

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund: 2018 Activities at Boys & Girls High Schools

This year's scholarship award-giving ceremonies of Kotchandpur Boy's and Girl's High Schools both were held on Thursday March 22, 2018 in two separate events. Sharafat Hossain (*Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area*) and Jesmin Sultana Lazi, Daughter of Shahjahan Kabir & Niece of Dr. Ashraf Ali were the principal guests in this year's ceremonies in the boy's and girl's high schools.

Activities at Boys School

The Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Boy's High School Scholarship Fund was established by BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative: www.bdiusa.org) on January 1st 2012. Kotchandpur Upozila (sub-division) is within Jhinaidah Zilla (district) of Bangladesh. The scholarship funds, named after the donor of the original fund, are:

- (1) Shayla Sheikh Ali Fund
- (2) Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Fund-1
- (3) Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Fund-2
- (4) Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Fund and
- (5) Sheikh Salimullah Choudhury Fund.
- (6) Deyanat Ullah Mondol Fund.



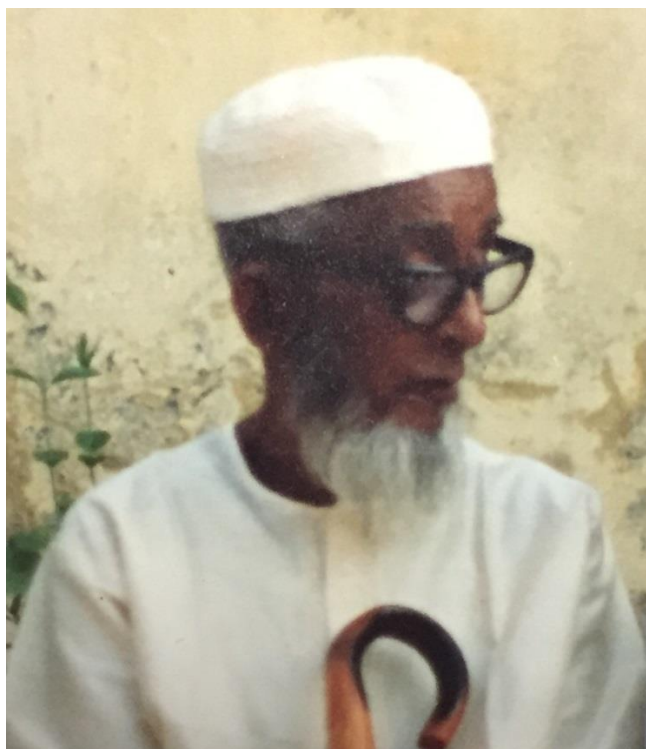
Pictures of Dr. Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi, donors of Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Fund-1 and Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Fund-2.



Picture of Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny, donor of Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Fund.



Picture of Shayla Sheikh Ali, donors of Shayla Sheikh Ali Fund and Sheikh Salimullah Choudhury Fund.



Picture of Deyanat Ullah Mondol, grandfather of Dr. Nazmul Alam. Dr. Nazmul Alam is the donor of Deyanat Ullah Mondol Fund

The Sonchoy Potro details of all the Kotchandpur boy's high school funds, as they stood in April 2018, are summarized in the table below:

Number	Sonchoy Potro	Registration Number	Purchase Date	Proceeds Per 3-month Coupon (Taka)
1	10 Lakh Taka (5 lakh Taka belongs to Girls High School)	9250/18	Feb 8, 2018	26220 (13110 Taka belongs to Girls High School)
2	1 Lakh Taka	4298/17	Jan 29, 2017	2622

Note that a consolidated ten-lakh taka Sonchoy Potro was bought for convenience, but only five lakh belongs to the boy's high school and the other five lakh belongs to the girl's high school. The following Sonchoy Potro coupons were distributed to the students of the boy's high school this year (2018):

Sonchoy Potro 1	4 Coupons	15000 taka each coupon	60000 taka
Sonchoy Potro 2	4 Coupons	2622 taka each coupon	10488 taka
Total Money for Distribution			70488 taka

A total of seventy poor and meritorious boy's high school students, selected by the boy's high school committee, were given a scholarship award of 1000 (one thousand) taka each.

