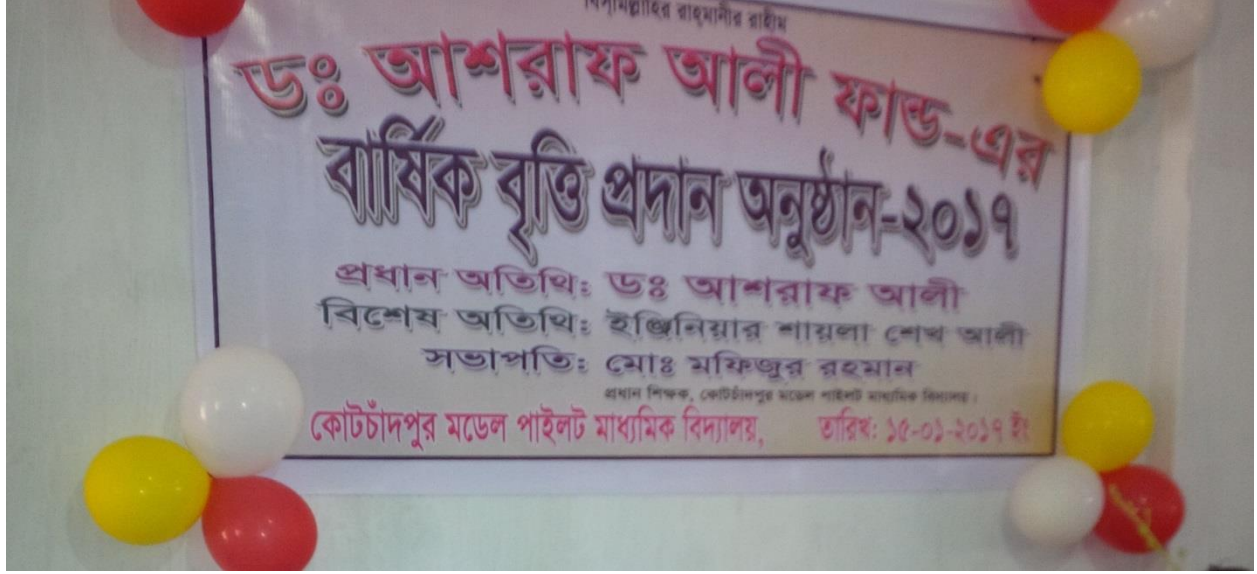


BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund: 2017 Activities at Boys High School

This year's scholarship award-giving ceremony of Kotchandpur Boy's High School was held on Sunday January 15, 2017 in the newly renovated school auditorium.



Banner created for this year's scholarship program of Kotchandpur Boy's High School



Sections of Kotchandpur Boy's High School students who received scholarships this year

The school authorities organized an elaborate program this year. The students lined up on either sides of the entrance to the school compound and showered Dr. Ashraf Ali and Sharafat Hossain (*Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area*) with flower pedals. It was a surprise to Dr. Ashraf Ali and so preparation could not be made to take any picture of this part of the program. Shayla Sheikh Ali fell sick on that day and could not attend the function.

This Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Scholarship Fund was established by BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative: www.bdiusa.org) on January 1st 2012. The plan was to award five scholarships to five poor meritorious Kotchandpur boy's high school students. 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.



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.



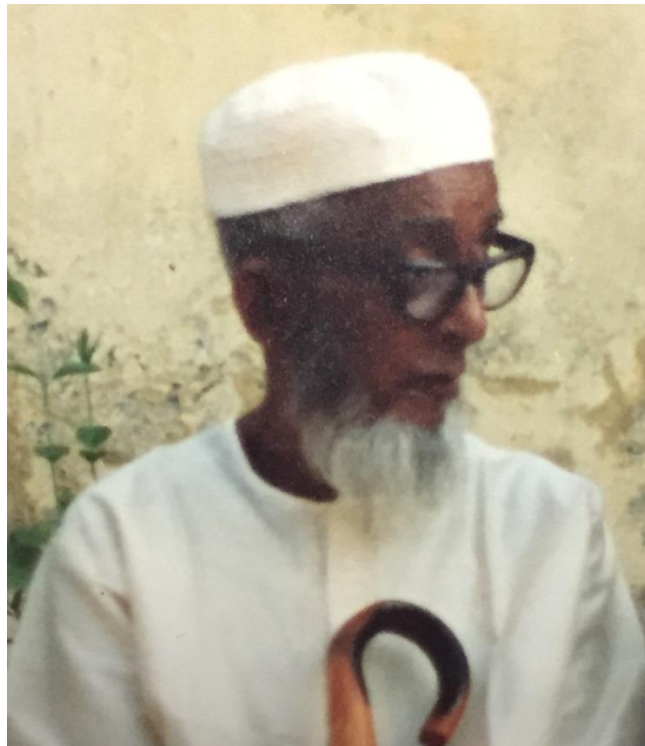
Picture of Shayla Sheikh Ali, donors of Shayla Sheikh Ali Fund and Sheikh Salimullah Choudhury Fund.

