

Letters from the battlefield

Recitation of "Ekatturer Chithi" by Udichi

JAMIL MAHMUD

During the nine-month long Liberation War, thousands of people -- both civilians and the freedom fighters -- wrote letters to their near and dear ones. These letters depict and document turmoil and life during the war. Recently Prothoma Publication, in association with the Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Grameenphone, published a collection of letters written by freedom fighters. The publication, titled "Ekatturer Chithi," has been considered an authentic account of the war.

The Central Recitation department, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi arranged a programme at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on June 4. Members of the organisation recited selected letters from "Ekatturer Chithi" at the programme.

The stage was designed to look like a battlefield. The dimmed lantern, makeshift bunker and a couple of (replicas of) firearms placed here and there created an apt ambiance. With the combat zone as the background, members of Udichi recited letters, one after another, that were written at the real battlefields.

The programme started with a recitation of a letter written by Shaheed Amanullah Chowdhury Faruk. Shaheed Faruk wrote the letter to his father few days before his death. Unsurprisingly, most of the letters recited at the programme, were written to mothers by the soldiers. A recitation of a letter by Shaheed Nurunnabi to his mother was next. Shaheed Nurunnabi was a student of Rajshahi Medical College and was at the front line of the Rajshahi battle zone.

Reciters chose to read out the letters chronologically, so that developments during the war could be better understood. A letter written by Shaheed Abdul Aziz to his spouse on April 16, 1971, followed Khorshed Alam's writing on April 23 to his mother Rahela Khatun.

A letter by Shaheed Rumi, son of Jahanara Imam, to his uncle, Pasha, on June 16, 1971 was also part of the recitation.

Ataur Rahman Khan's letter to his daughter written on July 16, 1971 outlined the sacrifices that the freedom fighters made during the war for their beloved motherland. A wounded freedom fighter Md. Abdur Rahim wrote a letter from his hospital bed to his mother on August 2, 1971. He was bearing eight splinters in his body.

Belayet Hossain, Syed Saifullah, Sumit Paul, Moumita Jannat, Shikha Sen and Anita Rani Das, among others, recited the letters at the programme. Belayet Hossain directed the programme. Instrumental rendition of popular patriotic songs as the background music by Sunil Sarkar, Almas Ali and Shahid respectively on keyboard, violin and flute added to the ambiance.



An Udichi member recites a letter from "Ekatturer Chithi" at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Bengal Foundation: Presenting Bangladeshi music and art to the world

With a vision to project the opulence of Bangladeshi culture, Bengal Foundation -- a private trust -- began its journey in the late '80s. After over 20 years on the trail, Bengal Foundation's endeavours now encompass almost all forms of visual and performing arts. Music and painting, however, remain its central concern. The Foundation has recently partnered with impresario India (a cultural organisation with an 18-year track record of highlighting aspects of Bengali culture for a global audience), and is arranging a series of concerts featuring prominent Bangladeshi singers in Delhi, India, starting from today, says a press release.

It should be mentioned that Bengal Foundation has organised a series of painting exhibitions in the last three years in New York,

