



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Four decades on . . .

Reflections on Victory

Music, poetry, plays and art -- culture on the whole has always had a major impact throughout our national history. Politics may bring down tyranny, change policies but its culture that promulgates the message to the masses, generates awareness and takes a national movement to its peak. After 40 years of independence, where do we stand? What are our achievements? Some of the country's leading cultural personalities talked to The Daily Star on several issues.

Farooque, actor

I never fret over what my country has or hasn't given me.

I'm more concerned about what I can do for my country. I want to give it my best. I gambled with my life in the battlefields during the Liberation War. Bangabandhu's rousing speech on March 7, 1971 inspired me to go to war. Death looming everywhere didn't dampen my intentions. Setting out to fight for one's motherland is a big test of patriotism and a sacred responsibility.

I believe we should concentrate more on what we can do for our country, rather than what it can offer us. That approach is powerful enough to change the whole country.

My decision to work in films was triggered by my love for the country. Cinema earned me the love of the masses.

I want to do more for my country but I feel like my time is limited. Then I console myself with the hope that our young would resolve these crises. I know one day the wheels will turn. My biggest achievements are being a freedom fighter and an artiste.

Minu Haque, dancer and choreographer
During the Liberation War, the Pakistani Army wanted me to perform at the Governor House (now Bangabhaban), but

Later in December, when the war tightened its grip, we

were shifted to Kolkata.

Liberation War was a demand of the time. I consider my participation in it as the greatest achievement of my life. After 40 years, when I look back, I regret that this is not what we fought for.

If we all unite to do something great for the country, positive changes are bound to happen. I run a dance school, Pallabi. I would like to enrich the practice of dance in the country. I believe dance should be included into the education system. I believe that the next generation of artistes will bring about that change.

Syed Shamsul Haq, writer and poet

I have received several awards from the country, which are more than what I deserve. I am humbled by the respect and admiration demonstrated by the people of my country where literacy rate is minimal. A few months ago, I, and a friend who was visiting from England, went to Barisal. My friend was bowled over by the hospitality accorded to us. Even the restaurants refused to take money from us. My friend wrote about this experience in The Guardian.

My country has given me countless things. My poems, novels, essays and plays -- all of my literary works are based on the country and its people. Bangladesh has, and will

I declined and went to India with freedom fighters.

We stopped at Bishramganj, Agartala, Tripura of India

where Bangladesh Field Hospital (the first field hospital during the war) was providing medical treatments to the wounded freedom fighters and refugees. It was a 480-bed hospital with both surgical and medical units. It was run by Bangladeshi doctors, medical students and volunteers. I worked there as a nurse and assisted doctors. One of the trustees of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Bangladesh, Dr. Zafurullah Chowdhury, who joined the Liberation War leaving his FRCS examination to be held that year in England, along with Dr. Mobin Chowdhury and Dr. Capt. Akhtar, founded the hospital.

We got inspired when Commander in Chief of The Liberation Forces and of the Bangladesh Forces General M.A.G. Osmani and the first Indian Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw came to visit us. Wounded Freedom Fighters from Sector 2 came to the hospital for treatment.

The hospital was operational from July to December, 1971. The Bangladesh Government in exile, the Indian Government and several other nations helped the hospital with medicines, surgical equipments and more.

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Qayyum Chowdhury, artist

Light, air, water, earth, shade and more -- I'm indebted for

all these elements to the country. I cannot stay abroad for too long. Whatever achievements I've had, have happened because I'm a citizen of a free country.

Painters should uphold the country's culture and traditions through art. Art is communicative and can effortlessly engage people from all corners of the world.

I usually try to highlight the nature and people of my country in my works. Now I'm working on the Nakshi Kantha motif.

Shameem Akhtar, independent filmmaker

One of the biggest achievements over the last four decades, to me, is the significant progress in women's empowerment.

A great number of women are involved in the workforce now -- from corporate houses to labour market.

