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From Battlefield to Humanity: The Inspiring Journey of Colonel Didarul Alam



Beyond Duty: The Remarkable Story of Colonel Didarul Alam's Service to Society

Inspiring Minds, Building Nations

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Editorial Message

The true identity of a person is not defined by position, recognition, or achievements; rather, it is measured by how much positive impact they create for others. The life journey of Bir Protik Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam reflects a deep commitment to responsibility, humanity, and social service. From his experiences in the Liberation War to his disciplined military career and later involvement in social activities, his work has consistently focused on the welfare of people.

One of the most significant aspects of his philosophy is the belief that social change cannot be achieved through laws alone; it requires changes in people's thoughts, values, and awareness. His efforts against social challenges such as dowry and child marriage emphasize the importance of collective participation from families, communities, and the younger generation.

He considers education, humanitarian values, responsibility, and mutual respect as the foundations of a developed society. According to his vision, every individual can contribute to social progress through small but meaningful actions from their own position.

In a time when personal interests often dominate social life, the spirit of standing beside others carries a valuable message. Building a humane and progressive society requires responsible citizens who not only seek personal success but also dedicate themselves to the welfare of humanity. The journey of Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam reminds us that true success lies in serving people and creating positive change in society.

ASIAN STATE MAGAZINE



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EXPRESS TO WORLDWIDE
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Special Interview

Bir Protik Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam

President, Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Forum
Founder President, Bir Protik Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam Foundation

Part–1:
Personal Life, Childhood and Values

Question–1: Please tell us about your childhood, family, and experiences while growing up. What factors played the most important role in shaping your personality?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: My childhood and upbringing were among the most important chapters of my life. A person's thoughts, values, and sense of responsibility are formed during childhood. The lessons I received from my family, respect for elders, compassion for others, and love for the country played an important role in shaping my personality.



From an early age, I understood the importance of discipline, honesty, and responsibility. The moral education I received from my family taught me that a person's true identity is not determined by wealth or social position; rather, it is measured by how much good they can do for others.

Throughout different stages of my life, I have seen many people living with various difficulties. Some need education, some need support, while others simply need a little cooperation and encouragement. These real-life experiences increased my sense of responsibility toward people.



I believe that developing a sense of responsibility toward family, society, and the country is extremely important in a person's life. The values learned during childhood guide a person throughout their journey. Inspired by those lessons, I have always tried to stand beside people in need.

Question–2: How did the strict discipline and leadership experiences of your military life influence your later social activities?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: Military life teaches a person discipline, leadership,

responsibility, and the ability to make the right decisions in difficult situations. My experiences in the military have played an important role in managing my social activities later in life.



During my service in the armed forces, I learned that achieving a goal requires planning, patience, teamwork, and respect for people. A true leader does not only give instructions; rather, he stands beside his team members, understands their problems, and moves forward together with everyone.

Similar leadership is required in social activities. Good intentions alone are not enough to solve social problems; proper planning and continuous efforts are necessary. While working on issues such as dowry, child marriage, education, and humanitarian assistance, the discipline gained from my military career has helped me greatly.

I believe the foundation of leadership is earning people's trust. Just as the success of a team in military life depends on mutual trust, social service also depends on people's confidence.

My effort has always been to give the highest priority to honesty, responsibility, and people's welfare in every social initiative.

Question–3: As a freedom fighter and Bir Protik award recipient, how was your sense of responsibility toward the country developed?

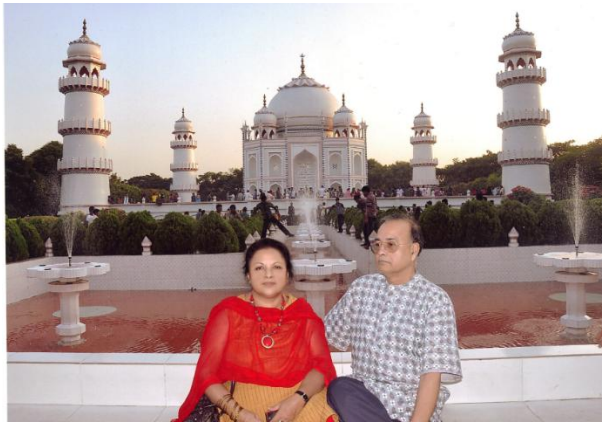
Mohammed Didarul Alam: The Liberation War is the most glorious chapter in our nation's history. As a freedom fighter, my sense of responsibility toward the country is a deeply rooted feeling in my life. Independence is not only about gaining a territory; it represents the struggle for a nation's dignity, rights, and future.

The spirit of the Liberation War has always inspired me to work for the welfare of people. Improving the quality of life of citizens, trying to remove social injustice, and inspiring the new generation with patriotism are responsibilities that I strongly believe in.

The Bir Protik title is not only an honor for me; it is also a reminder of responsibility. This recognition always reminds me that I must uphold the values for which sacrifices and struggles were made for the country.

I believe the greatest responsibility of a freedom fighter is to stand beside the people of the country and explain the true meaning of independence to future generations.

Patriotism is not only a matter of words; it must be expressed through actions. Helping people, trying to build a better society, and establishing humanitarian values are all parts of serving the nation.



Question–4: Which values in your life have inspired you the most to stand beside people?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: The most important values in my life are humanity, honesty, a sense of responsibility, and love for people. I believe that the greatest identity of a person is how much they can become a source of support for others.

Throughout my life, I have closely observed many people who continue to move forward despite facing different struggles. Their hardships, hopes, and determination have always inspired me. Standing beside people during their time of need is not only a social responsibility; it is also a humanitarian duty.

I believe everyone has certain responsibilities toward society. Some people can help financially, some can contribute their time, and others can share their knowledge and experience. What matters most is supporting people according to one's own ability.

Honesty is my greatest strength because without earning people's trust, no social work can continue successfully for a long time. At the same time, humility and respect make a person truly great.

My effort is always to do something beneficial for people, create opportunities for positive change in society, and develop humanitarian values among the younger generation.



Question–5: What is your definition of a successful person?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: To me, the definition of a successful person is not limited to wealth, position, or social status. True success means how much positive impact a person has been able to create through their life.

If a person performs their responsibilities properly, earns the love and trust of people, and contributes something meaningful to society, I consider that person successful.

Achievements in life are important, but if those achievements cannot be used for the welfare of others, their value becomes much less. A successful person not only improves their own life but also creates opportunities for others to progress.

I believe having the opportunity to work for people is a great privilege. Many people in society quietly help others without seeking recognition; they are truly successful in my eyes.

Everyone should try to do good work from their own position. Because one good action can change a person's life, and that change can gradually become a transformation in society.

For me, the greatest measure of success is that at the end of life, a person can say, "I was able to do something meaningful for others."



Part–2: Social Service and Humanitarian Philosophy

Question–6: Where did you find the inspiration to work for society and its people?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: The inspiration to work for people has mainly come from love for humanity, a sense of responsibility, and commitment toward the country. Since childhood, I have believed that the greatest achievement in life is being useful to others.

At different stages of my life, I have seen many people struggling with various challenges. Some suffer from financial difficulties, some are deprived of educational opportunities, and others fall behind because of social misconceptions and inequality. These realities made me think deeply and encouraged me to stand beside people.

The Liberation War, my military career, and my later social experiences taught me that national development is not possible only through personal success; rather, a better society can be built through the responsible participation of every citizen.

I believe social service is not charity; it is a responsibility that human beings have toward one another. Everyone should try to support others according to their ability.

Seeing happiness on people's faces and bringing even a small positive change to someone's life are the things that inspire me the most. I believe every good effort made for society creates the foundation for greater change in the future.



Question–7: What is your main philosophy when standing beside helpless and underprivileged people?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: My main philosophy is that every person has the right to live with dignity and respect. Instead of simply observing someone's suffering from a distance, trying to stand beside them is the true expression of humanity.

I believe those who are disadvantaged do not only need assistance; they also need respect, encouragement, and confidence. Sometimes a small act of support can bring a major change to someone's life.

My approach to helping disadvantaged people is that support should empower them and make them stronger. Education, awareness, skill development, and opportunities for self-reliance are the most effective solutions in the long term.

When we stand beside underprivileged people, we do not only help one individual; we create opportunities for the development of a family and future generations.

I believe compassion and a sense of responsibility toward people are the foundations of a developed society. Regardless of religion, background, profession, or social status, standing beside people as fellow human beings is the greatest identity.

My effort is always to understand the real needs of people and provide support with respect and dignity.



Question–8: You have been involved in social activities for a long time. How did this journey begin?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: The main reason behind my involvement in social activities was the desire to do something meaningful for people. Different experiences throughout my life have made me realize that everyone has a role to play in the development of society.

During my military career, I learned discipline, leadership, and a sense of responsibility. After retirement, the desire to use those experiences for the welfare of people encouraged me to become more actively involved in social activities.

There are some problems in society that cannot be solved through discussions alone; they require practical work at the grassroots level. I believe it is essential to create awareness among people about issues such as dowry, child marriage, lack of education, and social ignorance.

Gradually, this journey moved forward through various social initiatives, awareness programs, and humanitarian support activities.

The greatest achievement of this journey has been receiving people's love and trust. When I see that an initiative has helped someone, encouraged a student, or created the beginning of a positive change in society, I feel that these efforts have been worthwhile.

I believe social service is a continuous responsibility. As long as I have the opportunity to work for people, this journey will continue.

Question–9: What were the biggest challenges you faced while working for society?

Mohammed Didarul Alam:

The path of social service is not always easy. Working for people brings different types of challenges. However, these challenges make a person stronger and more experienced.

The biggest challenge is changing people's mindset and perspectives. Many social problems are connected with long-standing habits and traditions. For example, issues like dowry and child marriage cannot be solved only through laws; they require changes in people's awareness and attitudes.

Another challenge is trying to work on a large scale with limited resources. The needs of people are many, but it is not always possible to fulfill every demand. Therefore, proper planning and setting priorities are necessary.

However, people's cooperation is the greatest strength in overcoming these challenges. When ordinary people become involved in a good initiative, the work becomes much easier.

I believe patience, honesty, and consistency are the most important elements for social change. Change does not happen overnight; small efforts gradually create the path toward major transformation.



