

Zobera Rahman Linu

The Table

SHE got a taste of the world of table tennis at the early age of eight. She is Zobera Rahman Linu -- the only female sports personality in Bangladesh to have her name listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Linu was born in Kaptai on June 9. Her home district is in Khulna but she grew up in Sylhet at Shahzibazar. She passed SSC from Rosulpur school of Narsingdi. From Lalmatia Girls College, Dhaka, she completed her HSC as well as BA and she got her Master's degree in psychology from Jagannath University College.

Linu describes how she got her introduction to table tennis. "When we were in Shahzibazar my father Sheikh Abdur Rahman used to go to Shahzibazar Officers Club everyday along with my older sister. They would play table tennis there. In 1973, at age eight, I went to that club for the first time and got introduced to the game. At the end of 1973 I began to practice table tennis on a regular basis and in 1974 my hobby turned into a full-fledged ambition."

In 1974, Dhaka Press Club organised a Table Tennis Championship. Linu's father encouraged both her and her older sister to participate there. In this championship, Linu stood runner up and her sister became the champion. Though she was always in touch with other games like *gollachute*, *dariabanda*, badminton and handball for a particular time, her priority was table tennis.

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SULTAN QUAMRUN NAHAR



Linu with her innumerable trophies.

'81, '98 and '99, she won 16 national championships -- which is the best ever in any country of the world. In 1981 she did not participate. In 1998 and '99 there was no national championship. Meanwhile, in 1996 she decided to retire from table tennis as she was suffering from back pain. But she still had to play maintaining a deadline of 2002. Because she was informed by former table tennis player Helaluddin that she had a chance of