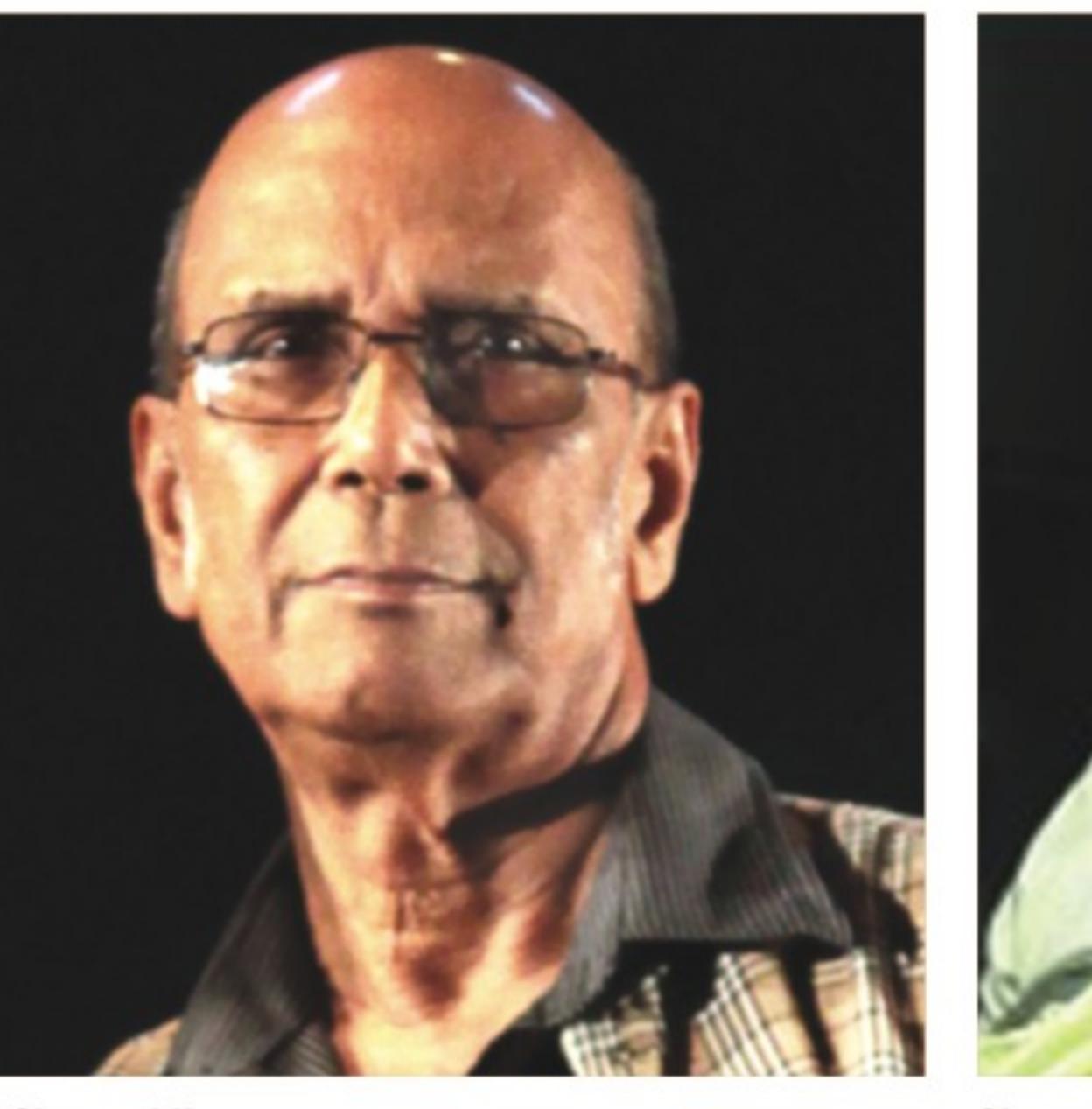
Women in our country first stepped out of their homes

through the "Kajer Binimoye Khaddo Karmoshuchi" (food for work project) in the 1970s. When I started working as a

journalist, very few women were involved in this media.



Qayyum Chowdhury



Syed Shamsul Haq



Shameem Akhtar



Rokeya Rafique Baby



Shamim Ara Nipa



Farooque



Minu Haque

BRINGING 1971 TO LIFE

Light and Sound Show at Suhrawardy Udayan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Starting from December 14, a three-day-long light and sound show, titled "Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey", was held at Shadhinota Chhattar, Suhrawardy Udayan in the capital. The exciting show is being held to commemorate 40 years of Bangladesh's independence.

Planned and directed by Nasirul Haque Khokon, the light and sound show traces the origin of Bangladesh. Scripted by Sohel Anwar, the show features narration by eminent artist and elocutionist Asaduzzaman Noor MP.

Two shows are presented everyday at the venue while a dazzling atoshabi (fireworks) will be one of the highlights of today's show.

Starting with a Tagore song, "Shartok Jonom Amar" (recorded by Aditi Mohsin), a documentary portrayed Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech. Two poems -- "Amar Porichoy" by Syed Shamsul Haq and "Shadhinota Ei Shabdoot Kibhabey Amader Holo" by Nirmoldu Guin -- and a letter written by a martyred freedom fighter, from the compilation of letters jointly published by Prothom Alo and Grameenphone were part of the presentation.

The backdrop and ramifications of Liberation War was the focal point of the show. Our national flag was hoisted for the first time on March 2, 1971 at the adjacent area. Bangabandhu delivered his historic speech on March 7, 1971 at the venue. The atrocities of March 25, 1971 were depicted in the show.

