

BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund: 2003 Activities

The proceeds from the BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund were withdrawn and utilized for the first time in the month of January 2003:

1. To donate books to school, college & library,
2. To feed improved diet to the residents of Kotchandpur Islamic Cultural Center and Orphanage and
3. To help about 35 to 40 needy families with cash donations.

1. BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund Donates books to School, College and Library:

The husband-wife team of Rowshon Ali Khokon and Shamima Nasrin of Solemanpur came up with the idea of donating books to these educational institutions. They also volunteered to select and purchase the books. Thanks to Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal Biplop and Fakhurul Kabir Sohel for transporting the books from Dhaka to Solemanpur and also thanks to Shahjahan Kabir, Jasmine Sultana Lazi and Mehnaz Parvin Shyama of Solemanpur for helping to distribute the books to these institutions.

The proceeds of the BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund were used to donate twenty-one books to Kotchandpur High School of Jhinaidah, Bangladesh on January 18, 2003. It is one of the oldest high schools (established in 1899) in the area, providing secondary education to the hundreds of male children of greater Kotchandpur. The school has all along had all-male teaching staff, but has recently appointed two female teachers and is preparing to hire another one as part of a recently established quota system.

The school teaches students in the areas of science, humanities, commerce and computers. The school facilities include a two-storied building built during the British Rule by the British Officers charged with Indigo cultivation in the region, a two-storied building constructed by the facilities division, a one-storied assembly hall, two one-storied classroom buildings, one vocational education building, a one-storied teachers' quarter and a mosque on the Kabadak River. In addition, the main school building houses an office room for the headmaster, another office room for the assistant headmaster and an assembly hall for the teachers. Each building has a separate office room. The laboratory is divided into physics, chemistry and biology sections. There are a school library, a one-storied library dedicated to vocational education, a computer room with four computers and a gymnasium.



BDI's Ashraf Ali is seen in these pictures with the books donated to Kotchandpur High School on January 18, 2003. Ashraf Ali studied in this high school from sixth to tenth grade. Also seen in these pictures are the teachers, staff and administrators of the high school. These pictures are taken in the teachers' office room located in the main school building.



The senior teacher of Kotchandpur High School Mr. Habibur Rahman is introducing the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali, who is an alumnus of Kotchandpur High School, to the assembled students of the school. Other teachers and school staff are also seen in the picture (January 18, 2003).



The entire student body of Kotchandpur High School is seen assembled here while the senior teacher Mr. Habibur Rahman introduces the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali to the assembled students (January 18, 2003).

BDI secretary Ashraf Ali also met the headmaster and other teachers of Kotchandpur Model Primary School and promised to make contribution to this institution in the future.



Tabibur Rahman, a well-wisher of Kotchandpur and administrator of local schools, colleges and libraries, introduced the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali and his eldest brother Shahjahan Kabir (vocal music instructor of Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy) to the headmaster of Kotchandpur Model Primary School (January 18, 2003).



The female teachers of Kotchandpur Model Primary School are seen in this picture (January 18, 2003).

A set of thirty-three books was donated to Kotchandpur Municipality Women's College of Jhinaidah on January 18, 2003 from the proceeds of the BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund. This college teaches eleventh and twelfth grade (Higher Secondary) as well as pass-course degree (thirteenth and fourteenth grades) education to the local women in the areas humanities and commerce. On receipt of the books, the principal of the college Mr. Abdul Latif stated in writing, the donated texts on various branches of knowledge would definitely inspire and benefit, in particular, our blooming and promising female learners.



The librarian of Kotchandpur Municipality Women's College of Jhinaidah is accepting the donated books from the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali. The administrators and staff of the college are seen standing around (January 18, 2003).



The Principal Mr. Abdul Latif (only his right hand is visible in the picture) of Kotchandpur Municipality Women's College of Jhinaidah is accepting the donated books from the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali. The teachers, administrators and staff of the college are also seen in the picture (January 18, 2003).



The Principal Mr. Abdul Latif of Kotchandpur Municipality Women's College of Jhinaidah is accepting the donated books from the Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali. The teachers, administrators and staff of the college are also seen in the picture (January 18, 2003).

BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund donated nineteen books on January 18, 2003 to Kotchandpur Poura (Municipality) General Library. The library reading room was filled with readers during the hand-over ceremony of the books. The library and its staff were very appreciative and were encouraged by BDI's interest in the library and the overall educational progress of the area. Kotchandpur general library is one of the oldest libraries in the region (established in 1909).



The Secretary of BDI Ashraf Ali and his eldest brother Shahjahan Kabir (vocal music instructor of Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy) are seen seated here with the books donated to the Kotchandpur Poura (Municipality) General Library while Mr. Tabibur Rahman, a well-wisher of Kotchandpur and administrator of local schools, colleges and libraries, addresses the library attendees on the ceremony of the delivery of the books (January 18, 2003).



The readers flocked to the reading room of Kotchandpur Poura (Municipality) General Library on January 18, 2003 on the ceremony of the delivery of the books donated to the library from the proceeds of BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund.

2. BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund Feeds improved diet to Orphanages:

On January 20, 2003, the resident children and the staff (about 50 in all) of the Islamic Cultural Center and Orphanage of Kotchandpur were fed a highly improved lunch using the proceeds of the BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund. Shahjahan Kabir, the vocal music instructor of Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy and eldest brother of BDI Secretary Ashraf Ali, planned the menu and made detailed arrangements for the food preparation with the help of the chef Govindo Thakur. Govindo Thakur was hired to cook all the food. The headmaster of the Orphanage remarked this is by far the best program he has ever seen during his three-year tenure at the Orphanage. The Orphanage, established in 1985, owned a three-storied building along with some adjacent landed property. It has however a number of problems and would like help from concerned well-wishers. Here is a list of problems the Orphanage is facing today:

- (1) It needs to acquire two decimal amount of land which lies almost inside the existing property line (\$700).
- (2) The second story needs water supply and bathroom facilities.
- (3) The Orphanage has an outstanding electric bill worth \$1450, which it is unable to pay.
- (4) It needs to re-establish its telephone connection. The phone line has been disconnected because the Orphanage could not pay phone bills.
- (5) The Orphanage does not receive any financial assistance from the Government nor does it have any permanent source of income. Its monthly expenses amount to about \$225.

3. BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund Makes cash contribution to needy families:

During January 17 and 24 of 2003, about forty families were helped with cash contributions and other means with the proceeds of the BDI Solemanpur-Kotchandpur Fund. The families were very appreciative of the help and praised the original donors for their generosity.