This year (2018) another scholarship was added to the mix bringing the total strength of the fund to seven lakh taka for the boy's high school. The new scholarship money was donated by Dr. Ashraf Ali himself. It will be named after his father late Romjan Ali Daroga:

(7) Romjan Ali Daroga Fund

It will noted here that Romjan Ali graduated from Kotchandpur boy's high school around the year 1915 (exact date is not known). The scholarship from this fund will be given out to the students in subsequent years.

Some highlights of the program for this year (2018) are given below:



Sharafat Hossain is given flowers by the Kotchandpur boys high school authorities at the scholarship award-giving ceremony. Jesmin Sultana Lazi and school headmaster and other authorities were present during the ceremony.



Sharafat Hossain is speaking on the occasion in front of the award-recipient students and school authorities. He said the scholarship program would be deemed successful if it touches the lives of some of the students for the betterment of their careers.



Scholarship money is given out to the selected students.



Sharafat Hossain is shaking hands with the father of a former student who received BDI scholarship in the past and benefitted from it. That student was provided with additional financial help this year from the personal funds of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Shayla Sheikh Ali. He is now finishing twelfth grade education from Kotchandpur government college.

Activities at Girls High School

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative: www.bdiusa.org) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund established five scholarships on December 27, 2014 to be awarded to the poor and meritorious students of Kotchandpur girls' high school. These scholarships are in addition to the scholarship funds established on January 1st 2012 to be awarded to the poor meritorious students of Kotchandpur boy's high school.

Two additional scholarship funds were donated in December of 2015 by Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny.

Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny added two more funds in December of 2016.

Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny is specially thanked for his generosity in donating these four funds to the benefit of the girls' education of Kotchandpur area.

The scholarship funds, named after the donor of the original fund, are:

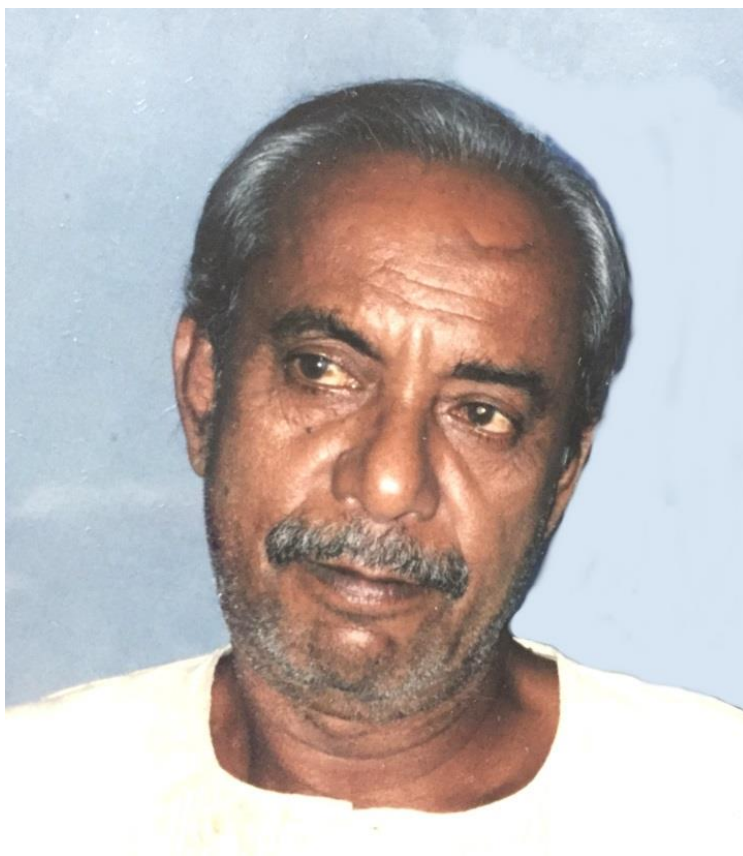
- (1) Shayla Sheikh Ali Girls' High School Fund
- (2) Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Girls' High School Fund
- (3) Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Fund
- (4) Darbesh Ali Girls' High School Fund
- (5) Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola Girls' High School Fund
- (6) Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Girls' High School Fund 1
- (7) Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Girls' High School Fund 2
- (8) Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Girls' High School Fund 3
- (9) Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Girls' High School Fund 4

The details of the three Sonchoy Potro's for the nine funds, as it stood in April 2018, are summarized in the following table:

Number	Sonchoy Potro	Registration Number	Purchase Date	Proceeds Per 3-month Coupon (Taka)
1	10 Lakh Taka (5 lakh Taka belongs to Girls High School)	9250/18	Feb 8, 2018	26220 (13110 Taka belongs to Girls High School)
2	2 Lakh Taka	662/16	March 9, 2016	5244
3	2 Lakh Taka	4131/17	January 8, 2017	5244



Picture of Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola, donor of Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola Girls' High School Fund.