Language Movement of 1952, Students' Movement of 1962, Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Rupali, Exim and Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited sponsored the event.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

erred his homecoming speech on January 10, 1972 at this venue. The documentary did not miss any of these historic moments.

Nasirul Haque Khokon and Juned Yusuf jointly designed the lights while Ahsan Reza Khan Tushar designed the sound.

Mohammad Rafi Suman did the choreography. Ramzan Ali edited the documentary while Nur Uddin Faruk Shuvo was in charge of graphics design.

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs in collaboration with Creations Unlimited and Gaurobor Pranort arranged the show while Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Rupali, Exim and Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited sponsored the event.



মোরা
একটি ফুলকে
বাঁচাবো
বলে যুদ্ধ করি

সুহ শিশু মা আমালিল সুখ ও শান্তিতে
ভোর পরিবার গঢ়ার বপ্ন নিয়ে অবিবাহ কাজ করে
যাইছে আমরা। সব শৰ্কা, উৎপন্ন পেছনে ফেরে
প্রতিটি সহস্রাবে বরে যাব নির্মল প্রশান্তির
সুবাদে। ভালোবা আর আলোবা কাঁচুক আপনার
প্রতিটি দিন। গড়ে উচুক এক ঘোষণাজুল, সুন্দর
বাহারামে। আর এ লক্ষ পুরুষে আপনার পাশে
আমরা আছি, ধৰিবো।

বিজয়ের দিনে এ আমাদের অধীনকার।



ATN BANGLA		BANGLA Feature Film: Amra Tomader Bhulbona	
10:30	Muktijoddha O	Boishakhi TV	Boishakhi TV-CNN
	Sammitito Samorik	05:15	Shahabidhwa
	Bahini Kuchkawaz	07:45	Live Concert Bijoy
	Bangla Feature Film: Joygati	08:00	Shondhya
	Gram Gonjer Khabar	08:00	Reporters' Diary
	Muktir Katha	11:00	Boishakhi Binodon O
	Bijoyeer Gaan	11:30	Samskriti Sangbad
CHANNEL I		ETV	
11:05	Robi-Channel I	10:02	Drama: Omoratrir Gaan
	Bijoymerla '11 (live)	11:30	Ami Birangona Bolchhi
02:40	Bangla Feature Film: Amar Bondu Rashed	01:30	Shahabidhwa
	Special Programme	06:30	Drama Programme: Bijoy Chhondo
11:30		07:50	Cholochchitrey Amader
Desh TV		Diganta TV	
03:00	Bangla Feature Film: Aloc Michil	12:05	Boishakhi TV
04:00	Desh Janapod	12:05	Drama: Concert (Samogeet)
06:30	Instrumental Music: Bijoy Shur	10:30	Bijoy Ullashey
RADIO		RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	12:00	Boier Poka	Boier Poka
06:00	Bhorer Janayat	02:00	Footit Unlimited
09:00	Mukherjee Abeyone	02:30	Footit Unstoppable
10:00	Duronto Bikkhey	10:00	Footit
05:00	Shondhaba	01:00	Back to Rock music
07:00	Shajer Maya	02:30	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	Raat-er Akhey	06:00	Green FM
11:00	Golper Shesh Nei	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	RADIO FM 89.2	11:00	Flash Back
09:00	Ariddabi	12:30	Islamic Program
08:00		02:15	Rupali Gaan
1971 (World Premiere)		1971 (World Premiere)	
On Boishakhi TV at	02:35pm	On Boishakhi TV at	02:35pm
Documentary Film		Director: Tanvir Mokammel	
Clash of the Titans		Clash of the Titans	
On HBO at 09:30pm		On HBO at 09:30pm	
Genre: Action/Adventure/Fantasy		Genre: Action/Adventure/Fantasy	
Cast: Sam Worthington,			
Flashback		Flashback	
On ntv at 09:00pm		On ntv at 09:00pm	
Single episode TV		Play	
Cast: Tisha, Kalyan			
BANGLAVISION		BANGLAVISION	
11:45	Call-er Gaan: Band Renaissance	11:05	Bangla Feature Film: Alor Michil
08:30	Drama: Ekta Cholo Ray	01:05	Channel: Ekti Gram
09:30	Documentary: Okhongkar Chagroto	06:30	Bangladesh: Bhalobash Bangladesh
10:30	Krishnagobok Gsan-e Gaan-e Juddha	11:05	Concert: Bijoyer Gourobey
11:00	Tele-film: Muki	02:30	Maarsanga Television
02:30	Tele-film: Muki	05:02	Documentary: Promila Juddha
06:00	Music Programme: Shadhin Swadeshi Priyo	06:30	Bangladesh: Housefull
09:00		09:02	Top of the Pops: Desh-e Gaan
RTV		Z Studio	
10:10	Doctor's Prescription	11:05	The Rock
02:15	Tele		