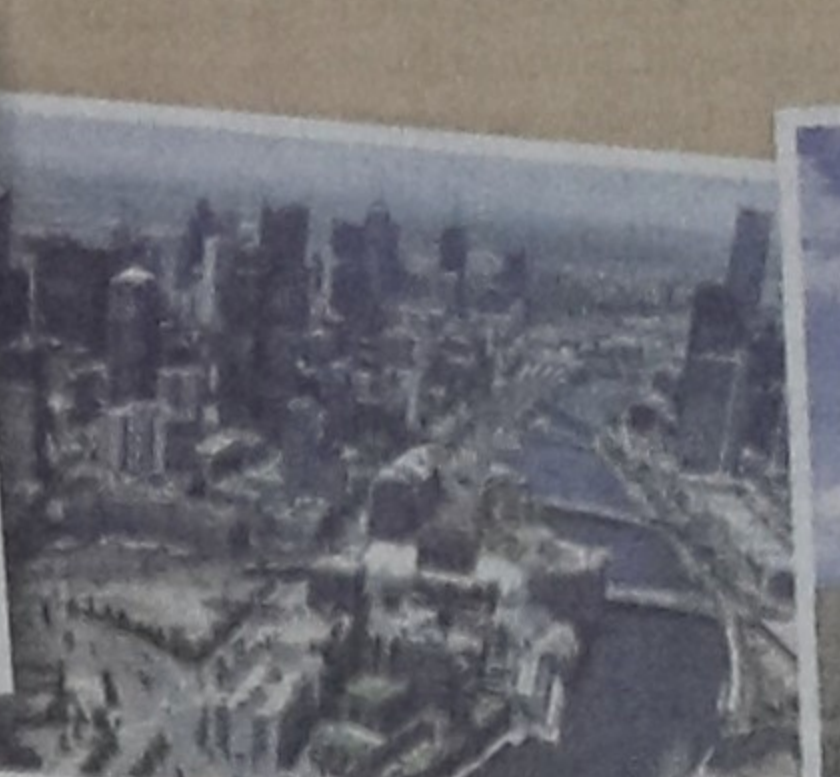
Kolkata, Brussels, Dubai and Canada, in an effort to take contemporary Bangladeshi art beyond our borders. In similar vein the Foundation seeks to present the repertoire of Bengali music to a wider audience through concerts organised in different parts of the world. The alliance with impresario India is part of its endeavour to share the richness and diversity of Bangladesh's legacy of music with the rest of the world.

The concerts in Delhi, India: "Rabindra Sangeet O Banglar Puratani Gaan" featuring Iffat Ara Dewan at CCRT Auditorium, Dwarka (June 6); "Gaaner Sandhya" featuring Shama Rahman at India International Centre Auditorium (June 28); "Baishe Sraban" featuring Laisa Ahmed Lisa at Gurgaon (August 15).

Australian Property Immigration



Migrate to Australia



Melbourne - the world's most livable city



Architecturally designed homes



Visa links

Learn how a safe and secure investment in one of Melbourne's Leading Property Developments can provide you with visa links and a world class education for your children.

- ✓ Invest in Australian Property
- ✓ Migration pathway assistance
- ✓ State Government sponsorship
- ✓ Quality Education for your children
- ✓ Free hold titles
- ✓ Australian Government approved

UPCOMING EXHIBITION
Dhaka
exhibition/seminar
June 2009



Townshend Homes Group
Est. 1954

1st floor, 16-18 Ellingworth Pde
Box Hill Vic 3123 Australia
e: sales@townshend.com.au
www.townshend.com.au
t: +61 3 9897 3888

Register online now at www.townshend.com.au for your personalised meeting with an Australian Townshend representative in Dhaka and make your dreams of living in Australia a reality.

DIRGAHAYU



Salutation and Heartiest Congratulations

to

YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah
D.K.M., D.K.T., D.K.R., D.M.N., S.U.M.Z., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T., D.K.(Perlis), D.K.(Johor), D.K.M.B.(Brunei), D.K.(Perak),
D.K.(Negeri Sembilan), D.K.(Kedah), D.K.(Kelantan), D.K.(Selangor), S.P.M.J., Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur (France)

On His Majesty The King Of MALAYSIA's Birthday

on

6th June 2009

(12th Jamadilakhir 1430)

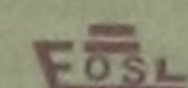
May ALLAH Bless Your Majesty's Reign
With Utmost Sincerity From



The High Commission of Malaysia
Bangladesh



MISC BERHAD



Agent EASTERN OVERSEAS SHIPPING LINES LTD.



ICB ISLAMIC BANK

A member of ICB Financial Group Holdings AG

