

41 YEARS ON... ROAD TO SHONAR BANGLA

A view from the frontlines Saeeda Kamal on the Liberation War

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Saeeda Kamal speaks with passion about the most important event in her life - the War of Liberation. "During the Liberation War, I was a third year student of Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). From the beginning of the war, my family was greatly inclined to help the freedom fighters in different ways. I was completely inspired by my mother, the late poet Sufia Kamal.

During the Liberation War in 1971, we made a plan to go to Comilla with the guidance of Mahmudur Rahman Benu (singer). We were 12 in the group, including Shahadat Chowdhury (editor of the defunct government-owned weekly Bichitra); Milia Ghani (Tagore singer), Syed Alamgir (son of poet Sikandar Abu Jafar). We first reached Chandina, then crossed the border and stayed at Shonamora village.

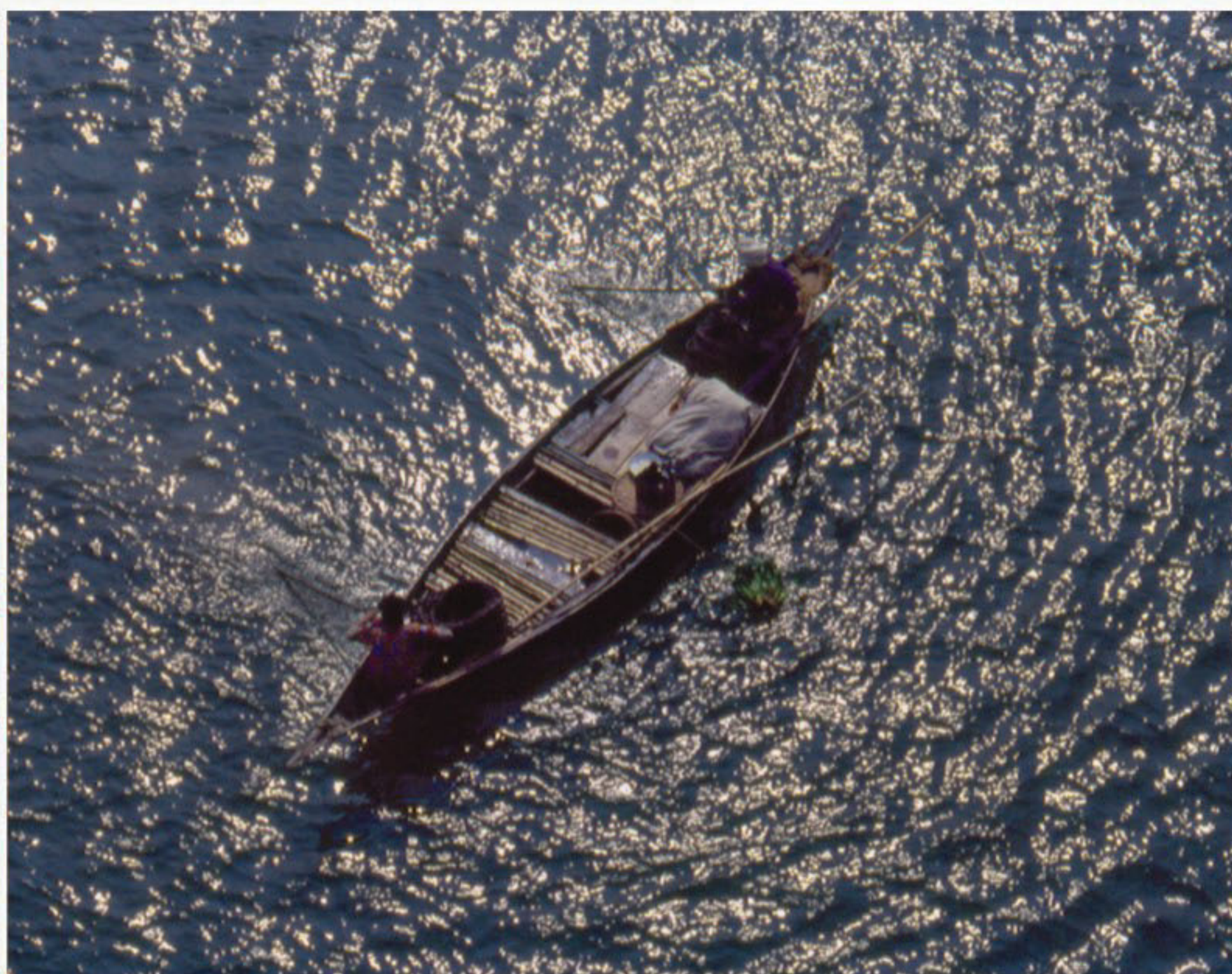
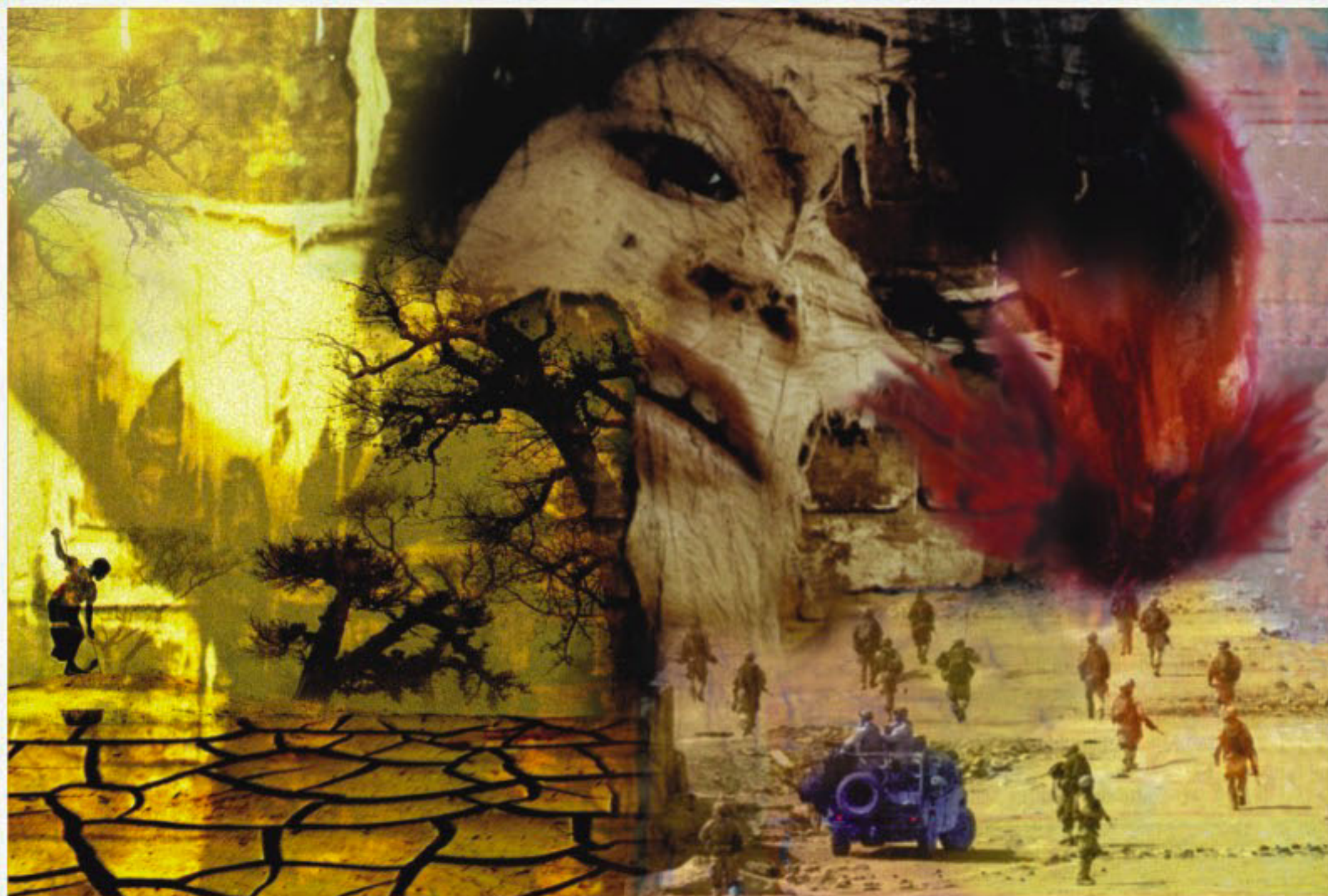
After reaching there, we got to meet Fateh Ali Chowdhury (brother of Shahadat Chowdhury). He informed us that Dr. Akhter Ahmed, a physician of Army Medical Core, wanted to establish a hospital in the region. The hospital was founded in a forest bungalow. Reputed freedom fighter Khaled Mosharraf visited the hospital and encouraged us with his support and close observation. The hospital started with great zeal. We served the patients and stayed there from June to the end of the November 1971. We assisted wounded freedom fighters and injured villagers. After some days, Dhalia Ahmed (elocutionist), Linu Billah (singer), Habibul Alam, Bir Protik, and his two sisters Asma and Reshma joined us.

