

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund: 2015 Activities at Girls' High School

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund established five additional scholarships on December 27, 2014 to be awarded to the poor and meritorious students of Kotchandpur girls' high school. 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 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 and (5) Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola Girls' High School Fund. Twenty five poor and meritorious girls' high school students, selected by the girls' high school committee, were given an initial award of 1000 (one thousand) taka each in a formal ceremony held in Kotchandpur Girls' High School Compound on December 27, 2014.



Pictures of Dr. Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi, donor of Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Girls' High School Fund and Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Fund.



Pictures of Shayla Sheikh Ali (left) and Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola (right), donors of Shayla Sheikh Ali Girls' High School Fund and Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola Girls' High School Fund.

A five-lakh (500000) taka Sonchoy Potro, whose proceeds can be cashed every three months, was bought from Bangladesh National Savings Bureau on December 29, 2014 to make these awards permanent. The proceeds earned from this Sonchoy Potro, which would amount to around 50000/60000 (fifty/sixty thousand) 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.

A formal ceremony took place on December 27, 2014 in the playground in the middle of girls' high school building to give out the very first round of scholarship awards. The following dignitaries and relatives of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Shayla Sheikh Ali, among others, attended the ceremony:

1. Md. Shamsur Rahman, Former Teacher of Kotchandpur Boys' High School
2. Tariqul Alam, Brother of Dr. Nazmul Alam, donor of Darbesh Ali Girls' High School Fund
3. Ataur Rahman Bablu, Social Worker & Well-Wisher of Girls' High School
4. Md. Golam Sorwar, Chairman of Girls' High School Executive Council
5. S. M. Humayun Kabir, Assistant Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
6. Latifa Khanum, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
7. Kaniz Fatema, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
8. Sonoth Kumar Goswamy, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
9. Krishna Kumar Biswas, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
10. Ismat Ara, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School

11. Golam Mostafa, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
12. Zahidul Islam, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
13. Shubash Kumar Roy, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
14. Md. Abu Russell, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
15. Farhana Akhtar (Dolly), Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
16. Mosammad Shomjina Khatun, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
17. Md. Robiul Islam, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
18. Mosammad Taslima Khatun, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
19. Mosammad Helena Akhtar, Assistant Librarian
20. Rokhsana Razia, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
21. Ankhitara, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
22. Md. Anwar Hossain, Trade Instructor
23. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Trade Instructor
24. Rozlin Akhtar, Trade Instructor
25. Parveen Akhtar, Trade Instructor
26. Abdur Razzaque, Trade Instructor
27. Md. Subdar Rahman, Trade Instructor
28. Nasreen Akhtar, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
29. Md. Zinnatur Rahman, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
30. Md. Ismail Hossain, Assistant Teacher of Kotchandpur Girls' High School
31. Md. Akbar Ali, Computer Demonstrator
32. Anjali Rani, Shop Assistant
33. Aklima Khatun, Lab Assistant
34. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Office Assistant
35. Md. Romjan Ali, Accountant
36. Shahjahan Kabir, Eldest Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Prominent Singer
37. Roushan Ali Khokon, Younger Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali
38. Md. Sharafat Hossain, Youngest Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area
39. Jesmin Sultana, Daughter of Shahjahan Kabir & Niece of Dr. Ashraf Ali
40. Teeasha Iana Ali, Daughter of Dr. Ashraf Ali & Shayla Sheikh Ali
41. Sharmin Akhtar Meghla, Daughter of Dr. Ashraf Ali 's Youngest Brother Md. Sharafat Hossain
42. And so on.

The Kotchandpur girls' high school authority organized a very elaborate formal ceremony. The students of the girls' high school lined up on either side at the entrance to the school compound and showered Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Jesmin Sultana and Teeasha Iana Ali with flower pedals immediately after they de-boarded from the transport vehicle and during their

entry to the school compound. Flowers were also later given to Shayla Sheikh Ali, Tariqul Alam, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Md. Samsur Rahman (Former Teacher of Kotchandpur Boy's High School), Ataur Rahman Bablu, Roushan Ali Khokon, Shahjahan Kabir and other dignitaries sitting on the stage. A dozen or so dignitaries spoke on different aspects of the girls' education and improvement opportunities. Some highlights of the ceremony are given below:



The students of Kotchandpur girls' high school lined up along the entrance to the school compound and showered Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Teeasha Ali and Jesmin Sultana with flower petals. Shayla Skeikh Ali is seen in right two pictures covered with flower petals.



Just inside the girls' high school compound. The students are seen with flower petals in their hands and some are seen throwing the petals.



The students are now seated in the school compound. Parts of school building are seen in the pictures.



Shayla Sheikh Ali and Tariqul Alam are given flowers in the left and middle respectively. Teeasha Ali is seen here with flowers that were given to her earlier.



Respected teacher Shamsur Rahman is seen to accept flowers while Tariqul Alam and others claps (left picture). The dignitaries sitting on the dais show respect during recitals from the holy Quran and the holy Bhagabat Gita (middle picture). The dignitaries are seen seated on the dais (right picture / from left: Tariqul Alam, Shamsur Rahman, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali).



Respected teacher Shamsur Rahman (left), Tariqul Alam (middle) and Roushan Ali Khokon (right) are addressing the students.



Shayla Sheikh Ali and Dr. Ashraf Ali are addressing the students. The school authority later requested a short theme of Shayla Sheikh Ali's speech "You can do it too" to be laminated and posted on the school walls.



Md. Sharafat Hossain (left) and Tariqul Alam (middle and right) are handing out scholarship money for Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Girls' High School Fund and Darbesh Ali Girls' High School Fund respectively.



Jesmin Sultana is seen handing out scholarship money for Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Fund.



Shayla Sheikh Ali herself is handing out scholarship money for the Shayla Sheikh Ali Girls' High School Fund.



Teeasha Iana Ali is giving out scholarship money on behalf of Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola Girls' High School Fund.



Shahjahan Kabir is seen handing out additional school supplies such as notebooks and pencils to the scholarship award recipients as part of the scholarship award.



Roushan Ali Khokon is seen handing out additional scholarship money to Zahid Hossain, a poor meritorious student of Kotchandpur College.