

BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund: 2017 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 five scholarship funds established on January 1st 2012 to be awarded to the poor meritorious students of Kotchandpur boy's high school. Kotchandpur Upozila (sub-division) is within Jhinaidah district of Bangladesh.

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 are summarized in the following table:

Number	Sonchoy Potro	Registration Number	Purchase Date	Proceeds Per 3-month Coupon (Taka)
1	5 Lakh Taka	9406/14	December 22, 2014	15000
2	2 Lakh Taka	662/16	March 9, 2016	5244
3	2 Lakh Taka	4131/17	January 8, 2017	5244



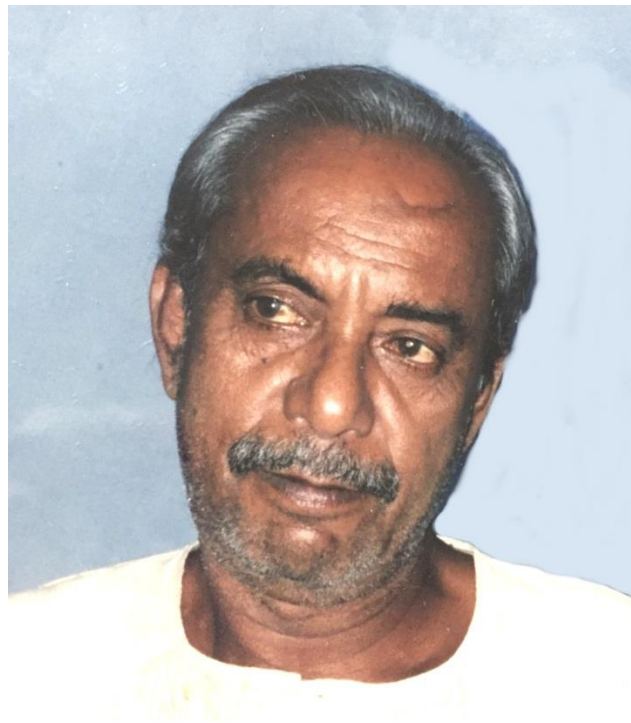
Pictures of Dr. Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi, donor of Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi Girls' High School Fund and Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Fund.



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.



Picture of Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny, donor of “four” Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny Funds.



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

The first five-lakh (500000) taka, the second two-lakh (200000) taka and the third two-lakh (200000) taka Sonchoy Potro's, whose proceeds can be cashed every three months, were bought from Bangladesh National Savings Bureau on December 22, 2014, March 9, 2016 and January 8, 2017 respectively to make these awards permanent. 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 and one-time donations were distributed to the students of the girl's school this year (2017):

Sonchoy Potro 1	4 Coupons	15000 taka each coupon	60000 taka
Sonchoy Potro 2	3 Coupons	5244 taka each coupon	15732 taka
Sonchoy Potro 3	20000 Taka one-time donation by Dr. Bonny		20000 taka
Total Money for Distribution			95732 taka

The formal scholarship award-giving ceremony was held in the newly built Kohinoor Akhtar Kalpona Memorial Auditorium of Kotchandpur Girls' High School on January 14, 2017.



Dedication of the Kotchandpur Girl's High School Auditorium to Kohinoor Akhtar Kalpona.

A total of ninety five 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.



Sections of girl students who received scholarship money this year (2017) are seen in the pictures.

This year a small bag that can be zipped, to carry pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, etc. and a good quality ball-point pen inside the bag are also given out to the students along with a thousand-taka bill inside an envelope, as seen in the picture below, where Jesmin Sultana Lazi, Daughter of Shahjahan Kabir & Niece of Dr. Ashraf Ali is giving out the award to one of the award recipient girls.



Jesmin Sultana Lazi, Daughter of Shahjahan Kabir & Niece of Dr. Ashraf Ali is giving out the award to one of the award recipient girl students.

Some of the dignitaries, who attended the ceremony with Dr. Ashraf Ali and Shayla Sheikh Ali, were:

1. *Golam Sarwar, President of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
2. *Ishaq Ali, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
3. *Hosne Ara, Teacher of Kotchandpur Boys High School & Wife of Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny's Younger Brother Aslam*
4. *Siran Jahangir Shifon, Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
5. *Jafar Iqbal, Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
6. *Kamal Hawladar, Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
7. *Mohammad Shamsuzzoha, Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
8. *Firoza Begum, Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
9. *Zahidul Islam, Teacher Representative of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
10. *Abdur Razzaque, Teacher Representative of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
11. *Ismat Ara Parvin, Teacher Representative of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
12. *Saidur Rahman, Donor Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
13. *Mehedi Hassan Bulbul, Education Promoter*
14. *Sharafat Hossain, Youngest Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area*
15. *Humayun Kabir, Assistant Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*
16. *Jesmin Sultana, Daughter of Shahjahan Kabir & Niece of Dr. Ashraf Ali*
17. *Other female teachers of Kotchandpur Girls' High School*

Some of these dignitaries, e.g., Golam Sarwar, Ishaq Ali and Hosne Ara are seen below seated on the podium along with Dr. Ashraf Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali and Sharafat Hossain.



