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IT'S NOW TIME FOR US TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE ONCE MORE BY STANDING BESIDE THE MAN WHOSE WORDS INSPIRED MILLIONS TO SURVIVE AND EMERGE VICTORIOUS OVER THE GENOCIDE OF 1971.

Powerful lyrics can be turned into lethal weapons. Even today we are moved by the songs of 'Joy Bangla'r Gaan' (The songs of freedom). These songs have remained in the hearts of countless individuals since their creation in 1971. *Mora Ekti Phul Ke Bachabo Bole Juddho Kori*, *Purbo Digonte Shurjo Utheche* and *Ek Shagor Rokter Binomoye* have inspired generation after generation of Bangladeshis. For these gems, we, the nationals of Bangladesh, will forever be indebted to Govinda Halder – the man behind the immortal words.

On March 25, 1971 – the war broke out in every corner of the country. With limited resources and abilities, people from all walks of life joined the struggle for freedom. By the end of May, Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, a clandestine radio station of the resistance, started its second phrase, as it aired revolutionary programmes from Baliganj Circular Road,

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We are ready to fight to save a single flower, we take up arms to bring smiles to those we love.

Title: *Mora Ekti Phul Ke Bachabo Bole Juddho Kori*

Lyrics: Govinda Halder

Composer: Apel Mahmud

A new sun has risen in the eastern horizon. Red it is, red it is, red it is.

Title: *Purbo Digonte Shurjo Utheche*

Lyrics: Govinda Halder

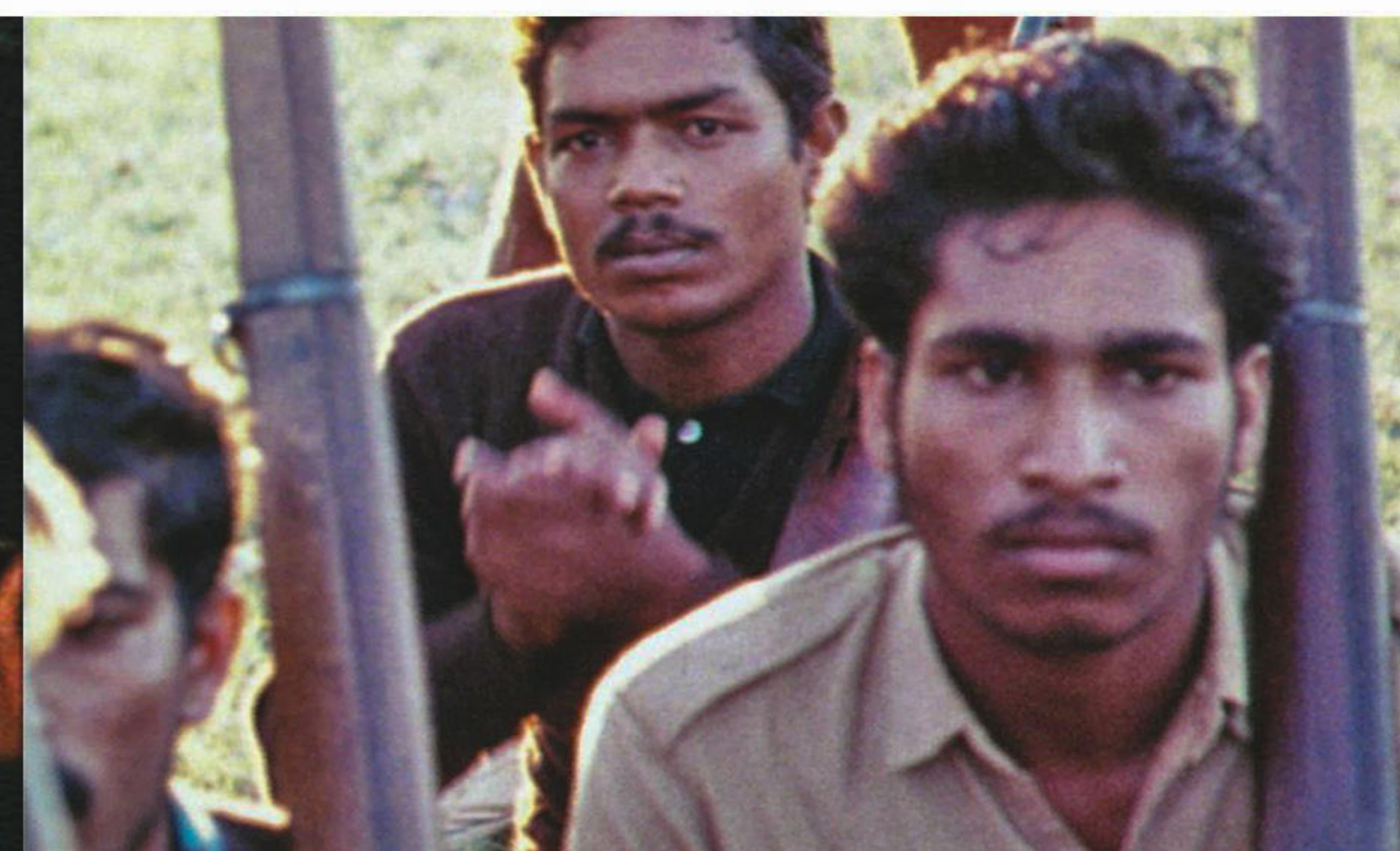
Composer: Samar Das

We will never forget you, you who have brought Bengal's freedom after sacrificing an ocean of blood.

Title: *Ek Shagor Rokter Binomoye*

Lyrics: Govinda Halder

Composer: Apel Mahmud



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The songs captured the spirit of the liberation war and inspired the freedom fighters.

Calcutta (now Kolkata). And this became an invaluable instrument of inspiration during the war.

Apart from the news bulletins, it was the fiery, emotion-filled songs inspiring people to protest for a free Bangladesh that became an indivisible part of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. For freedom fighters and thousands fighting for their rights, this station and its patriotic songs were the only way they could endure the trauma, bloodshed and agony of war.

At that time, radio officials thought of introducing

something new for their audience – something that would break away from the tradition of playing old recorded songs and regale them with rousing music performed live. Renowned activist and the news editor of the revolutionary radio station, Kamal Lohani, shared his desperate search to find strong lyricists with one of his friends Kamal Ahmed, who lived in Kolkata. Ahmed informed him about a young man, who wrote songs about the struggle of the people.

Lohani asked him to set up a meeting with the