



'Bangladesh to Britain'

A BRAC UK Educational Resource

Produced by Bk'sheesh Films in association with the Swadhinata Trust

Language to Liberation

The independence of Bangladesh was a bloody event – paid with a high price in life. 'Language to Liberation' offers an insight into the formation of a new nation state, from the initial seeds planted by Quaid-e-Azam (Father of the Nation) Muhammad Ali Jinnah's declaration that Urdu would be Pakistan's only state language. Moving through the 1970 national elections, where Sheikh Mujib's Awami League won a landslide victory, the guerilla war campaign carried out by the 'Mukti Bahini' (Freedom Fighters), to the Indian forces entering the capital, Dhaka, the film plays out a journey, leading to a 'Land of the Bengalis.'

10 minutes; Colour; Used for educational purposes only

6 minutes; Colour

Nora – Emerald of Bengal

Set during the anniversary commemoration held at Altab Ali Park, East London, 'Nora' offers a glimpse of a remarkable woman, whose courage and selflessness extended to a people she had never met before, leading her to take on a major role in the Bangladesh Liberation War, from Britain. Searching for 'guns with night vision,' to having a direct involvement in the release of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the film reveals how a young woman from Ireland formed a love affair with a far-away country, a foreign language and, along the way, the man she would marry.

10 minutes; Colour; Bengali with English Subtitles

BRAC

BRAC, a development organisation, was founded by Fazle Hasan Abed in February 1972 soon after the liberation of Bangladesh. BRAC's initial focus was on assisting the refugees returning from India to their newly independent country. It has since developed a unique, holistic approach to poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, encompassing a range of core programmes in economic and social development, health, education, human rights and legal services as well as disaster management.

Today, BRAC is the largest southern non-governmental organisation employing 120,000 people, the majority of which are women, and reaches more than 110 million people with development interventions in post-conflict or post-disaster regions in Asia and Africa.

BRAC UK is an international development organisation founded and registered as a charity in London in 2006. It is an affiliate member of the BRAC, sharing a common mission, ethos and collegial relationship. BRAC UK is committed to raising awareness about development issues here in the UK and is pleased to support this educational resource in partnership with UKaid from the Department of International Development and VSO UK.

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