Question–10: What is your main approach to earning people's love and trust?

Mohammed Didarul Alam:

The most important factors in earning people's love and trust are honesty and genuine concern for people. Social work should not be done only for publicity or recognition; its true purpose must be the welfare of people.

I have always tried to listen carefully to people, give importance to their problems, and stand beside them according to my ability. Relationships with people are built through trust, and gaining that trust takes time.

I believe that when you respect people, they will respect you in return. Therefore, everyone in society should be treated with dignity and sincerity.

In my work, I try to maintain transparency, responsibility, and consistency because people's trust is not built in a single day; it is earned through long-term efforts.

I believe the greatest reward of social service is people's love. The smiles on people's faces and

their trust are much greater achievements than any position or honor.

My effort will always remain to respect people's trust and love and continue working for the welfare of society.



Part–3: Social Movement Against Dowry and Child Marriage

Question–11: What was the main purpose behind your involvement with the Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Forum?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: Dowry and child marriage are two major social problems that have existed in our society for a long time. These problems do not only harm individual families; they also create obstacles to the overall development of society. As a human being and a responsible citizen, I believe that creating awareness against these issues is our collective responsibility.

Dowry is a social problem that creates financial pressure, mental suffering, and family conflicts in many households. On the other hand, child marriage limits a child's education, dreams, and future opportunities. These issues have deeply concerned me.

Through the Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Forum, our main goal is to create awareness among people, strengthen social values, and especially make the younger generation more responsible about these issues. I believe social change cannot be achieved through laws alone; it requires changes in people's thoughts and behavior. This change is possible through the combined efforts of families, educational institutions, social organizations, and responsible citizens.

Our aim is to build a society where women's dignity, children's rights, and humanitarian values receive the highest importance.



Question–12: Why do you think dowry and child marriage are still major problems in Bangladeshi society?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: Problems like dowry and child marriage are mainly connected with long-standing social beliefs, ignorance, superstitions, and misconceptions. Therefore, to eliminate these issues, not only rules and laws are needed; changes in people's mindset are also necessary.

In many cases, families make such decisions due to social pressure, traditional beliefs, or financial uncertainty, which later become harmful. Especially when girls have limited access to education and opportunities for self-reliance, the risk of child marriage increases.

I believe ensuring the rights of women and children is extremely important for the development of a society. When a girl grows up with education and confidence, she can play an important role in improving not only her own life but also her family and society.

A strong social position must be created against dowry. Marriage should not be viewed as a transaction; rather, it should be considered a respectful relationship between two families.

We all need to understand that a child's future, a woman's dignity, and a family's happiness are far more important than any social tradition.

I believe these problems can gradually be eliminated through awareness, education, and collective efforts. Pasted markdown



Question–13: What should be the role of family, society, and the state in preventing dowry and child marriage?

Mohammed Didarul Alam:
Family, society, and the state all have important roles in preventing dowry and child marriage. No single party can solve these problems alone; collective efforts are necessary.

First, the role of the family is the most important. A child's values are developed within the family. Parents must understand that girls' education and self-reliance are strengths of a family, not burdens.

Second, society has the responsibility to take a collective stand against harmful traditions. Many negative practices continue because of social acceptance. Therefore, responsible and aware members of society must come forward.

Third, the state's responsibility is not only to enforce laws but also to conduct education, awareness, and social development programs.

I believe social problems cannot be completely solved only through punishment. It requires bringing change to people's hearts and minds. Educational institutions, religious institutions, social organizations, and the media can play important roles in this process.

Our goal should be to create a society where education, respect, and humanitarian values define people, not dowry or child marriage. Pasted markdown

Question–14: What types of activities are being conducted through your forum?

Mohammed Didarul Alam:
The main goal of the Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Forum is to increase social awareness and create an environment for positive change among people.

To achieve this goal, various awareness activities are being conducted, including discussion meetings, public awareness programs, involving students and young people, and exchanging views with people from different sections of society.

We believe involving the younger generation in this movement is extremely important because they will lead society in the future. If they become aware of women's dignity, children's rights, and social responsibility from an early age, positive change will be possible.

Creating awareness among families is also one of our important goals because many harmful decisions are made due to a lack of proper information and awareness.

The main purpose of every activity is to make people understand that social change is possible through everyone's participation.

We believe that an aware family creates an aware society.



Question–15: How can the younger generation be involved in preventing child marriage?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: The younger generation is the greatest force for social change. If awareness and responsibility can be developed among them, many social problems can be addressed more easily.

Young people should not be involved as mere observers; rather, they should become partners in creating change. Educational institutions should arrange regular awareness discussions, social activities, and value-based education programs.

Young people need to understand that education and skill development are the foundation of their future. Early marriage is not a solution; rather, it often limits a child's dreams and opportunities.

I believe if young people spread awareness messages within their families and communities, major changes can be achieved.

The current generation is highly advanced in technology and communication. They can spread awareness through social media, educational activities, and different initiatives.

We must develop leadership qualities, humanity, and social responsibility among young people because the responsibility of building a beautiful, aware, and humane society will mainly be in their hands.



Part–4: Social Awareness, Humanitarian Activities and Role of the Foundation

Question–16: How important is awareness in changing social superstitions and misconceptions?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: Social superstitions are not created in a single day, so changing them also requires time and continuous efforts. I believe awareness is the most powerful tool for social change.

Many times, people follow certain traditions or behaviors that have existed in society for a long time but actually cause harm. To bring change against issues like dowry, child marriage, gender discrimination, and various social misconceptions, we must first change people's thoughts and perspectives.

Education and awareness change people's attitudes. An aware person not only makes better decisions for themselves but also influences others in their family and society.

I believe three things are extremely important for social change: education, awareness, and collective efforts. Families, educational institutions, social organizations, and the media must work together.

Creating awareness among the younger generation is especially important because they will lead society in the future.

Our goal should be to build a society where people do not blindly follow traditions; rather, they make decisions based on reasoning, humanity, and moral values.

Awareness changes people's thinking, and that change eventually transforms the entire society.

Question–17: Can you share any significant event or experience that strengthened your commitment to this movement?

Mohammed Didarul Alam: After becoming involved in social activities, I have experienced many situations that inspired me to work with greater determination. Especially when I see how a social problem can make the life of a family or an individual difficult, I realize how important awareness-building work is.

Issues like dowry and child marriage are not limited to a single incident; their effects continue for a long time. A child's education

may stop, a family's dreams may be broken, or a woman's dignity may be harmed.

These realities have repeatedly reminded me that we must continue our work.

I believe major changes come through small initiatives. Making one person aware, encouraging a family to make the right decision, or inspiring a student to build a better future are all important achievements.

People's support and love have always encouraged me. When I see positive thinking developing among people through an initiative, I feel that the effort has been successful.

These experiences have made me more responsible and given me greater strength to remain deeply connected with this social movement.



Question–18: What are the main goals and objectives behind establishing the Bir Protik Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam Foundation?

Mohammed Didarul Alam:

The main objective of establishing the Bir Protik Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam Foundation is to work for the welfare of people and make a positive contribution in different areas of society.

I believe that economic development alone is not enough to build a developed society; education, humanitarian values, social awareness, and a sense of responsibility toward people are also necessary.

With this vision, the foundation has taken initiatives to conduct activities related to education, humanitarian support, social awareness, and public welfare.

Our goal is to stand beside people in society, especially those who are disadvantaged for various reasons, and create opportunities for support.

We want to focus on education, health, social awareness, and humanitarian values.

The true success of a foundation comes when its activities create real changes in people's lives. Therefore, we always try to give importance to people's actual needs.

I believe social development is a collective responsibility. If the government, organizations, and ordinary citizens work from their respective positions, it is possible to build a better society.



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Our Projects

Our Commitment to Humanitarian Values, Education, Social Awareness, and Community Development



We have been implementing various humanitarian and social welfare initiatives with the aim of improving the living standards of underprivileged, neglected, and marginalized communities, promoting education, strengthening humanitarian values, and raising social awareness.

Each of our initiatives is driven by a common vision: to build an educated, compassionate, socially responsible, and equitable society where every individual has the opportunity to live with dignity.

An overview of our ongoing and previously implemented projects is presented below.

01. Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Project

Dowry and child marriage remain two of the most serious social challenges in Bangladesh, particularly among marginalized and rural communities. The dowry system contributes significantly to violence, discrimination, and the exploitation of women, while child marriage deprives countless girls of educational opportunities, personal development, and a secure future.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing these issues, we have undertaken a comprehensive awareness initiative aimed at preventing dowry practices and child marriage through education, community engagement, and social responsibility.

As part of this initiative, we have successfully organized awareness programs in **50 high schools**, receiving overwhelming support and positive responses from students and teachers.

During these programs, male students pledged never to demand or accept dowry in marriage, while female students pledged not to agree to marriages involving dowry demands. These commitments represent an important step toward building a generation that actively rejects harmful social practices.

Our original target was to organize awareness programs in at least one school in each of Bangladesh's 495 upazilas by 2025.

Through these initiatives, we aim to empower students and teachers to become leading advocates and agents of change in the movement against dowry and child marriage.

The project also offers a unique opportunity for donors to participate directly in awareness campaigns.



A donor may choose to deliver our specially prepared motivational speech in their own voice to students and teachers at a selected school in their home community. Physical

attendance is not required. Regardless of where the donor resides in the world, we can arrange for their recorded message to reach the students and teachers of the designated school.

We firmly believe that an informed, empowered, and socially responsible younger generation can play a decisive role in creating a Bangladesh free from dowry and child marriage.

Listen to our motivational speech: Search YouTube for *Col Didar Zoutuk Speech*.

02. Struggling Mothers Recognition and Support Project

A mother who loses her husband, assumes responsibility for her family, and continues to support her children's education despite overwhelming financial and social challenges represents an extraordinary example of courage, sacrifice, and determination.

We respectfully recognize these remarkable women as **"Struggling Mothers."**

Society often categorizes such women merely as destitute or helpless. However, we believe their identities should be defined not by their hardships but by their resilience, dignity, strength, and unwavering commitment to their children's future.



The primary objective of this project is to replace negative social perceptions with recognition, respect, and meaningful support.