A five-lakh (500000) taka Sonchay Potro, whose proceeds can be cashed every three months, was bought from Bangladesh National Savings Bureau on December 29, 2011 to make these awards permanent. Per original plan, the proceeds earned from this Sonchay Potro were to be used to give 10000 (ten thousand) taka annually to each of these five students till they complete Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.

The school committee later recommended that less scholarship amount such as 1000 or 2000 taka be given to more students and that different set of students, selected by the school committee, would receive scholarship each year. For example, for the 2014-2015 combined scholarship award, the total 102000 (one lakh two thousand) taka proceeds were distributed to 51 (fifty one) poor meritorious students, selected by the school committee, each receiving 2000 (two thousand) taka.

This year (2017) Dr. Nazmul Alam, an accomplished Metallurgy Engineer and a former graduate of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), established a new scholarship fund in his grandfather's name:

(6) Deyanat Ullah Mondol Fund.



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

A one-lakh taka Sonchoy Potro was purchased from Bangladesh National Savings Bureau on January 29, 2017 to make this fund permanent. The Sonchoy Potro details of all the Kotchandpur boy's high school funds are summarized in the table below:

Number	Sonchoy Potro	Registration Number	Purchase Date	Proceeds Per 3-month Coupon (Taka)
1	5 Lakh Taka	9443/14	December 30, 2014	15000
2	1 Lakh Taka	4298/17	January 29, 2017	2622

This year a total of 70,000 taka was distributed as scholarship to seventy students selected by the school committee. Another student, who is now in eleventh grade (college in Bangladesh) and who is known to have benefited from previous year's BDI scholarship award, was given another two thousand taka personally by Dr. Ashraf Ali to further encourage the student. The following table shows the source of the seventy thousand taka scholarship award money:

Sonchoy Potro 1	4 Coupons	15000 taka each coupon	60000 taka
Sonchoy Potro 2	10000 Taka one-time donation by Dr. Nazmul Alam		10000 taka
Total Money for Distribution			70000 taka

The Sunday January 15, 2017 ceremony was presided over by Mofizur Rahman, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School while Dr. Ashraf Ali was the chief guest. Shayla Sheikh Ali (wife of Dr. Ashraf Ali), founder of the Shayla Sheikh Ali and Sheikh Salimullah Choudhury Funds and a major patron for the overall scholarship Program, was sick on that day and could not attend the award-giving ceremony. The following dignitaries and relatives of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Shayla Sheikh Ali, among others, attended the ceremony:

1. *Mofizur Rahman, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
2. *Emdadul Haq, Assistant Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
3. *Shafi Uddin Shagar, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School (Master of Ceremony)*
4. *Ataur Rahman Bablu, Donor member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
5. *Kazi Alamgir, Education-Promoting member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
6. *Mohammad Abdullah, Retired Senior Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
7. *Sharafat Hossain, Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area*
8. *Roushon Ali Khokon, Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Local Science Education Promoter*
9. *Hosna Ara, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
10. *Nargis Sultana, Teacher Representative of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*
11. *Dibosh Chandra Shingho, Teacher Representative of Kotchandpur Boy's High School*

It appeared from the overall impression that the scholarship program is creating an environment of true encouragement amongst the student community in the entire area. There were discussions by the attending dignitaries on the future and permanency of the scholarship program. Sharafat Hossain,

Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area, assured the audience in his speech that the scholarship program is not only permanent but will also grow in magnitude. Dr. Ashraf Ali confirmed that assertion and also noted that it is not the amount of scholarship but the encouragement the students are receiving is making a difference in the lives of the students.

Some highlights of the program are given below:



A section of the dignitaries are seen seated on the dais with Dr. Ashraf Ali, Sharafat Hossain and Roushon Ali Khokon



In these pictures, a large flower bouquet is being accepted on behalf of Shayla Sheikh Ali. She could not attend the function that day due to sickness.