We fought for values and principles. The camp, where we worked, had insufficient food, clothes and medicine. We lived in a tent. However, all these never seemed as any obstacle or difficulties; patriotism and devotion to the country and its people always was our priority.

Now the younger generation is learning a little more about our Liberation War. We must bring respect and dignity to our country and to our people, and have the fruits of independence to reach the masses. We must all work together to build our country. Our younger generation must be taught the values of our Liberation War."



Saeeda Kamal



Photographs by Nowazesh Ahmed.

Shadhinota Utshab held in Chittagong

Patriotic forces stand firm against
war criminals



Dancers give a pulsating performance at DC Hill in Chittagong commemorating Independence Day.

SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMİ, Chittagong

"Swadhinota Utshab", a festival celebrating the 41st anniversary of Independence was held at DC Hill premises in the port city on Friday amidst festivity.

Proma Abritti Sangathan, a cultural organisation in the port city, arranged the festival.

The event began with a colourful procession that started from DC Hill premises and made the rounds of important intersections of the city. Dancing to the beat of drums(dhak), people from all walks of life, wearing traditional dress, took part in the rally which ended at the Nazrul Mancha.

Later, freedom fighter Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman inaugurated the

festival as chief guest.

The festival comprised a cultural programme and discussion on the Liberation War. The discussion was chaired by Proma president Rashed Hasan where director general of Bangladesh Television M Hamid spoke as the chief guest.

Poet Arun Dasgupta, Professor Hossain Kabir, Ranjit Rakshit also spoke among others.

M Hamid said, "Practicing its own language the nation has upheld the culture, heritage of the country before the world," he added.

Speakers at the programme urged all patriotic forces to stand firm against war criminals.

Hundreds of city dwellers gathered at DC Hill premises to enjoy the cultural programme.



Arman Parvez Murad and co actor in the TV play.

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Independence Day, Banglavision will air the special TV play "Ekjon Razakar Mara Gechhe" tonight at 9:05pm. Written by Dewan Shamsul Kabir and the TV play has been directed by Kawmain Shourav.

The cast includes Sujata, Arman Parvez Murad, Moushumi, Tajin Ahmed, Saberi Alam and others.

The story revolves around a razakar (collaborator), who committed heinous crimes during the Liberation War. The razakar's family members have no respect for him because of his crimes against humanity. Even his only son and mother hate him and demand that he be brought to trial. The razakar tries his best to earn the respect of his relatives and family members. But all his efforts go in vain.

Dreams ahead...

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dinaat Jahan Munni: *Singer*

My country is akin to a beloved person. All my emotions, euphoria and sadness revolve around my beloved. My songs are dedicated to my country and are appreciated by my compatriots. If all Bangladeshis care about their country, it is bound to have a positive impact.

It's been 41 years since we gained freedom. We have fought and won to speak our very own language and practice our culture without any bar. There are people who suffer from complexities about the country, but I differ from them. I am an optimist and want to convey the message that we should have unconditional love for our country just as we have for our mother. Let us all unite against evil forces. Only then we can be true nationalists.



Dinaat Jahan Munni

Moushumi Nag: *Actor*

I spent many years in Canada, but always felt that home was beckoning me. I felt that my attachment for my home country could have no parallels.

If asked about my hopes for Bangladesh, I want the country to be corruption-free. I want a stop to all political violence and an untainted democracy in the country. I would also like to see that no Bangladeshi ever goes hungry again.

