

## COVER STORY

he also made his mark in the categories of running, high jump, hop, step and jump in which he became champion in the first year of his university life. Two years later he further pushed back the categories of sports he had so far been famous for -- in 1953 he became champion in gymnastics and boxing. He represented East Pakistan team as the Captain in the Pakistan games in 1955 (Dhaka) and 1956 (Lahore). From 1948 to 1956 -- nine years in a row -- he was East Pakistan's athletic champion. He also captained the Dhaka University athletic team in 1950.

His passion for sports also influenced other family members. His constant support and inspiration helped three of his sisters -- Qazi Zaheda, Qazi Nasima and Qazi Shamima -- to enter the world of sports. He of course took it upon himself to train them. His efforts didn't go unrewarded -- all three of them became national and international athletes. All this was happening in the '50s, a time when the conservative attitude of society towards women made it extremely difficult for them to even dream of getting into the sports arena, let alone excel in it. But Alim's passion and his sisters' interest proved to be sustaining enough to defy any social disapproval. When asked how he dared to do so, he revealed that their father and the family were always supportive of their dreams: "Besides, I assured my father that I would take care

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Alim's stint as a trainer was equally impressive as he was as he was such a dedicated sportsman. Coming back from Oregon, he joined as a coach in East Pakistan's athletic department. He was there for three years from 1958. He was the coach for East Pakistan in 1962, '66 and '67 Pakistan games. In 1962, he joined the Agricultural University as physical education teacher. He created many good athletes there. He worked there with total dedication and sincerity. Alim was in this university for almost four years. In 1965, the Pakistan Government built up a "Dhaka National Sports Training and Coaching Centre" in Dhaka. Alim was its first director and worked there for nine years. He founded a library there and enriched it over the years. The library is still there, though the name has changed to National Sports Council. He was the vice-captain for Pakistan in the 9th Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

In 1961, Alim got married to Qazi Selima. There was no doubt that there were many female fans of the handsome 5'-11" athlete and a charming young man, but for him, Selima was the only woman in his life. Moreover, he kept all his concentration on sports. Alim and Selima had three sons. Their elder son died in 1980.



In the 1994 Asian Games Alim was Chief of Mission of the Bangladesh team.



Alim studied physical and health education at Oregon University.