Every year, selected struggling mothers are invited to a formal recognition ceremony, where their extraordinary contributions to their families are publicly acknowledged. Alongside this recognition, they receive financial assistance to support their children's education. Although the financial contribution may be modest, it is designed to address a practical and essential need. Generally, each recipient receives an amount equivalent to the cost of purchasing educational materials for one school-going child for an entire year.

To date, approximately 60 struggling mothers have received financial assistance and recognition through this project.

We believe that honoring a struggling mother means recognizing her sacrifices, restoring her dignity, and contributing to a brighter future for her children.



03. Urirchar High School Development Project

Urirchar is one of the most remote and geographically isolated island communities in Bangladesh, where access to modern infrastructure and essential public services remains extremely limited.

The island is home to approximately **30,000 to 40,000 people**.

Previously, the island had four primary schools, including government and non-government institutions, but no high school. Consequently, many children were forced to discontinue their education after completing Grade Five because opportunities for secondary education were unavailable locally.

In 2000, a group of education enthusiasts established a junior high school on the island. Unfortunately, severe financial difficulties

later threatened the institution's survival, bringing it close to closure.

Recognizing the importance of ensuring continued education for children in this underserved community, we stepped forward to support the school.

Through financial contributions, institutional assistance, and various development initiatives, we played a significant role in transforming the struggling junior high school into a full-fledged secondary school.

As a result, students of Urirchar High School gained the opportunity to participate in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, marking a major milestone in the educational development of the island.

We have invested more than BDT 2 million (20 lakh taka) in the development and operation of the school.



At one stage, student enrollment increased to approximately 450, and the institution was gradually moving toward operational sustainability.

Unfortunately, the school subsequently encountered serious difficulties arising from local political interference, disputes, and other unfavorable circumstances.

According to the project account, these challenges included the theft of BDT 200,000 from the school's vault and threats directed at the project initiator. As a result of these circumstances, the initiator eventually withdrew from active involvement.

Following this development, the school's condition deteriorated considerably. Student enrollment reportedly declined from approximately 450 to just 100, while teachers experienced prolonged financial hardship, including a period of 18 months without salary payments.

We remain determined to restore the school and rebuild its capacity to provide quality secondary education.

Our objective is to revitalize the institution through financial assistance, effective management, infrastructure improvements, and the collective participation of education supporters and community stakeholders.

We sincerely seek the support of philanthropists, education advocates, donors, and socially responsible individuals to restore Urirchar High School as a sustainable and effective educational institution.

We firmly believe that geographical isolation should never deprive a child of the fundamental right to education.

04. Teachers' Computer Literacy Project

In today's technology-driven world, digital literacy has become an essential component of modern education.

To prepare students for an increasingly digital future, teachers must first possess the knowledge and skills necessary to use computers and modern technological tools effectively.

Guided by the principle **"When Teachers Learn, Students Learn,"** we launched the Teachers' Computer Literacy Project.

The primary objective of this initiative is to equip teachers with fundamental computer knowledge and practical digital skills, enabling them to adopt modern teaching methods and transfer technological knowledge to their students.

To date, approximately 150 teachers have received computer literacy training and support through this project.

We believe that a digitally competent teacher can open new pathways to knowledge and opportunity for countless students.

Therefore, strengthening teachers' technological capabilities is one of our important contributions to improving the quality and effectiveness of education.

05. Recognition of Distinguished Community Contributors Project



Across the rural and marginalized regions of Bangladesh, numerous dedicated individuals continue to make remarkable contributions to education, culture, community development, and humanitarian welfare.

Many of these individuals work selflessly without seeking recognition or personal reward. Unfortunately, their contributions often remain unknown to the wider public because of limited exposure and a lack of formal recognition.

We believe that acknowledging and honoring such individuals is an important responsibility of a caring and progressive society.

With this understanding, we initiated the **Recognition of Distinguished Community Contributors Project**.

Under this initiative, individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social welfare and community development are identified, publicly recognized, and honored through formal ceremonies.

In addition to recognizing their achievements, we provide modest financial honorariums as a gesture of appreciation and respect.

To date, approximately 44 distinguished individuals have received recognition and honorariums through this project.

We believe that honoring outstanding individuals not only acknowledges their personal contributions but also inspires future generations to engage in meaningful community service and humanitarian activities.

06. E-School Project

The E-School Project is a humanitarian educational initiative designed to provide learning opportunities for street-connected, underprivileged, and socially disadvantaged children.

The school was originally established in the Chattogram Railway Station area to support children who were living or spending significant portions of their lives on the streets. Locally known as the **"Tokai School,"** the institution offers educational opportunities to approximately 45 children and adolescents who face considerable social and economic barriers to accessing conventional education.

For many of these children, the school represents a valuable opportunity to acquire knowledge, develop confidence, and build a foundation for a better future.

We have been providing financial and moral support to the institution to help maintain its educational activities and ensure that disadvantaged children continue to receive learning opportunities.

Due to changing circumstances, the school subsequently had to be relocated from the Chattogram Railway Station area to the Barapul area.

Our objective is not only to support basic education but also to contribute to the personal development, self-confidence, social awareness, and future opportunities of these vulnerable children.

We strongly believe that **every child deserves access to education, regardless of family background, social identity, or financial circumstances.**

07. Bangladesh Blood Donors Forum Project

Driven by the humanitarian belief that no life should be endangered due to a shortage of blood, the **Bangladesh Blood Donors Forum** has been carrying out voluntary blood donation and community service activities throughout the country.



The organization plays a vital role in connecting patients in urgent need of blood with potential donors, promoting voluntary blood donation, and organizing free blood-group testing services.

Its humanitarian achievements are significant.

- **Approximately 35,000 critically ill patients** have been assisted in obtaining urgently needed blood.
- **Approximately 50,000 individuals** have received free blood-group testing services.
- **Approximately 5,500 volunteers** have been actively engaged in humanitarian and blood donation activities across Bangladesh.

Through its nationwide network of dedicated volunteers, the forum continues to make an important contribution to meeting emergency blood requirements and promoting a culture of voluntary blood donation.

We have been serving as the **Principal Patron of the Bangladesh Blood Donors Forum**, providing support to sustain and strengthen its humanitarian activities.

We believe that voluntary blood donation is one of the noblest expressions of compassion, solidarity, and social responsibility.

A small act of kindness from one individual can become a lifeline for another.



Our Vision and Future Commitment

Each of our projects represents an important part of our broader humanitarian mission.

We envision a society where no child is deprived of education, no woman suffers from dowry-related violence or child marriage, no struggling mother's sacrifices go unrecognized, no deserving community contributor remains without appreciation, and preventable deaths caused by shortages of blood are reduced as far as possible.

We recognize that meaningful social transformation requires more than good intentions. It demands well-planned initiatives, responsible leadership, collective participation, transparency, and sustained long-term commitment.

Despite our limited resources, we have consistently worked to stand beside people in need and contribute to lasting improvements in their lives.

The experience, achievements, and lessons gained from our projects continue to inspire us to expand our efforts and reach more communities throughout Bangladesh.

Our ultimate mission is to help build a more educated, compassionate, socially responsible, inclusive, and equitable Bangladesh.

To strengthen and expand these initiatives, we warmly welcome the participation and support of philanthropists, Bangladeshi expatriates, donor organizations, corporate institutions, development partners, and individuals committed to humanitarian values.

We believe that sustainable social development becomes possible when individuals, communities, and institutions work together toward a shared purpose.

Together, Let Us Build a More Educated, Compassionate, Inclusive, and Equitable Bangladesh.



Meet the Founders

Farial Sabrina *is the Founder.*

A visual thinker, she designs products, spaces and experiences at Planterie that are both beautiful and sustainable. She's a business + interior design professional with 20+ years in urban greening.

Himank Sharma *is the Co-founder. A systems thinker, he designs intuitive systems that support Planterie's multidimensional growth. He's a Berkeley MBA with 10+ years in corporate, non-profit & academia.*

Our Story

"Planterie started as a garden on my terrace. It thrived and I, with it. This connection with nature brought me calm and joy. City life has disconnected us from nature, bringing us a lot of stress. I started Planterie to bring nature and peace to our urban lives."

Farial Sabrina, Founder

Vision

"A future where every city dweller has a small, beautiful patch of nature within arm's reach."





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A Significant Milestone in Our Campaign Against Dowry and Child Marriage



Inspired by an awareness-raising speech delivered by **Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik**, the female students of **Burir Hat High School in Shariatpur** symbolically showed a **red card to child marriage**, expressing their strong commitment to rejecting this harmful social practice.

This remarkable initiative represents a significant milestone in our ongoing campaign against dowry and child marriage. It demonstrates the positive impact of our awareness programs and our success in inspiring young students to stand against harmful social traditions.

Building on this growing awareness and determination, **we aspire to reach 40,000 educational institutions across Bangladesh**, empowering students to become advocates for social change and contributing to the creation of a nation free from dowry and child marriage.

During November, we received donations totaling BDT 135,000 in support of our humanitarian initiatives.

We sincerely appreciate the generosity and commitment of our valued donors and supporters.

Join us in our mission to build a cleaner, more conscious, compassionate, and socially responsible society.

Together, we can create a Bangladesh where every child is protected, every girl has the opportunity to pursue her education, and every individual can live with dignity.



Humanitarian and Community Development Activities in Sandwip and Urirchar

A Joint Initiative of Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik Foundation and Youth Foundation

The Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik Foundation has been implementing various humanitarian and social development initiatives to improve the living standards of grassroots communities, promote education, uphold human dignity, and strengthen social welfare in Sandwip and Urirchar.

Since 2015, the Youth Foundation, led by Mr. Rezakul Haider Manju, Chairman of Youth Group, has joined these initiatives as a collaborative partner.

Major Activities and Achievements

01. Recognition and Support for Struggling Mothers

- Identifying and recognizing widowed and disadvantaged mothers who continue supporting their children's education despite severe financial and social challenges.
- Honoring 60 struggling mothers through a formal recognition ceremony.
- Providing each recipient with BDT 5,000, a certificate of recognition, a diary, and a book.
- Preparing a list of 60 struggling mothers who received financial assistance in 2015.

