

Munni Saha

A Voice from the Heart of the Crowd

A Few months back, when Munni Saha interviewed Matiur Rahman Nizami, the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose name is connected to war crimes, she started to get phone calls from well-wishers. They all wanted to be sure that no angry backlash befell her. "Everyone was caring. It can only happen in Bangladesh. It made me feel that I, as a reporter, belonged to the people," says Munni who as a child always wanted to be a doctor.

It was her failure to get admission in the medical college in 1986 that made her choose a different course. She completed her Bachelors in science from Eden College and enrolled in the department of journalism at the Dhaka University in 1989.

It was Naimul Islam, a senior student of the department who was always on the lookout for students with the ability to write, who initially helped Munni find her footing in the field of journalism. "When I was in the second year he asked me to join Ajker Kagoj and I went to the newspaper office and joined the next day," remembers Munni whose childhood mentor was her dada (brother) Dipak Shaha.