PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

The photographs look at history through the lens of ordinary people.



Uncle Bunnu and His Sisters (L) and Wedding Without a Bride (R).

but Bunnu stayed back. He never married, held a job for long, and saw his sisters after 1947. He died alone in 1984. To his sisters living hundreds of miles away in India, the memory of Bunnu was a warm, breathing presence as real as the time they were together.

Wedding Without a Bride is a reproduction of an invitation for a wedding anniversary from 1920. The invitation was from the couple's son in keeping with the tradition in Tamil Nadu where sons and daughters perform this ceremony for their parents. However, the invitation card misses to mention the name of the bride!

Four photos—two by Haroon Habib, paid tribute to the struggles and sacrifices of the ordinary men and women in 1971. *The Flag of Independence* shows a little girl holding the Bangladeshi Liberation War flag in celebration of freedom. The photograph was taken at a sugar mill colony in Dewangonj, northern Jamalpur District by Haroon Habib, minutes after the surrender of Pakistani military in on 16 December 1971.

In Portrait of a Martyr, nine family photos of Shaheed Baqui were showcased. He joined the liberation war as a university student and became a fierce fighter before being captured and killed by the Pakistani military. He is gone but his dream of a better country for all lives on.

All these images are at once historical and contemporary— transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

Mofidul Hoque, a trustee of the museum says, "At first glance, these photos may not look anything special. But if you look closely, you can see that they carry significant messages through their mundane daily lives."