In my dreams Bangladesh becomes a well recognised country. I also dream that we will win the World Cup in cricket; it will be a country where education will be given the highest priority and we will become self-sufficient. The world will never cease to wonder at our glorious achievements. I don't know when the day will come, but I will gladly wait for it.



Moushumi Nag

Orsha: *Model cum actor*

Even though there is much to despair about, I have high hopes for my country. I hope that our country will be a champion in education, instead of corruption. I hope Bangladesh will be self-sufficient.

If we keep on dreaming, our dreams will come true one day. Bangladesh is still known as the country of floods and cyclones, but hopefully one day Bangladesh will be known as champions in cricket as well as other sports.

I believe that if our massive manpower is well utilised, many of the crises confronting the nation will be resolved. If corruption were eradicated permanently, then there wouldn't be a word like "monga".

I want a Bangladesh where there is no discrimination, but only a bright future; a country that will be run by people of talent. I really love my "Shonar Bangla".



Orsha

Ishana: *Actor*

I truly believe that our country will change one day and the next generation will take charge for the better. True patriots will work in every sector of our country to keep our national resources within the country instead of smuggling cash and talent out.

We can be proud about our cricket and be motivated to bring about changes in all sectors - so that our country is known as the true "Shonar Bangla". We only seem to think about what our country has given us, but we should focus on what we can offer our country. Only then can the country move forward. Our educated youth will have to be determined to keep pace with the ever-evolving world.

In the Bangladesh of my dreams, there will be no violence, no lack of security, no gender discrimination, no acid violence and no torture of women for dowry.

All will get equal benefits and nepotism will be a bygone word.



Ishana

Nabila: *Host*

I grew up abroad but Bangladesh stirs up emotions that no other country will be able to do.

As a member of this generation, I feel strongly that if there were no corruption and politicians ran the country with true commitment, our country would be a real "Shonar Bangla".

I wish for a Bangladesh where no newspaper will have to cover news of murder, rape, hunger or suicide. I want a country with the best capital and where communication services will be the best.

In my dream Bangladesh, talented individuals will utilise their skills to steer the country forward; educated and progressive people will join politics, people in both urban and rural areas will enjoy equal benefits. Bangladesh will become a developed country and utilise its resources optimally.

If only we can change our attitudes and be true patriots, change is inevitable.



Nabila

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO OUR CHILDREN

Shila Momen talks
to The Daily Star



Fulki, a model school of Chittagong, has been offering education of an enlightened sort to its students for the last 36 years.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

I had witnessed the mass upsurge of 1969. Humiliated by the razakar, al badr, al shams of Pakistani army, we crossed 80 miles on foot to reach India where I joined "Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha" at 144, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta (now Kolkata). I along with a number of artistes helped raise the morale of Bangladeshi Freedom Fighters by taking part in different training camps and people's struggle during the Liberation War of 1971.

It was a thrilling experience for me. I noticed freedom loving people of all ages in the camps. We fought for the country with our music. We performed music in a programme on Free Jessore Day. When India recognised Bangladesh on December 6, we, the artistes of "Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha", rendered the national anthem in a programme arranged by the Bangladeshi Mission in Calcutta. The honourable cabinet members of the Mujibnagar Government, including Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed, spoke on the occasion. It remains a memorable day of my life.

For me, independence has not brought about a change as yet. It is our duty to hand over the legacy of independence to the new generation so that they can accomplish the unfinished tasks or unfulfilled promises of the Liberation War. We want the new generation to add to the dimensions of independence and so

make freedom really meaningful.

The younger generation must know the answers to several basic questions, including what the Liberation War was and why it was inevitable. Faults were on our part too. If we, the guardians and the teachers, can make the younger generation understand the real picture of Liberation War through stories, films and music, they will not get confused about the fact.

In 1971, I was a first year student



Shila Momen

of the Department of Economics of Dhaka University. I was a resident of Rokeya Hall. There was a slaughter house beside Shamsunnahar Hall. If we remember those martyrs by placing floral wreaths every year, the new generation will develop a clear perspective about the war.

