TOP TEN

One of the most prolific authors in Bangladesh, Selina Hossain is also an editor, academician and activist who works to champion women's advancement. She has received numerous awards among them the Bangla Academy Award (1980), the the Ekushey Padak (2009) and the Rabindra Smriti Puroshkar from Indian Institute of Planning and Management. Her novels *Hangor Nadi Grenade* and *Pokamakarer Gharbasati* have been made into films. Currently serving as the chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, she is member of National Human Rights' Commission, Bangladesh, UNESCO Executive Board, Paris, France, and executive director of Fareea Lara Foundation, Dhaka.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Selina Hossain

Selina Hossain is also synonymous with progressive thoughts. When I approach her for an idea that could change the country, she offers ten. With her quiet dignity and measured dictum, she is passionate and yet stoic.

Here's Selina Hossain's ten:

1. Cultural studies should be made mandatory at educational institutions of all levels in order to promote secularism and free thinking. Education should get the highest allocation in the national budget. Prosecute those involved in question paper leaks
2. Bring Madrassa education under the regulation of the general education board
3. Implement the National Women Development Policy for ensuring Women's rights
4. Eradicate corruption from all spheres of the society
5. Formulate and implement policies to protect and preserve the environment.
6. Complete the trial of the perpetuators of crimes against humanity in 1971 and execute the verdicts by the year 2015
7. Ban Political parties that misuse religion and adopt violent means
8. Make sure that development is not affected with a change in government
9. Implement the peace accord of 1997 for ensuring the rights of the ethnic communities of Bangladesh
10. Strengthen the community clinics to guarantee the health of mother and child.