02. Recognition of Distinguished Community Contributors



- Identifying deserving individuals whose contributions to grassroots communities have remained largely unrecognized.
- Honoring 48 distinguished individuals for their contributions to education, culture, the Liberation War, journalism, social welfare, and humanitarian services.
- Presenting each recipient with BDT 5,000, a certificate of recognition, a diary, and a book.

03. Urirchar High School Development

- Initiating the establishment of a multipurpose cyclone shelter and school building within the school premises.
- Securing a donation of BDT 1,000,000 from Al-Arafah Islami Bank.
- Supporting the partial reconstruction of school facilities and the provision of furniture.
- Improving school infrastructure through the construction of a permanent pond landing area.
- Supporting the organization of the school's annual sports programs.

04. Financial Sustainability of the School



- Establishing a fish farm for the school through funding provided by Colonel Didarul Alam.
- Generating approximately BDT 300,000 in annual fish sales.
- Initiating plans to transform the fish farm into a diversified, income-generating agricultural enterprise.
- Exploring the potential to generate approximately BDT 1 million annually through the expanded farming initiative.

05. Free Healthcare and Medical Services

- Organizing a three-day medical camp in Urirchar from February 26 to 28.
- Providing free blood-group testing and basic medical services to local communities.
- Mobilizing young volunteers under the leadership of Kamrul Hasan, popularly known as the "Blood Man" of Sandwip.

06. Teachers' Computer Literacy Program



- Conducting computer literacy programs to improve teachers' digital knowledge and technological skills.
- Providing computer literacy training to more than 150 teachers over a two-year period.
- Supporting the integration of modern technology into educational practices.

07. Children's Creative Development



- Organizing drawing competitions to encourage children's creativity and artistic expression.
- Awarding prizes to 16 winning participants.
- Conducting the competition under the coordination of journalist Muktadir Khan Azad.

08. Literary and Cultural Development

- Supporting the literary organization "Bhorer Pakhi," led by Ismail Hossain Moni.
- Providing encouragement and assistance for the publication of a literary magazine.
- Promoting local literary activities, cultural engagement, and creative development.

09. Community Partnerships and Coordination

- Strengthening collaboration between the Youth Foundation, local organizations, and community volunteers.
- Establishing selection committees to identify distinguished community contributors and struggling mothers.
- Engaging teachers, journalists, education advocates, and volunteers in social development initiatives.
- Expanding community development activities through partnerships with financial institutions and local stakeholders.

Summary of Financial Contributions

Over a ten-year period, the following contributions were made toward grassroots development activities in Sandwip and Urirchar:

- **Personal contribution of Colonel Didarul Alam:** Approximately BDT 1,800,000.
- **Contribution of Youth Foundation:** Approximately BDT 500,000.
- **Contribution of Al-Arafah Islami Bank:** Approximately BDT 1,000,000.

- **Others individual contribution** Approximately BDT 500,000

Total Financial Contribution: Approximately BDT 4,045,000 (BDT 4.045 Million).



Our Objectives

- To promote education and humanitarian development at the grassroots level.
- To recognize struggling mothers and provide them with financial and social support.
- To acknowledge and honor individuals making outstanding contributions to society.
- To improve access to essential healthcare services for underserved communities.
- To support educational institutions in achieving long-term financial sustainability.
- To encourage creativity, cultural participation, and personal development among children and young people.
- To strengthen community partnerships and promote sustainable social development.

Our Commitment

We remain committed to advancing human dignity, educational opportunities, economic self-reliance, and inclusive community development.

Through collective efforts, responsible partnerships, and sustainable initiatives, we aspire to create lasting positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged and underserved communities.

Our Vision: Building a More Educated, Compassionate, Self-Reliant, and Socially Inclusive Bangladesh.



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A Life Dedicated to Courage, Service, and Responsibility

The Inspiring Journey of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik

The story of a person's life is not merely a collection of personal experiences; it is a reflection of values, struggles, responsibilities, and contributions. The life journey of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, represents a remarkable combination of courage, patriotism, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to society.

In his own words, he never considered himself a person of extraordinary fame. Yet, his writings, interviews, and social contributions gradually earned recognition among readers and admirers. The appreciation and affection he received from people encouraged him to share his life experiences through his autobiography.



Born in the historic island region of Sandwip, Chattogram, Didarul Alam grew up in an environment shaped by resilience, simplicity, and determination. Sandwip's unique geography, cultural heritage, and the courage of its people played an important role in shaping his personality. The challenges of island life taught many generations of its people bravery, adaptability, and perseverance. His childhood reflected curiosity, energy, and a fearless spirit. Known by his nickname "Jillu," he enjoyed exploring nature, participating in outdoor activities, and learning through real-life experiences. His adventurous personality gradually transformed into leadership qualities during his youth.

Alongside education, sports played an important role in his teenage years. Football, badminton, volleyball, and cricket became part of his daily life. Although his passion for sports affected his academic progress for a period, he later regained focus and completed his education with determination.

The influence of his parents was one of the strongest foundations of his character. His father, Maulvi Fazlul Haque, was a respected person who served in the British Army during the Second World War and later became involved in business and community activities. His mother, Halima Khatun, was an exceptionally intelligent and capable woman who managed a large family after her husband's early death and demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial ability.

One of the most significant lessons he inherited from his mother was the idea of empowering disadvantaged families through economic opportunities. Her traditional cattle-sharing business inspired him to develop the concept of the "Cattle Bank," an innovative social-economic project designed to support poor families while promoting education and self-reliance.



His professional journey began after completing his education when he joined Pakistan International Airlines before eventually entering the Pakistan Defence Forces. During his military career, he witnessed social and political inequalities and gradually developed a deeper sense of responsibility toward the future of his homeland.

The defining chapter of his life came during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Motivated by the political movement of 1969 and the call for independence, he became involved in the resistance movement. He later participated directly in the war and took responsibility for organizing and leading freedom fighters in different operations.

During the war, he played an active role in organizing resistance forces and later served as a Sub-Sector Commander under Sector 2. His experiences included battles, guerrilla operations, raids, ambushes, and other military activities that contributed to the struggle for independence.

Beyond the battlefield, his life reflects a continuous search for solutions to social challenges. His writings focus not only on identifying problems but also on finding practical solutions. He believes that discussing problems without presenting solutions does not create meaningful change.

The life of Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam reminds us that true achievement is not measured only by titles or recognition. It is measured by courage during difficult times, responsibility toward society, and the willingness to create opportunities for others.

His journey from a young boy of Sandwip to a decorated freedom fighter, military officer, writer, and social thinker is a story of dedication and perseverance. It reflects a timeless message: a meaningful life is one that contributes to the welfare of people and the progress of society.

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A Beacon of Light Dedicated to the Service of Humanity: Didarul Alam

A Unique Journey of Social Awareness, Education, Human Values, and Public Welfare

When we look at the history of social change, we find that behind every positive transformation, there are individuals whose tireless efforts, humanitarian thoughts, and sense of responsibility play an important role. They may not always remain in the spotlight, but their work creates a deep impact on people's lives. Standing beside people, helping the disadvantaged, creating awareness against social injustice, and guiding the new generation toward the right path are the foundations of building a better society.

Didarul Alam has become known as a personality who, through various social activities, focuses on public welfare, educational development, and increasing social awareness. Based on the information shown in different pictures and banners, his activities include social development initiatives, educational support, movements against dowry and child marriage, humanitarian assistance, and recognition of people from different sections of society.

A person's true identity is not revealed only through their position or status; rather, it is determined by what they have done for people and how positively they have contributed to society. The most visible aspect of Didarul Alam's initiatives is his sense of responsibility toward people and his commitment to creating a better society.



The Vision of Social Change and Humanitarian Leadership

The development of a society cannot be achieved only through infrastructure and economic progress. It requires changes in people's thoughts, values, and behavior. To address social problems, the first requirement is creating awareness.

Among Didarul Alam's various activities, creating social awareness is a particularly important aspect. His involvement in addressing social problems, especially dowry and child marriage, reflects a significant commitment.

Dowry has long been considered a harmful social problem. It creates financial pressure on many families and can affect the dignity and rights of women. On the other hand, child marriage can negatively impact a child's education, health, and future opportunities.

Creating awareness about these issues is not an easy task because social change requires transforming long-established habits and beliefs. Awareness campaigns, discussion programs, student involvement, and social communication play important roles in this process.

The activities of the "Dowry and Child Marriage Prevention Forum" mentioned in different images highlight efforts to create awareness among people and encourage positive social change.



The Importance of Education and Humanitarian Values

A nation's future depends greatly on its education system. Education is not only a means of achieving good academic results; it teaches people how to think, become responsible citizens, and understand their responsibilities toward society.

Among the various activities of Didarul Alam, initiatives involving students and awareness programs are particularly significant. Efforts to develop social values, moral education, and awareness among students can play an important role in building the future generation.

When a student learns about social issues from an early age, they develop a sense of responsibility. They begin to think not only about their own personal development but also about the progress of society.

Creating awareness among students means preparing future leaders. Today's students will become tomorrow's teachers, administrators, entrepreneurs, social workers, and responsible citizens of the country.



Humanitarian Support During the COVID-19 Period

The COVID-19 pandemic created a difficult situation for people around the world. During that time, health protection, awareness, and necessary support became extremely important.

The pictures show that an initiative was taken by Didarul Alam to distribute KN95 masks among students. Providing health protection materials to people during the pandemic was a humanitarian effort.

The true beauty of humanitarian activities is that they represent the message of standing beside people during their time of need. Even a small act of support during a crisis can become a great source of encouragement for people.

The true meaning of social service is not only implementing large projects; it is also

understanding people's needs and supporting them at the right time. Such initiatives during the COVID-19 period reflect a sense of humanitarian responsibility.

Respect for People from Different Sections of Society

The contribution of different professions and groups of people is essential for the progress of a society. A teacher builds society through knowledge, a farmer contributes through food production, a freedom fighter sacrifices for the independence of the country, and an entrepreneur creates employment opportunities.

The images show that the Didarul Alam Foundation has provided recognition to individuals who have contributed in different fields. These include:

- Recognition of freedom fighters
- Recognition of teachers
- Recognition of farmers
- Recognition of women entrepreneurs
- Appreciation of contributions from different sections of society

Such initiatives create a culture of respect within society. When good work receives recognition, it encourages others to contribute positively as well.



