

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund: 2016 Activities at Girls' High School

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative: www.bdiusa.org) 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.



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.

Two additional scholarship funds were donated in December of 2015 by Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny. These funds are named as: Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny-1 and Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny-2.



Picture of Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny, donor of Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny-1 and Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny-2 Funds.

The first five-lakh (500000) taka and the second two-lakh (200000) taka Sonchoy Potro's, whose proceeds can be cashed every three months, were bought from Bangladesh National Savings Bureau on December 29, 2014 and March 9, 2016 respectively to make these awards permanent. The proceeds earned from these seven-lakh taka Sonchoy Potro's, which would amount to around 70000/80000 (seventy/eighty 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.

This year's scholarships were given in two separate instalments and in two different ceremonies. In the first instalment, Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny distributed an initial 20000 (twenty thousand) taka to twenty poor and meritorious girl students, each receiving 1000 (one thousand) taka, in a ceremony held on December 27, 2015 in the campus of Kotchandpur girls' high school.

In the second instalment, an additional sixty 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 in a formal ceremony held in Kotchandpur Girls' High School Compound on February 24, 2016. Some of the dignitaries, who attended the ceremony with Dr. Ashraf Ali and Shayla Sheikh Ali, were:

1. *Ishaq Ali, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
2. *Saidur Rahman, Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School Executive Committee*
3. *Siran Jahangir Shifon, Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School Executive Committee*
4. *Rafiqul Islam, Vocational Branch (Master of Ceremony)*
5. *Sharafat Hossain, Youngest Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area*
6. *Other female teachers of Kotchandpur Girls' High School and*
7. *Guardians of scholarship recipient girl students*

The Kotchandpur girls' high school authority organized a formal ceremony in the school compound. The female teachers of the girls' high school gave flowers to Ishaq Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Sharafat Hossain, Saidur Rahman, Siran Jahangir Shifon and Rafiqul Islam, who were seated on the stage. Half a dozen or so dignitaries, such as, Ishaq Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Sharafat Hossain, Saidur Rahman, Siran Jahangir Shifon and Rafiqul Islam, spoke on different aspects of the girls' education, challenges and improvement opportunities.

Some highlights of the ceremony are given below:



(On the left picture) Ishaq Ali (left), Dr. Ashraf Ali (2nd from left), Shayla Sheikh Ali (3rd from left), Sharafat Hossain (4th from left), Saidur Rahman (5th from left) and Siran Jahangir Shifon (6th from left) are seen seated on the stage.



Segments of sixty girl students who are recipients of the Kotchandpur girls' high school scholarships are seen seated in the school compound.



Dr. Ashraf Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali, Ishaq Ali and Sharafat Hossain are given flowers by Ishaq Ali and female teachers of girls' high school.



Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School Ishaq Ali invited the guardians of the scholarship recipients, who are seated on the right side of the scholarship recipient students.



Ishaq Ali, Sharafat Hossain, Shayla Sheikh Ali and Dr. Ashraf Ali are addressing the students.



Kotchandpur girls' high school students are handed the scholarship awards by the dignitaries such as Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Ishaq Ali, Sharafat Hossain and so on.



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