Ataur Rahman Bablu, Donor member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School (left picture) and Mofizur Rahman, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School (right picture) are given flowers at the beginning of the award-giving ceremony.



Roushon Ali Khokon (left picture), Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Local Science Education Promoter, Sharafat Hossain (middle picture), Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area and Emdadul Haq (right picture), Assistant Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School are given flowers at the ceremony.



Kotchandpur Boy's High School students are reciting from The Quran and The Bhagabat Gita in the beginning of the Program.



On the left picture, Kazi Alamgir, Education-Promoting member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School, is speaking to the audience. On the right picture, a former student of Kotchandpur Boy's High School, who is now studying in Kotchandpur College, is telling the students how he benefited in the past from Kotchandpur Boy's High School Scholarship Awards.



Shafi Uddin Shagar, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School was the Master of Ceremony (left). Mofizur Rahman, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School is addressing the audience (right).



Sharafat Hossain (left picture), Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area and Ataur Rahman Bablu (right picture), Donor member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School are addressing the students and others present at the scholarship award-giving ceremony.



Dr. Ashraf Ali is seen addressing the students and teachers and well-wishers of Kotchandpur Boy's High School. Besides providing encouragement to the students, Dr. Ali is assuring the authorities of the permanency and future growth of Kotchandpur Boy's High School Scholarship Program.



Mofizur Rahman, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Boy's High School (left) and Ataur Rahman Bablu, Donor member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School (right) are giving out scholarship award to the students.



More students of Kotchandpur Boy's High School are given scholarship awards. On the right picture, Kazi Alamgir, Education-Promoting member of Kotchandpur Boy's High School is handing out scholarship.



Hosna Ara, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School & Wife of Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny's Younger Brother Aslam (left) and Roushon Ali Khokon, Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Local Science Education Promoter (right) are seen giving out scholarship awards.



Hosna Ara (left), Dr. Ashraf Ali (middle) and Roushon Ali Khokon (right) are seen giving out scholarship awards to more students.



Dr. Ashraf Ali, Hosna Ara and Mofizur Rahman are handing out scholarship awards to more students of Kotchandpur Boy's High School.

Report on Computer Usage at Kotchandpur Boys High School

Dr. Ashraf Ali had a couple of discussions on the status on computer usage in Kotchandpur Boys High School. The details on those discussions are summarized below:

1. The school has created a permanent position on computer learning and has appointed the computer teacher Sajedur Rahman. Sajedur is the son of Mr. Shahjahan, the former caretaker of Kotchandpur Boys High School and everyone's beloved Brother Shahjahan.
2. Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny donated initial 5 computers through the computer center in Dhaka. Another 11 computers were added by the Government. About 3 computers are currently inoperative because the hard disks were crushed.
3. Seven classrooms are equipped with 7 multi-media laptops. Students must study computer now and can earn a maximum of 25 marks. This is a very important development because computer learning is now compulsory. Sajedur currently uses his own mobile modem in the classrooms when he has to connect to the Internet for class demonstrations.
4. Another 22 laptops are planned to be distributed to the school by the Government through the so-called SISIP Program. This will expand the current lab and another adjacent lab will be built.
5. A WiFi can be set up in the computer lab to connect all the computers to WiFi. It appears it would cost 1100 taka per month to get unlimited Internet access to the computers. That does not seem to be expensive but the students and the teachers are not fully prepared to make use of such heavy influx of information. I got the sense an all-around mental and physical preparation is underway on the part of everybody to move forward with computer usage.
6. The government is preparing to distribute ebooks next year, which will also increase exposure to computers in general.
7. There was also an idea of sharing the computer lab with the students of surrounding elementary schools for brief periods so they get exposure to computers early in their schooling.

As a whole, Kotchandpur Boys High School is heading in a right direction as far as computer usage is concerned. The computer lab was supposed to be named after Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny, but that has not happened so far because of the transition and flux of the Kotchandpur Boys High School Management. However, Sharafat Hossain, Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area has initiated an intensive effort to correct that situation and name the lab deservedly as “Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny Kotchandpur Boys High School Computer Laboratory”.

Here are details on the computer teacher of Kotchandpur Boys High School:

Computer Teacher = Md. Sajedur Rahman

Email: sajedurttc@gmail.com