Respect for Freedom Fighters and the Value of History

The independence of Bangladesh was achieved through the sacrifices of millions of people. Freedom fighters are an important part of the nation's history and represent the courage, dedication, and sacrifice behind the country's independence.

The images show activities where freedom fighters were honored. Respecting freedom fighters is not only a formal tradition; it is also a way of presenting the history of the country and the values of independence to the new generation.

A society that respects its history can build a stronger foundation for the future. Remembering the sacrifices and contributions of previous generations helps develop patriotism and social responsibility among citizens.

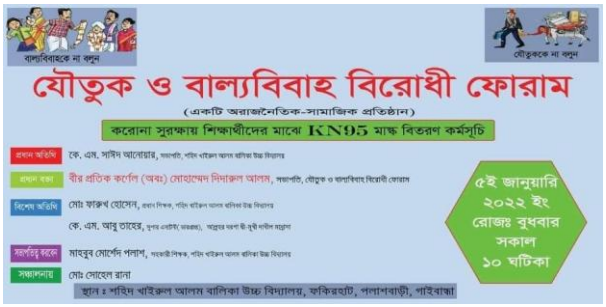


A Strong Social Philosophy for Human Welfare

Social service is not a temporary initiative; it is a long-term responsibility and commitment. A true social worker does not only point out problems but also tries to find solutions. Making people's lives easier, creating an environment for positive social change, and building a better future for the next generation become the main objectives of such work.

When analyzing Didarul Alam's various social activities, it can be seen that his initiatives focus mainly on public welfare, creating awareness, and establishing social values. A clear aspect of his work is creating a path for change by involving ordinary people in society. Economic development alone is not enough to build a developed society. A truly developed society requires morality, humanity, mutual

respect, and a sense of responsibility. Social organizations and individual initiatives can play an important role in establishing these values.



Initiatives for Women's Development and Social Dignity

The development of a country becomes complete only when both women and men can participate equally in social progress. Women's education, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and social dignity are important elements of a modern society.

The images show that Didarul Alam's initiatives included recognition of women entrepreneurs and women who contributed to society. Such recognition values women's efforts and encourages others to become self-reliant.

When a woman becomes established through her own ability and hard work, she not only changes her own life but also contributes significantly to the development of her family and society.

Women's empowerment is not limited to economic independence; it is also connected with confidence, decision-making ability, and social respect.

The importance given to women's contributions in Didarul Alam's activities sends a positive message to society.

Respect for Farmers and Ordinary People

Farmers play an essential role in the economy and social structure of Bangladesh. A farmer does not only produce food; they also make an important contribution to strengthening the economic foundation of the country.

The images highlight the recognition given to farmers. This represents a meaningful example of valuing the hard work and contributions of ordinary people.

Many times, the contributions of people from the grassroots level do not receive enough attention. However, the hard work of farmers, the dedication of workers, and the honesty of ordinary citizens are among the main forces behind social progress.

Honoring farmers means expressing gratitude and respect toward the productive people who contribute greatly to the nation.



Respect for Teachers: The Builders of a Nation

A teacher does not only provide lessons; they help build a generation. A good teacher guides students with knowledge, moral values, and an understanding of the right path in life.

The images show activities where teachers were honored. This is an important social initiative because teachers are among the key builders of society.

When teachers receive proper respect, people's trust in the education system increases. It also encourages the younger generation to value education more seriously.

The true success of a teacher is reflected through the achievements of their students. Therefore, honoring teachers is ultimately a way of respecting knowledge and education.

Engagement with the People of Sandwip and Urirchar

The lives of people in Bangladesh's island and coastal regions have their own unique challenges. In areas where communication, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities can be limited, people often face additional difficulties.

The images mention various social activities connected with the Sandwip and Urirchar areas. Working closely with local people is an important aspect of such initiatives.

For any social initiative to succeed, it is necessary to understand the real needs and circumstances of local communities. Working closely with people helps identify actual problems and find practical solutions.

Activities conducted at the local level can directly influence people's lives and create opportunities for long-term positive change.



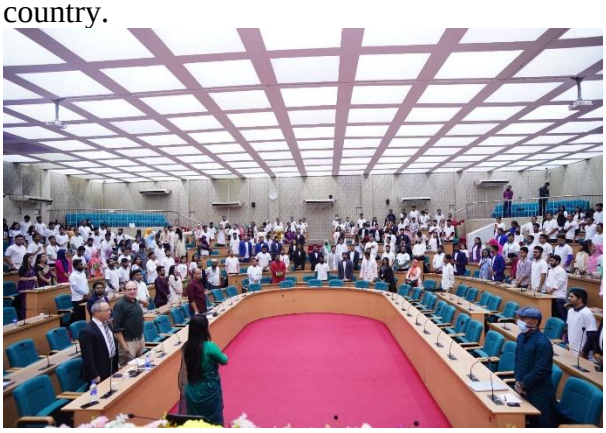
Encouraging the Younger Generation Towards Positive Activities

The future of a country depends on its younger generation. When young people grow up with proper education, values, and responsibility, the future of society becomes stronger.

Creating positive thinking among young people through social awareness programs is important. Guiding them away from social problems and involving them in development-oriented activities can benefit society greatly.

Didarul Alam's activities include involving students and young people in awareness initiatives, which appears as an important aspect of his social work.

When young people become aware of social issues, they can contribute not only to their own future but also to building the future of the country.



Recognition Culture and Building a Positive Society

Recognition of good work is an important part of creating a positive social culture. When someone's efforts are appreciated, it not only motivates that individual but also inspires others to contribute positively.

When a freedom fighter, teacher, farmer, entrepreneur, or social worker is honored, it is not only the individual who receives respect; an entire group of contributors is valued.

The recognition programs organized through Didarul Alam's initiatives for people from different fields carry a positive social message. Such activities increase mutual respect among people and create an environment where good work is encouraged and appreciated.

Characteristics of Humanitarian Leadership

The greatest quality of a humanitarian leader is the ability to listen to people, understand their problems, and work toward solutions.

Important qualities of humanitarian leadership include:

- Compassion toward people
- A sense of social responsibility
- A mindset focused on solving problems
- Understanding the importance of education and awareness
- Respecting the contributions of others

These qualities can be observed in Didarul Alam's social activities and initiatives.



A Message of Inspiration for Society

A person's work is never limited only to themselves. A positive initiative can inspire many others and encourage them to participate in social development.

Social progress requires people who are willing to use their time, efforts, and thoughts for the welfare of others.

The various social initiatives of Didarul Alam convey an important message: social change begins with the sincere efforts of an individual.



A Continuous Journey of Humanitarian Values

The development of society is a continuous process. The work of one generation creates a foundation for the next generation to move forward with new possibilities. Therefore, the greatest success of social service activities is that they create a sense of responsibility among people and encourage others to contribute positively.

Looking at Didarul Alam's various social activities, it can be seen that his initiatives are not limited to a single area. Rather, through education, social awareness, humanitarian support, recognition programs, and direct connection with people, they reflect a broader vision of social development.

To build a beautiful society, it is necessary to create an environment where people respect each other, stand beside those in need, and set positive examples for future generations.

This vision is the true strength behind social service.



The Importance of Awareness in Social Movements

Many social problems cannot be solved only through the implementation of laws. A change in people's mindset is necessary, and awareness is the most effective way to bring such change.

Creating awareness against issues such as dowry, child marriage, social inequality, and various misconceptions is a long-term process. It requires continuous efforts, discussions, education, and social participation.

In Didarul Alam's activities, social awareness occupies an important position. His efforts to create awareness among young people and ordinary citizens represent a positive step toward social transformation.

An aware person does not only improve their own life; they also create a positive influence on their family, society, and future generations.



Practice of Humanitarian Values

In the present era, along with technological and economic development, the importance of humanitarian values has increased significantly. A society becomes truly developed when people respect one another, show compassion, and maintain a spirit of cooperation.

Didarul Alam's various initiatives reflect the importance of respect and compassion toward people.

Standing beside disadvantaged people, supporting students, and recognizing the contributions of different groups are activities that strengthen the foundation of a humane society.

Humanity is a powerful force that creates unity among people and makes society more beautiful.

The Social Role of the Foundation

According to the information shown in the images, the Bir Protik Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam Foundation is involved in various social activities.

The main purpose of a social foundation is to work where people need support and contribute to positive changes in society.

Educational support, social awareness programs, humanitarian activities, and recognition initiatives represent the social responsibility of an organization.

An organization or foundation earns people's trust when its activities create real benefits in people's lives.



Inspiration for the Future Generation

The greatest achievement of a person is creating inspiration for others.

Didarul Alam's social activities provide an important lesson for the younger generation: one does not always need a major opportunity to work for society. Positive change can begin through small initiatives from one's own position.

If a student helps someone in need, a young person creates awareness about social issues, or an entrepreneur creates employment opportunities, then gradually a better society can be built.



The True Meaning of Leadership

Leadership does not only mean accepting responsibility; it means taking responsibility for people.

A true leader tries to understand people's problems, stands beside them, and works for the improvement of society.
The activities of Didarul Alam clearly reflect a people-centered approach to leadership.
Respecting different sections of society, emphasizing education, working on social issues, and providing humanitarian support are characteristics of responsible leadership.



A Commitment to Building a Better Society

Building a beautiful society requires collective efforts. The government, organizations, institutions, and ordinary citizens all need to fulfill their responsibilities from their respective positions.
The initiative of one person may not change the entire society overnight, but it can inspire others to become involved in positive actions. The social activities of Didarul Alam represent such an inspiration.
For the development of society, the following areas are essential:

- Expansion of education
- Increasing social awareness
- Practicing humanitarian values
- Recognizing good work
- Standing beside disadvantaged people

If these values are implemented, it is possible to create a beautiful, responsible, and humane society.



The True Meaning of Life's Success

The true fulfillment of a person's life is not limited to personal achievements. Real success lies in doing something meaningful for people, society, and future generations.
The different social activities of Didarul Alam reflect important values such as humanity, responsibility, education, awareness, and respect for people. Social change is never an easy journey, but the sincere efforts of dedicated individuals help move society forward.
Creating awareness among students, working against social problems, providing humanitarian support during the COVID-19 period, and honoring freedom fighters, teachers, farmers, and women entrepreneurs are initiatives that carry positive messages for society.
The greatest asset of a society is its humane people. Those who go beyond their personal interests and work for the welfare of others become the true strength of society.