As the principal and one of the initiators of Fulki, a model school of Chittagong, I have undertaken the task of training young minds. Fulki

is the brainchild of noted Tagore exponent, poet and bureau chief of Prothom Alo (Chittagong) Abul Momen. Founded in 1976, the school has been offering education of an enlightened sort to its students for the last 36 years.

Teachers of different schools receive training from our school, Nalanda, a school of Chhayanaut, has adapted our comprehensive educational-cultural activities. Aroni School of Tangail has also accepted our syllabus module. Our education trainers regularly take classes at more than 60 schools in nine districts of the country. We hope to increase the pace in the days ahead.

Apart from providing basic education to our students, we offer them eight topics, including Music, Fine Arts, Keertikatha, that give them confidence, Manishikatha that gives them inspiration, Rhymes and Poetry, Story Telling, Science, and Rights consciousness.

My suggestions for the generations centre around the idea that they must stand upright in the world knowing and holding the opulent history of thousands years of Bengal in the heart. Everyone is yet to have the taste of independence. All must benefit from freedom. I am also urging them to understand the inner meaning of the excerpt "Manush Haw Manush Haw" by Bishwa Manob Hobi. Bishwa Manob Hobi's "Jodi Shashoto Bangalee Haw" by Gurusaday Dutt.

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একটি রবি | The Daily Star উদযাপন

We have been independent for 41 years today.

We will always be proud of our past glories.

পৌরবন্দ্য অতীত সর্বসময় আমাদের সামনে এগিয়ে যাওয়ার সাহস যুগিয়েছে। স্বাধীনতার সেই চেতনা বৃক্কে নিহা আনান ও জেরিনের মতো চলুন আমরাও আকাশে বাতাসে ছড়িয়ে দিই শান্তির আবহাৱ।

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স্বাধীন্য আমরবেই

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| ATN BANGLA | | 02:30 | Bangla Feature Film: Maini Moira |
| 12:15 | Shahitto Shadinata | 06:30 | Documentary |
| 01:25 | Priyo Shadinata | 07:45 | Simon Diring-er Report |
| 03:05 | Muktijuddher Ethash | | March 1971 |
| 06:15 | Shadinatar Obhedy | 09:45 | Drama: Bhoobister Sriti |
| 08:00 | Shurjodoyer Gaan | 11:45 | Utsabhey Anandey |
| 08:45 | Drama: Tomar Porey | | Diganta TV |
| | Thekai Matha | 11:30 | School Angina |
| 11:00 | Laal Shobujer Deshey | 03:05 | Jonaki Ebong Ekjon |
| CHANEL i | | | Rahela Khatun |
| 09:45 | Tritio Matra | 06:00 | Juddhodiner Kotha |
| 11:05 | Bangla Feature Film: Karigar | 06:30 | Bhulobhul Bangladesh |
| 02:30 | Rong Tulituy | 08:00 | Drama: Meda |
| | Muktijuddho | 10:00 | Prime Time |
| 07:50 | Drama: Bha Kakhon | 11:15 | Chetonnay 71 |
| 11:30 | Jonmo Amar Dhomno Holo | | Maasranga Television |
| ntv | | 10:02 | Bangla Feature Film: Shadinatar Concert |
| 10:05 | Bangla Feature Film: Uthban Porbo | 03:05 | 2012 |
| 12:35 | Uthban Porbo | 07:30 | Prime Issue |
| 01:00 | Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan | 08:00 | Drama: 71-er Dinipri |
| | | 08:30 | Tele-film: Ami Juddhey Jabo |

RADIO

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|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| abcr radio FM 89.2 | 12:00 | My Time |
| 09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney | 01:00 | No Tension |
| 12:00 Duran Dipukey | 04:00 | Dhaka Calling |
| 03:00 Duranto Bilekey | 09:00 | Night Rider |
| 05:00 Shondhata | 01:00 | Rock to Back music |
| 07:00 Shajhey Maya | RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 | |
| 09:00 Raat-er Akashey | 08:00 | Good Morning Dhaka |
| 11:00 Golper Shesh Nei | 12:00 | Today's Adda |
| Radio Foorti | 04:00 | U Turn |
| 02:30 Hello Dhaka | 07:00 | Tobey Tai Hok |
| 10:00 Morning Express | 10:00 | Raat Shor Gaan |