As in the year 2015, 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, Sharafat Hossain, Jesmin

Sultana Lazi and Sharmin Akhtar Meghla with flower pedals as soon as they entered the school compound.



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, Sharafat Hossain, Jesmin Sultana Lazi and Sharmin Akhtar Meghla with flower pedals as soon as they entered the school compound.

Flowers were also later given to Shayla Sheikh Ali, Dr. Ashraf Ali, Sharafat Hossain, Jesmin Sultana Lazi and other dignitaries sitting on the stage as seen in the pictures below.



(a) President of Kotchandpur Girls' High School Golam Sarwar (left picture), (b) Shayla Sheikh Ali (middle picture) and (c) Dr. Ashraf Ali (right picture) are given flowers by the school authorities.



(a) Teacher of Kotchandpur Boys High School & Wife of Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny's Younger Brother Aslam: Hosne Ara (left picture), (b) Jesmin Sultana (middle picture) and (c) Guardian Member of Kotchandpur Girls' High School Siran Jahangir Shifon (right picture) are given flowers by the school students.



Various other dignitaries are given flowers by the girl students.

About half a dozen or so dignitaries, including Dr. Ashraf Ali, Shayla Sheikh Ali, Sharafat Hossain and Ishaq Ali spoke on different aspects of the girls' education and improvement opportunities, BDI (Bangladesh Development Initiative) Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund for Girls' High School and its relevance and permanency.



Headmaster Ishaq Ali and other dignitaries are speaking at the scholarship-giving ceremony. Ishaq Ali was appreciative of the fact that Shayla Sheikh Ali and Dr. Ashraf Ali remembered Kotchandpur Girls' High School and its students sitting in a far-away land like USA. It proves their love and devotion towards their motherland Bangladesh, he remarked.



Shayla Sheikh Ali is seen speaking to the girls students. She asked those students, who are repeat recipients of Solemanpur/Kotchandpur Fund scholarships, to raise their hands and encouraged the former and new scholarship recipient students to continue showing good results in a consistent manner.



Dr. Ashraf Ali is seen addressing the students. He advised the students to focus on the assignments and homework at hand right now while dreaming big to become physicians, engineers, high officials in the Government in the future. Dr. Ali assured the students and school officials of the permanency of the scholarship funds and thanked the donors of the funds: Shayla Sheikh Ali, Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi, Dr. Nazmul Alam, Amelia Lillian Ryan Pupola and Doctor Atiar Rahman Bonny for their generous contributions.

The program ended with the dignitaries, the donors and their relatives of the funds handing out the zip-able scholarship bag, containing an envelope with a thousand taka bill inside and a good-quality ball-point pen, to the ninety five scholarship recipients of the girls' high school. Images of some of the scholarship handouts are given below.



Shayla Sheikh Ali is seen giving out giving out scholarship award to the girls' students.



Shayla Sheikh Ali is shaking hands and giving scholarship awards to more girls' students from the Shayla Sheikh Ali and Amelia Lillian Ryan Girls' High School Funds.



Hosne Ara, Teacher of Kotchandpur Boys High School and wife of Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny's Younger Brother Aslam, is handing out scholarship to the girls' students from the Dr. Atiar Rahman Bonny Funds.



Sharafat Hossain, Youngest Brother of Dr. Ashraf Ali and Ex-Commissioner of the area, is giving scholarship awards from the Shayla Sheikh Ali and Amelia Lillian Ryan Girls' High School Funds.



Jesmin Sultana Lazi is seen giving out scholarships from the Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi and Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Funds.



Dr. Ashraf Ali is giving out scholarships to the girls' students from the Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi and Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Funds.



Dr. Ashraf Ali is giving out more scholarships to the girls' students from the Professor Abdullateef M. Al-Khaleefi and Hadeel Masaad Almasaad Girls' High School Funds.



Ishaq Ali, Headmaster of Kotchandpur Girls' High School, is seen giving out scholarship to one of the girls' students.



Golam Sarwar, President of Kotchandpur Girls' High School, is giving out scholarships to the girls' students.