A Reflection of Humanitarian Responsibility

The journey of Didarul Alam reflects a sense of humanitarian responsibility where love for people, commitment toward society, and a dream for a better future work together.
Every initiative dedicated to the welfare of humanity has the potential to become a force for social transformation.
A society does not change only through large actions; it changes through countless small efforts based on compassion, responsibility, and awareness. When individuals take responsibility from their own positions, these efforts gradually create a stronger and more humane society.

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A Life Defined by Courage, Leadership, and Commitment to Humanity

The Extraordinary Journey of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik



A Story of Patriotism, Struggle, Vision, and Service

The life of a person is not measured only by the years they live, the positions they hold, or the recognition they receive. A truly meaningful life is defined by courage in difficult moments, responsibility toward society, dedication to principles, and the ability to create a positive impact on the lives of others.

The life journey of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, is a remarkable reflection of such values. His story represents a long journey through different chapters of history — from the simple surroundings of Sandwip to the battlefield of the Liberation War, from military leadership to social thinking, writing, and humanitarian initiatives.

Although he humbly states that he is not a person of extraordinary historical importance, his experiences, writings, and contributions tell a different story. Over the years, several of his articles and interviews were published in national newspapers and local and international weekly publications, attracting the attention and appreciation of readers. The affection and recognition received from people encouraged him to document his life experiences.

For him, writing his life story was not an attempt to glorify personal achievements. Rather, it was an effort to preserve memories, share lessons from a lifetime of experiences, and present the struggles, responsibilities, and values that shaped his journey.

Birth and Early Roots: The Beginning of a Remarkable Journey

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Didarul Alam was born in Musapur village of Sandwip, Chattogram, a historic island region known for its courage, resilience, and unique cultural heritage.

According to his own account, he has two recorded birth dates, a common experience among many Bengalis who have separate actual and certificate dates of birth.



His actual date of birth is mentioned as:
20th Ashwin, 1350 Bengali Calendar
Equivalent to: 7 October 1943

He was born during a historically difficult period, including the devastating Bengal famine of 1943. Growing up in such an environment shaped his understanding of hardship, survival, and human struggle.

Sandwip, his birthplace, played a significant role in developing his personality. The island's natural challenges, geographical isolation, and the resilience of its people created an environment where courage, adaptability, and determination became essential qualities for survival.

The people of Sandwip have historically been connected with maritime activities and overseas opportunities. Facing the challenges of nature and travelling across rivers and seas helped develop a spirit of bravery and independence among generations of its inhabitants.

These early surroundings became an important foundation for the character of Didarul Alam, who later demonstrated courage and leadership in some of the most challenging moments of national history.



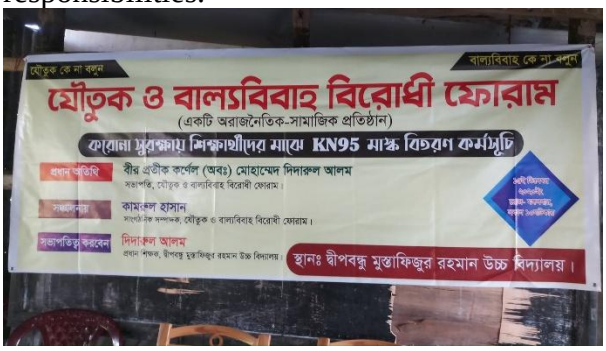
Childhood: The Formation of a Fearless Personality

Like many children in Bengali Muslim families, he had a nickname alongside his official name. He grew up as "Jillu," a name remembered by relatives and neighbors from his childhood days.

His childhood was filled with curiosity, adventure, and an energetic spirit. Long before sunrise, he enjoyed outdoor activities such as collecting fruits and exploring nature. He developed a fearless attitude by participating in challenging activities without hesitation.

The natural environment of village life gave him practical lessons that no classroom could provide. Through interaction with people, exploration of nature, and participation in everyday rural activities, he developed confidence, observation skills, and problem-solving ability.

These qualities later became valuable during his military career and leadership responsibilities.



Adolescence: Education, Sports, and the Development of Leadership

During his teenage years, his childhood energy found expression through sports and physical activities. Alongside education, he participated actively in football, badminton, volleyball, cricket, and traditional village games.

Until Class Seven, he was highly focused on studies and was appreciated by teachers and guardians as a talented student. However, during Classes Eight and Nine, his passion for sports became stronger, and his academic performance suffered temporarily.

Entering Class Ten, he regained his focus and eventually completed his matriculation examination in **1961**. Later, he completed his Intermediate education in **1963**.

His teenage years were not only a period of education but also a time when he gained practical experience. Under the guidance of his mother, he became involved in small business activities, including buying and selling agricultural products. These experiences developed his understanding of management, negotiation, and economic activities.



The Influence of His Parents: The Foundation of Values, Discipline, and Vision

A person's character is often shaped by the values received from family. In the life of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, the influence of his parents created a strong foundation of honesty, responsibility, discipline, and service to others.

His father, **Maulvi Fazlul Haque**, was a person of traditional values and strong character. He studied in the Arabic education system and later joined the British Army during the Second World War. Through his military service, he had the opportunity to travel to different countries, including **Italy and Egypt**. After the war, he returned home and became involved in business activities, legal affairs, land-related matters, and community service.

His father was widely respected in the local community for his honesty and social reputation. At one stage, he became involved in local politics and was elected as a member of the Union Council. His reputation as a good and responsible person created the possibility of further leadership roles, although his life was unfortunately shortened when he passed away at the age of **49** due to cancer. At that time, Didarul Alam was serving as a commissioned officer in the Pakistan Army.

The loss of his father placed significant responsibilities on the family, but it also strengthened Didarul Alam's sense of duty and maturity.



His Mother: A Symbol of Strength, Intelligence, and Entrepreneurship

Among the most influential figures in his life was his mother, **Halima Khatun**. Despite coming from a rural background where educational opportunities for women were limited, she demonstrated remarkable intelligence, courage, and practical wisdom.

She completed her education up to **Class Six**, which was considered a significant achievement for a rural woman during that period. Her educational background later enabled her to become associated with teaching. A girls' school established by her family recognized her ability, and she became a teacher there. Although the school did not continue permanently, it reflected her commitment to education and women's development.

However, her greatest strength was her extraordinary ability in managing family responsibilities and economic activities. After the early death of her husband, she successfully

managed a large family with determination and financial intelligence.

Her entrepreneurial mindset left a lasting impression on Didarul Alam. Through her business activities, she demonstrated that economic empowerment could become a tool for improving the lives of disadvantaged people.



The Inspiration Behind the "Cattle Bank" Concept

One of the most remarkable examples of his mother's innovative thinking was her traditional cattle-sharing business model. She invested capital by providing cows, buffaloes, and goats to poor families under an arrangement where the families would raise the animals for a certain period. Later, after selling the animals, the original investment was returned and the remaining profit was divided between the owner and the family who cared for the animals.

As the eldest son, Didarul Alam actively assisted his mother in this business during his teenage years. He was directly involved in buying and selling livestock and gained practical knowledge from this experience.

This childhood experience later inspired him, during the early **1990s**, to design a larger social-economic development initiative called the **"Cattle Bank."** The concept aimed to transform the traditional rural cattle-sharing system into a structured and modern development model.

The objective of the Cattle Bank was not only economic development but also social empowerment. The project proposed providing cattle to disadvantaged families while connecting economic opportunities with education. One important feature was ensuring that girls in beneficiary families continued their education and received ownership opportunities in the future.

The project was later submitted to the government, and he received appreciation from the then PM Khaleda Zia's office. However, due to administrative complexities, he was unable to implement the project fully and eventually kept it aside.

Although the project did not reach full implementation, the idea demonstrated his lifelong approach: identifying social problems and searching for sustainable solutions.

Beginning of Professional Life: From PIA to Military Service



After completing his education, Didarul Alam entered professional life. After passing **Matriculation in 1961** and **Intermediate in 1963**, he began studying B.Com at Chittagong

Government College of Commerce while also starting his career.

Due to changes in family financial circumstances, he looked for employment opportunities and joined Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)**.** After completing training in Karachi, he was posted at Dhaka Airport.

While working at PIA, he developed an interest in becoming a pilot and completed the necessary selection processes. However, instead of being selected as a pilot, he was directed to join the Pakistan Army as a cadet officer. Eventually, he entered military service, beginning a new chapter of discipline, leadership, and responsibility.

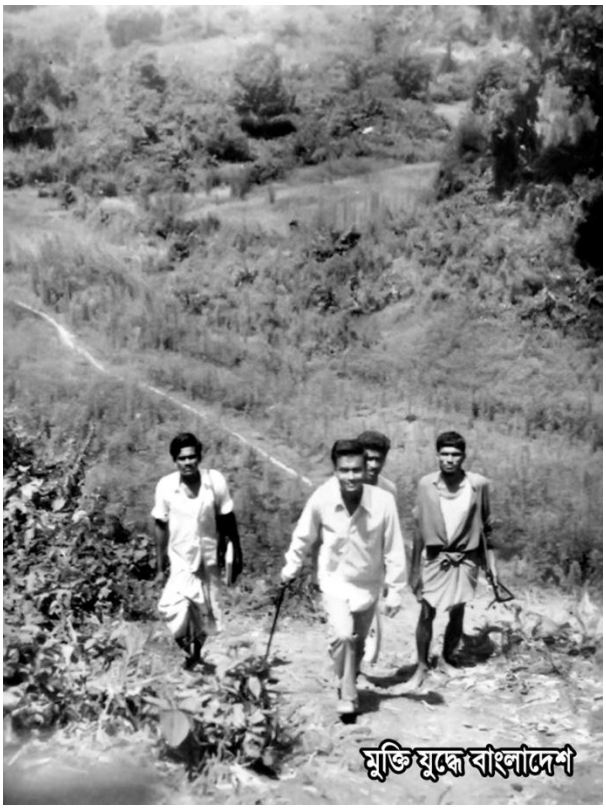


Political Awareness and the Road Toward 1971

During his preparation to join the Pakistan Defence Forces, he learned about a plan related to the independence of East Pakistan through his maternal uncle, Ruhul Amin, who was connected with the Air Force and had some involvement with the movement. This period was connected with what later became known as the **Agartala Conspiracy Case**.