Picture of Darbesh Ali, father of Dr. Nazmul Alam. Dr. Nazmul Alam is the donor of Dabesh Ali Fund.

The proceeds earned from these nine-lakh taka Sonchoy Potro's, which would amount to around 1 lakh (One lakh) taka per year under current economic conditions, are planned to be given equally to the poor and meritorious students of Kotchandpur girls' high school. The girls' high school committee would determine the number of students to receive the scholarship awards each year. The specific students to receive the scholarship awards can change from year to year and would be determined by the girls' high school committee.

The following Sonchoy Potro coupons were distributed to the students of the girl's school this year (2018):

Sonchoy Potro 1	4 Coupons	15000 taka each coupon	60000 taka
Sonchoy Potro 2	4 Coupons	5244 taka each coupon	20976 taka
Sonchoy Potro 3	4 Coupons	5244 taka each coupon	20976 taka
Total Money for Distribution			101952 taka

A total of one hundred poor and meritorious girls' high school students, selected by the girls' high school committee, were given a scholarship award of 1000 (one thousand) taka each.

This year (2018) two more scholarships were added to the mix bringing the total strength of the girl's high school fund to eleven lakh taka. The money for these two scholarships were donated

by Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny and Dr. Ismat Naquib (elder brother of Shayla Sheikh Ali) and the funds will be named after their daughters Sreya Sophie Rahman and Rafayna Naquib respectively:

- (10) Sreya Sophie Rahman Fund
- (11) Rafayna Naquib Fund

The scholarship from these funds will be given out to the students in subsequent years.

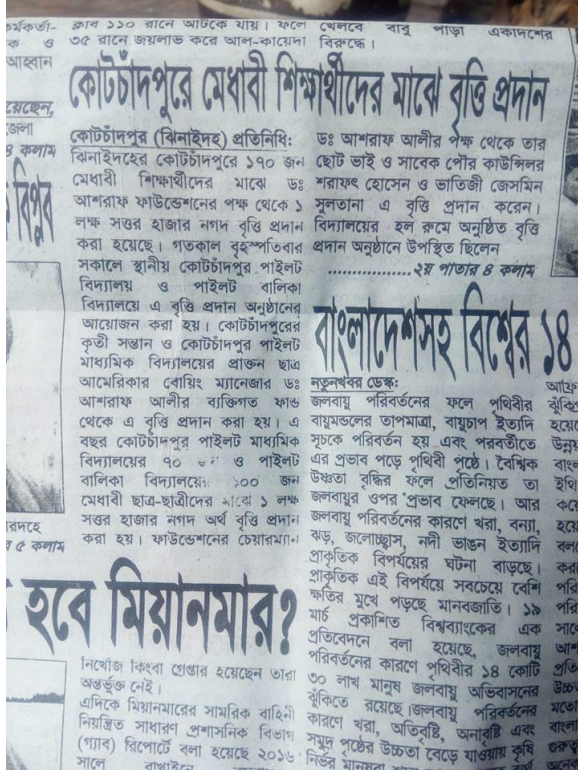
Some of the highlights of this year's award-giving ceremony are given below:



On the left picture, the students from Kotchandpur girls high school are seen honoring Sharafat Hossain and Jesmin Sultana Lazi with flowers. On the right, Sharafat Hossain and Jesmin Sultana Lazi are seen giving awards to the recipients of BDI Kotchandpur girls high school funds scholarship. The school officials, including the school headmaster, are also seen in the pictures.



Jafar Iqbal Shanti (left – Commissioner of Kotchandpur Municipality), Kamal Hauladar (middle – Guardian Member) and Golam Sarwar (right – President of School Managing Committee) are seen giving out awards to the recipients of the BDI Kotchandpur girls high school scholarships.



Local news media were present at the BDI Kotchandpur scholarship award ceremonies and provided coverage in the newspapers.

Note that the news media as well as the boys and girls high school authorities have at times designated the BDI Kotchandpur Scholarship Program as “Dr. Ashraf Ali Foundation” by mistake. Steps have been taken to avoid such mistakes in the future.