participate in the event.

Peace is the thread that runs through the fest, which

begins with a theatrical parade to kick off from the historic Jantar Mantar and wind its way to the National Bal Bhavan -- a venue for many of the shows. Next is a 'Bus of World Peace Ceremony' where children get to paint buses with messages of peace. The colourful vehicles are then to wind their way through the streets of the capital.

A 'World Village', complete with souvenirs and artefacts from various countries, is an added attraction.

"The festival will offer many interesting sidelights, as for instance a circus by children from Germany. This is an important inclusion because it will reveal the need to learn, say, juggling which is a means of building concentration and synchronisation.

The Indian children will also be exposed to a variety of genres that go beyond dance and theatre," says Utkarsh Marwah, festival director and cultural and creative director with Ryan Foundation which has hosted the event under the aegis of Ryan International and St Xavier's Group of schools.

"Moreover, young people will get a chance to intermingle and act as cultural ambassadors without the preconceptions about other nations which we adults have instilled in them," he goes on to add.

Get set for three days of fun and learning when children get the chance to deliver messages of peace and hope to edgy adults who have brought the world to a dangerous precipice.