Rang Tulituy
Muktijuddha
On CHANEL i at 02:30pm
Liberation War on Canvas
Host: Afzal Hossain

Janalaye
On Boishakhi TV at 08:40pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Shahed Sharif Khan, Nadia

Laal Sobujer Desh-e
On ATN BANGLA at 1:00pm
Magazine Programme
Host: Khandaker Ismail

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|--------------|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 02:35 | Shwapno Ebong Gaan | 11:00 | Jonmo Amar Dhomno |
| 04:10 | Concert | | Holo |
| 09:00 | Drama: Cactus | 12:00 | Shamprotik |
| ETV | | | Z Studio |
| 10:02 | Drama: Kokhilo Pothor | 01:30 | The Village |
| | Juddho | 03:50 | See No Evil |
| 11:30 | Dhumtana | 05:15 | The Shaggy Dog |
| 01:30 | Bangla Feature Film | 07:30 | House of Traps |
| 06:30 | Taal | 09:30 | Pineapple Express |
| 07:50 | Ami Birangona Bolchi | 12:00 | The Birthday Girl |
| 09:30 | Jonmo Amar Dhomno | | Fox Movies |
| | Holo | 03:05 | The One |
| 10:10 | Drama: Ebong | 06:10 | The Walking Dead |
| | | 07:00 | True Justice |
| Boishakhi TV | | 08:30 | The Road |
| 11:10 | Bangla Feature Film | 10:25 | Singer 2 |
| 03:30 | Shudhu Cinemar Gaan | 12:00 | Suiper 3 |
| 04:15 | Shorashori Doctor | | HBO |
| 06:20 | Muktijuddher Cholochntra | 12:40 | Music and Lyrics |
| | Nittya Anandey | 02:50 | Transporter 3 |
| 08:00 | Drama: Janalay | 05:00 | Frozen |
| 08:40 | Shomoy Katuk Gaane Gaane | 06:55 | The Bourne Identity |
| 11:00 | | 09:30 | The Mask |
| | | 11:45 | The Last Airbender |
| BANGLAVISION | | | Star World |
| 11:05 | Juddho Joyer Golpo | | Desperate Housewives |
| 01:05 | Bangla Feature Film | 11:30 | Supernatural |
| 05:20 | Praner Gaan Jagaraner Gaan | 02:30 | The River |
| 08:15 | Drama Serial: Ladies First | 10:30 | Dexter |
| 09:05 | Drama: Ekjon Rajakar | 11:30 | Jory |
| | Mara Gecchhe | 12:00 | Two And A Half Men |
| 11:25 | Protdrother Gaan | | National Geographic Channel |
| Rtv | | 02:30 | Seconds from Disaster |
| 10:10 | Shadinatar Golpo | 03:30 | Man Eater Manhunt |
| 10:40 | Taroklap | 04:30 | Snake Wranglers |
| 12:10 | Bangla Feature Film | 08:30 | Inside Nature's Giants |
| 05:00 | Cinema R Gaan | 10:30 | Air Crash Investigation |
| 06:00 | Purbo Digontey | | |

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| BTv | 11pm |
| News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm | Boishakhi TV |
| News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm |
| ATN BANGLA | News (English) at 9am, 6pm |
| News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm | BANGLAVISION |
| News (English) at 9am, 6pm | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm |
| CHANEL i | News (English) at 1pm, 5pm, 6pm, 9pm |
| News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm | Rtv |
| ntv | News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm |
| News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm | Desh TV |
| ETV | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm |
| News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm | |

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|---------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 07:40 | Our Democracy | 11:30 | Banged Up Abroad |
| 08:20 | Drama Serial: College Road | | Discovery Channel |
| 09:50 | Bridal Show | 02:30 | Man Vs. Wild |
| | | 03:30 | Extreme Bodies |
| Desh TV | | 04:30 | Swamp Brothers |
| 10:30 | Deshier Juddhey Bideshi | 08:30 | Food Detectives |
| | Boudhhi | 10:30 | Dual Survival |
| 11:00 | Stop Genocide | 11:30 | Dreaded Mantis' The Human Sees |
| 01:30 | Tomar Jonno Bangladesh | | |