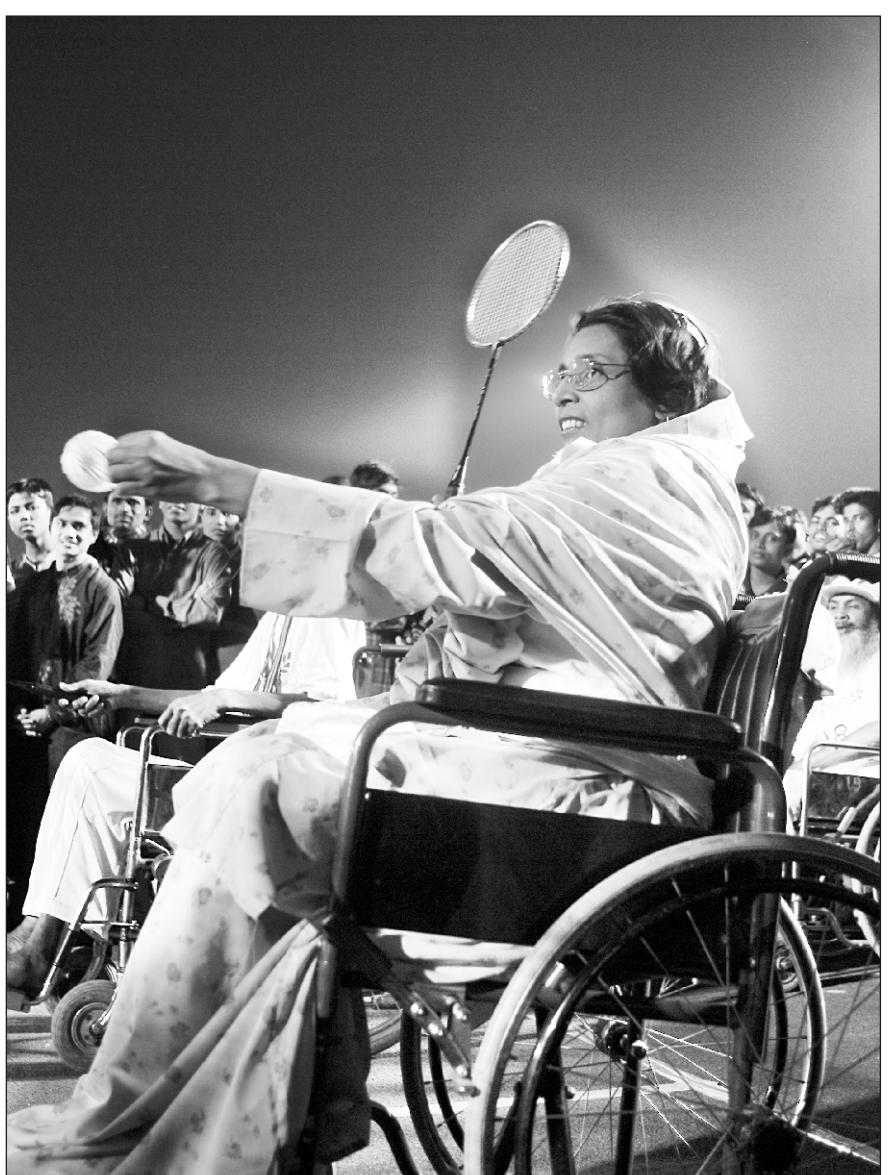




DEFIANT AS EVER

THOUSANDS of people laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh in 1971 and thousands more became physically disabled fighting for their motherland. These injured freedom fighters have not yet been properly rehabilitated. They are often ignored by the nation and kept away from mainstream society. The war-maimed freedom fighters, who survived after thirty two years of Independence, participated in the first sports competition organised for them by Bangladesh Olympic Association at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on 12 December 2003. Zinat Ara Begum participated in badminton competition, Shamsuddin Mondal in ball throw. Modasser Hossain Modhu won five medals in the competition. War-maimed heroes of 1971 from different parts of Bangladesh also participated in a wheel chair race, volleyball and other competitions.



ABIR ABDULLAH

Abir Abdullah started photography in 1994, joining Drik Picture Library as a staff photographer in 1996. His main interest lies in documentary photography, and his series of photographs on injured war veterans of Bangladesh's Liberation War won the prestigious Mother Jones Prize for Documentary Photography in