During his military career, the differences and inequalities between East and West Pakistan became increasingly visible to him. These experiences strengthened his awareness about the political realities of the time.

The events of **1969** became a turning point in his life. The mass movement of that year deeply influenced him and created the background for his later involvement in the Liberation War.



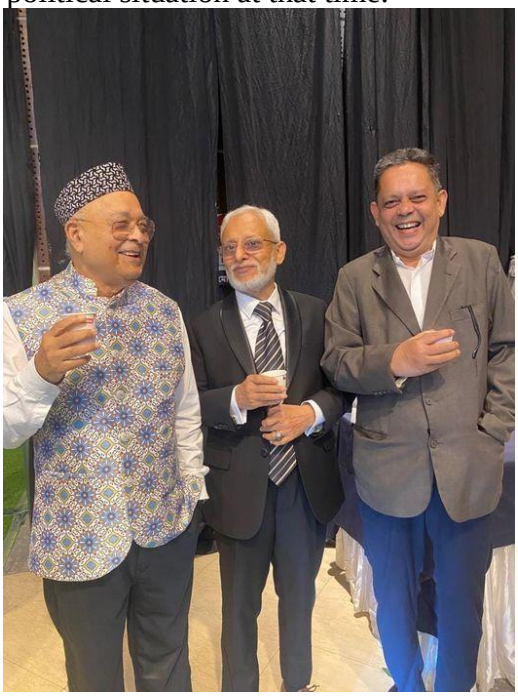
The Liberation War of 1971: A Journey of Courage, Sacrifice, and Leadership

The Liberation War of Bangladesh was the defining chapter of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam's life. His journey toward the battlefield did not begin suddenly in 1971; rather, it was shaped by years of political awareness, personal convictions, and a growing sense of responsibility toward his homeland.

The mass movement of **1969** deeply influenced him. The political awakening of that period created the background for his involvement in the struggle for independence. As a military officer, he closely observed the political realities of East Pakistan and gradually developed the belief that the aspirations of the Bengali people needed to be addressed.

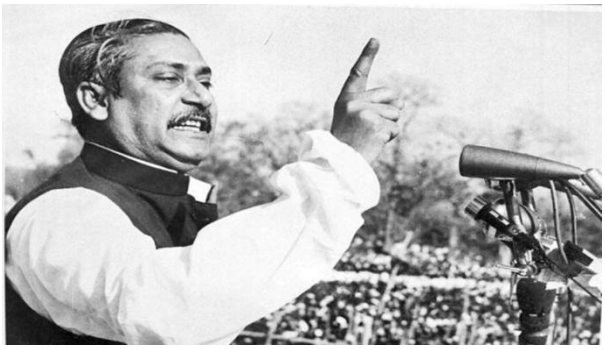
During the early months of **1971**, when political tension reached its peak, he decided not to travel to West Pakistan with his regiment. Instead, using the excuse of his mother's serious illness, he took one month's leave and remained in East Pakistan. This decision reflected his growing connection with

the national movement and the uncertainty of the political situation at that time.



Participation in the Resistance Movement

From the beginning of the resistance movement, Didarul Alam became one of the military officers who joined the movement inspired by the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He became involved in the resistance efforts from the early days of March **1971**.

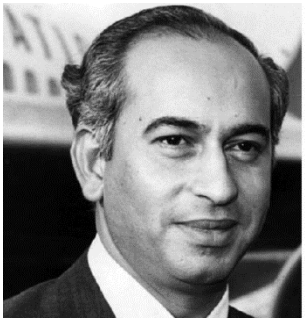


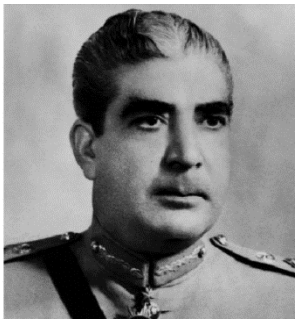
The historic mass gathering of **7 March 1971** became a significant moment for him. He attended the rally and felt deeply inspired by Bangabandhu's speech and instructions. During this period, he closely followed the political developments and began thinking about how military resistance could be organized if war became inevitable.

He believed that if armed conflict became necessary, proper organization and leadership would be essential. This mindset later played a crucial role during the Liberation War.

The Risky Plan During the Political Crisis

During the tense period when the negotiations between the Pakistani authorities and Bengali leadership were failing, he considered taking direct action against the ruling authorities. One such idea involved attacking the aircraft carrying Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. From his residence in Monipuri Para, Dhaka, he regularly observed aircraft movements. He developed a plan based on the belief that an attack on the aircraft could weaken the Pakistani leadership. He discussed the idea with PIA workers' union leader Redwan, who showed interest in helping arrange necessary resources.





However, the required weapons were never obtained, and the plan could not be carried out. Eventually, the aircraft of Yahya Khan and Bhutto left safely.

This episode reflects the extreme tension of that period and the determination among many individuals who were searching for ways to resist oppression.

The Night After the Crackdown

After the Pakistani military crackdown, the situation in Dhaka became extremely dangerous. On one-night, Pakistani soldiers responsible for protecting the airport runway suddenly opened fire near the house where Didarul Alam was staying. Later, they surrounded the house, forced everyone outside, and searched the premises.

During that moment, a relative attempted to reveal his military identity, but he signaled him not to do so. He believed that revealing his identity could put his life at greater risk. Fortunately, he survived the incident.

This experience further confirmed his decision that he had to leave Dhaka and join the organized resistance.



Leaving Dhaka and Organizing Resistance Forces



Soon after, he left Dhaka with the intention of reaching the border area of Cumilla. His plan was to organize trained Bengali forces and participate in the war. Before this, he had experience training Bengali Mujahid forces under his regiment's supervision, and he hoped to use that experience during the resistance. At this stage he heard about a radio announcement declaring independence of Bangladesh by Maj Ziaur Rahman. That created a tremendous strength in him and as well in general public.

However, reaching Cumilla directly was not possible, so he arrived in Chandpur. There he met Flight Lieutenant (Retd.) A.B. Siddiq, MPA, and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MNA. After hearing his plan, they suggested that he take responsibility for leading the forces already gathering in the area instead of going to the border.

He accepted the responsibility immediately and began organizing the resistance. Around **200–300 members** joined his force. When an air attack took place in Chandpur, he attempted to resist with his newly organized force and limited weapons. Chandpur remained under their control for several days.

Formation of the Bangladesh Government: April 1971



During his stay in Sonamura after further military engagements, he established contact with Major Khaled Mosharraf and other resistance leaders. This was one of the most difficult periods of the Liberation War, as the resistance forces were facing shortages of weapons and ammunition.



In this challenging situation, Didarul Alam expressed the need for an organized government. He suggested to Major Khaled Mosharraf that a government was necessary to coordinate the struggle. Major Khaled

Mosharraf immediately recognized the importance of the idea and instructed him to contact elected representatives.

Following these instructions, he contacted several MPs and MNAs, including Siddiq Sahib, Mizan Sahib, and Nurul Haque Sahib. On **10–11 April 1971**, an informal Bangladesh Government was formed in Agartala, which was later formally established at Mujibnagar.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After the formation of the government, the Liberation War became more systematically organized. Didarul Alam was Nine Months of War and Leadership

The following nine months became a period of intense military activities. As a commander, he participated in numerous operations, including conventional battles, small-scale engagements, guerrilla operations, raids, ambushes, demolition activities, and artillery operations.

The experiences of those months represented a combination of sacrifice, courage, strategic planning, and leadership under extreme conditions.

His role during the Liberation War later became one of the foundations for his recognition as a **Bir Protik** award recipient.

A Young Companion of the Liberation War: The Story of a "Wonder Boy"

The history of the Liberation War is not only a story of military strategies and major battles; it is also a story of countless individuals whose courage, dedication, and sacrifice contributed to the nation's struggle for independence. Among the many unforgettable memories of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, one special story remains deeply connected with his heart — the story of a young boy who became his trusted companion during the war.

After establishing himself as the Matinagar Sub-Sector Commander under Sector 2**,** Didarul Alam noticed a young boy of around **12 or 13 years old** who gradually became connected with his activities. The boy's intelligence, determination, courage, and fearless attitude immediately attracted his attention.

Through personal conversations, he realized that the boy possessed an extraordinary spirit. His adventurous nature reminded Didarul Alam of his own childhood days. Soon, the young boy became a close companion throughout the Liberation War.

Despite his young age, the boy showed remarkable courage. He participated in gathering secret information about enemy positions, ambush operations, raids, and even frontline activities. His enthusiasm for difficult and risky assignments was exceptional.

Many names and memories of freedom fighters from more than three decades earlier may naturally fade with time, but the memory of this young companion remained permanently preserved in Didarul Alam's heart. The boy was **Kazi Monir Hossain**, who later settled in the United States.



A Relationship Beyond the Battlefield

The relationship between Didarul Alam and Kazi Monir Hossain did not end with the Liberation War. Even after independence,

Monir remained a trusted person in many important situations.

At a young age, Monir became deeply involved with the communist movement of that period. As a result, he spent several years in prison and became known as a determined activist. During his imprisonment, he attracted the attention of several senior communist leaders.

After his release, he continued political activities. At times, when he was injured or needed protection from arrest, he stayed at Didarul Alam's residence in the cantonment area. Despite the risks involved, Didarul Alam supported him and remained interested in understanding different political movements and ideas.

Later, during an interrogation period when both were detained by the intelligence authorities, Monir informed Didarul Alam that he had been offered the opportunity to become a government witness. After careful consideration, Didarul Alam allowed him to accept the offer, believing that Monir's testimony would not seriously harm his case.

Eventually, Didarul Alam received a **10-year prison sentence**, while Monir was released. Even after that, their relationship continued. Their bond was based not merely on circumstances but on deep trust and mutual respect.



