The Making of a Hero

Keshab Roy's story could have been like million other teenagers born and brought up in poverty. He could have continued working at a pawn shop for Tk 300 per month to supplement his family's modest in come.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Keshab Roy

On July 12 Keshab, an 18-year-old from Nilphamari, was amidst one of the seven recipients of the Youth Courage Award given by the United Nations. Keshab was recognized for his courage in battling against child marriage and promoting education for all children.

Keshab himself was forced to drop out of school when he was in class six after his father was suddenly taken ill, and he then started working for a neighbourhood pawn shop to provide for his family. He was determined to complete his education, however, and he was supported in him ambition by Kanchon Chandra Roy, president of the NGO Surjomukhi, who even persuaded Keshab's father to allow him to rejoin school.

He then joined the local training programmes of Shurjomukhi, promoting children's right to education and raising awareness on other social issues. After becoming the president of Rangdhanu Shishu Forum, Keshab became even more involved in preventing child marriages. He has managed to stop 25 child marriages in Nilphamari till date, and helped in encouraging over 50 drop-out school students to continue their education. ■

The Solitary Fighter

After two years of a long battle with the Ministry of Home Affairs, he has finally begun to find a fresh lease on life. He wants to be a lawyer to fight against the corrupt system and the arbitrary acts of law enforcers. He is not frightened of what the future has in store but confident that one day his dreams will come true.

Limon Hossain, is the young man whose leg was amputated after he was shot by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and left bleeding for a long time before getting any treatment. They had mistakenly shot Limon thinking he was a criminal they were looking for. The law enforcers, to cover up their goof up, falsely accused him for carrying arms and obstructing law enforcers. However, after two years of Limon's immense struggle, the government finally withdrew the case against him in July this year. But Limon Hossain is still waging against the state machinery and he has chosen not to drop his case against the RAB.



Limon Hossain

PHOTO: STAR FILE