Life After Independence: Continuing the Journey of Responsibility

After Bangladesh gained independence, Didarul Alam continued his professional responsibilities in the military. In the later part of **1973**, he was serving as the Rajshahi Sector Commander of BDR (Bangladesh Rifles)**.** At that time, although he held the rank of Captain, he carried a significant responsibility.

Due to deteriorating law and order conditions in the northern region, a meeting was arranged by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at **Uttara Ganabhaban, Natore**. As the sector commander, Didarul Alam attended that important meeting.

During this period, he witnessed several important moments connected with the leadership of the newly independent Bangladesh. His experiences after independence reflected another dimension of responsibility — rebuilding and serving the nation after the struggle for freedom.



সন্দীপ:সংগ্রামী মা'দের হাতে আর্থিক সম্মাননা তুলে দিচ্ছেন-কর্নেল দিদারুল আলম।

An Emotional Memory Related to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

One of the most significant memories of Didarul Alam's post-independence life relates to his interaction with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

During a visit by Bangabandhu to Cumilla Cantonment in late **1972 or early 1973**, there was an incident involving a cartridge presented as a symbol of the Liberation War. Didarul Alam and other officers wanted to present the first shell fired by the "Mujib Battery," an artillery unit formed during the Liberation War. However, they could not find the original cartridge of the required **3.7-inch gun**. Eventually, a **105 mm cartridge** was prepared with an inscription stating that it was the first

shell fired against the enemy and was presented to Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu received the gift with deep emotion and instructed that it should be preserved in the National Museum.

Later, Didarul Alam reflected on this incident with regret because he felt that the historical accuracy of the gift had been compromised. He documented this memory in his life story as a personal burden he wanted to acknowledge.



Receiving the Bir Protik Recognition

The announcement of the bravery awards for the Liberation War was published through a government gazette during Bangabandhu's period. According to the official process, the head of state was expected to present the certificates, medals, and award money personally. However, due to political complications, the ceremony could not take place at that time.

For many years, including Didarul Alam and other award recipients, there remained disappointment regarding the formal recognition ceremony. Finally, in **1997**, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina completed the ceremony and presented the honors to the national heroes, including Didarul Alam. The event was broadcast live on Bangladesh Television (BTV).

This recognition became an important moment of respect for the sacrifices made during the Liberation War.

The Journey of a Writer and Thinker: Turning Problems into Solutions

After completing a remarkable military career and experiencing some of the most important moments of national history, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, entered another important chapter of his life — the world of writing and intellectual engagement.

For him, writing was never merely a form of creative expression. It became a way to analyze social, economic, and political challenges and search for practical solutions. His writings reflect his belief that identifying a problem alone is not enough; meaningful discussion must also include possible solutions.

He believes that simply describing problems without suggesting solutions does not create real progress. According to his philosophy, if a social or national issue affects people's lives, it should be studied carefully, and after finding a possible solution, it should be presented through writing.

This approach gave his writings a unique character. His articles were not limited to criticism; rather, they attempted to provide analytical views and constructive ideas. He considers his writings closer to socio-economic and political literature**,** where the purpose is to contribute to society through ideas and discussions.



Published Books and Literary Contributions

Beyond his articles and essays, Colonel (Retd.) Didarul Alam Bir Pratik has made significant contributions to Bengali literature and educational writing through his published books. His writings cover a wide range of subjects including the Liberation War, moral education, poetry, children's literature, science fiction, language learning, and general knowledge.

His published books include:

Liberation War and Bangladesh Through Life Stories; The Stairway to Building Life – Etiquette; I, Sheikh Mujib, Am Speaking; The Life of the Prophet in Poetic Rhythm; Nehleen the Flying Girl; An Easy Method of Learning English; Stories of Intelligence and Interesting Tales; An Extraordinary Book of General Knowledge; A Child's First Book – Bengali; A Child's First Book – English



Economic Thoughts and Vision for Industrial Development

One of the major issues that attracted his attention was the challenge of industrial development in Bangladesh. He identified high interest rates as one of the significant obstacles to industrial growth, a view that he believed was also shared by many experts.

He wrote extensively on this issue and published a series of articles in leading national newspapers during **2000-2005**. In those writings, he discussed economic challenges and possible approaches toward improving industrial development.

His approach demonstrated a consistent pattern throughout his life: observing problems, analyzing their causes, and attempting to develop practical solutions.

This same philosophy was visible earlier in his "Cattle Bank" concept, where he attempted to transform a traditional rural practice into a structured social development model. His economic thinking always remained connected with improving people's lives and creating sustainable opportunities.



A Life Built on Responsibility and Service

The journey of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, is not limited to one identity. He has lived through multiple roles — a son shaped by strong family values, a student with curiosity and ambition, a military officer with discipline and leadership, a freedom fighter during the Liberation War, a social thinker searching for solutions, and a writer sharing his experiences with society.

Each stage of his life reflects a commitment to responsibility.

His childhood in Sandwip taught him resilience.
His parents taught him values and determination.
His military career taught him discipline and leadership.
The Liberation War tested his courage and commitment.
His writing journey reflected his desire to contribute through ideas.



The Legacy of a Freedom Fighter and Social Thinker

The story of Didarul Alam is also a reflection of a generation that experienced one of the most challenging periods in Bangladesh's history. His involvement in the Liberation War, his responsibilities as a commander, and his later reflections provide a personal perspective on the struggles surrounding the birth of Bangladesh.

His life demonstrates that leadership is not only about holding a position; it is about accepting responsibility during difficult times. From organizing resistance forces in **1971** to developing social ideas later in life, he continued to focus on solving challenges and contributing to society.

A Life of Courage, Thought, and Contribution

A meaningful life is not created only through achievements or recognition; it is created through dedication, honesty, courage, and service to others.

The life story of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, represents a journey filled with challenges, responsibilities, and continuous efforts to contribute to society.

From his birth on 7 October 1943 **in** Sandwip to his educational journey in 1961 and 1963**,** from his military service to his participation in the Liberation War of **1971**, from his recognition as a Bir Protik to his writings and social ideas — every chapter reflects a life dedicated to purpose.



His journey reminds future generations that true greatness is not defined only by titles or honors. It is defined by the willingness to stand for values, accept responsibility, and work for the betterment of people.

The legacy of Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Mohammed Didarul Alam, Bir Protik, therefore remains a story of courage, commitment, and a lifelong pursuit of meaningful contribution.

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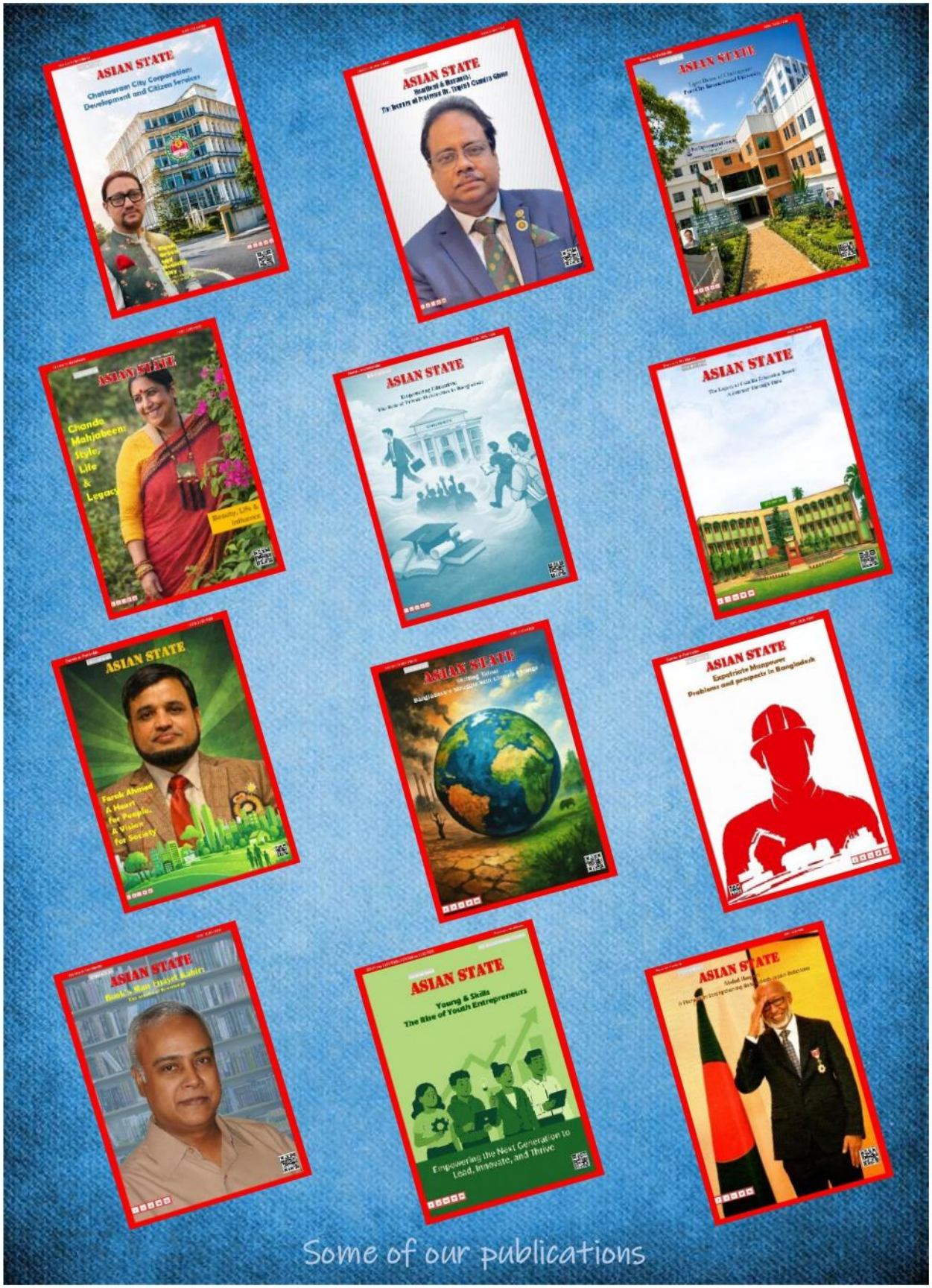

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