



MASURA PARVIN
POSITION: CENTRE-BACK
DOB: OCT 17, 2001
HOMETOWN: SATKHIRA
SIBLINGS: 2
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: VEGETABLE VENDOR

Hailing from Satkhira, Masura Parvin, like most others on this page, had to face barriers when she wanted to do the thing that gave her joy. Playing football was not the wish of her mother, but her father Rajab Ali, a vegetable vendor, gave her the courage to follow her heart.

Even that would not have been enough if her school friends had not put her name forward for football, and Masura soon took her first step in 2010, playing in the KFC Women's Super League.

The turning point in her career came when she played the Under-15 Plan football tournament in 2013. Her mother still wants her to leave football. She is studying in class-IX at Karima Maddhomik Biddalay.

“ I love playing football very much. If I do not play, I cannot sleep well that night. I want to become a big player.”



ANAI MOGINI
POSITION: RIGHT-BACK
DOB: MAR 1, 2003
HOMETOWN: KHAGRACHHARI
SIBLINGS: 6
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Growing up in Khagrachari, right-back Anai Mogini is another one of the lucky few who had a relatively obstacle-free path to football.

Twin of teammate Anuching, Anai had fine coaches in Shila Mong and Shantimoni Chakma at Mogachori Primary School.

She first played competition-level football in the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup and helped her side become the inaugural champions.

She names her father as her biggest inspiration, and identifies her turning point as being the KFC Women's Super League in 2013.

She is studying in class-IX at Ghagra High School.

“ We are playing because it gives us joy. But we need financial assistance to keep going down this path and choose football as our careers.”



NARGIS KHATUN
POSITION: CENTRE-BACK
DOB: JAN 1, 2001
HOMETOWN: RAJSHAHI
SIBLINGS: 2
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: AGRO-INPUT DEALER

Nargis Khatun started football in 2011 in Rajshahi. Playing for the Khardakar Government Primary School in the Bangamata Gold Cup in 2011, her side finished third. She was guided by school coach Afiruddin.

Although she is now firmly entrenched in football, the start was not so easy. Her mother, unsurprisingly, was intransigent in her opposition at first. But thanks to her father Akbar Ali and her school teachers' persuasion, her mother finally relented.

Playing for the Plan Under-15 football tournament in 2013 she caught the eyes of the national selectors. She is currently a student of class-X in Bhasha Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Ansar and VDP School and College.

“ I did not even think that I would be into sports. I was more into studies. Once I started playing football, it became my first love.”



SIRAT JAHAN SHOPNA
POSITION: CENTRE FORWARD
DOB: APR 10, 2001
HOMETOWN: RANGPUR
SIBLINGS: 2
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Sirat Jahan Shopna hails from Rangpur. She has had to face hardship in her young life. Her whole family was against her playing football, but it was her teachers in Palichara Primary Government School, including coach Harunur Rashid, who talked to them and convinced them to let her pursue her dreams.

Her start in football came with the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup and she helped her school become runners-up in the inaugural edition of the tournament. Her breakthrough moment came two years later in 2013 when her performances in the Plan Under-15 football tournament earned her national recognition.

She is a class-IX student in Shuti BM Pilot High School.

“ I play football because I like it. I want to be like [national footballer] Sabina [Khatun] Apu.”



NILUFA YASMIN NILA
POSITION: LEFT-BACK
DOB: JAN 15, 2003
HOMETOWN: KUSHTIA
SIBLINGS: 1
MOTHER'S OCCUPATION: NURSE

Nila is always looking to improve. Only 13 years old, she got her start in the 2013 Plan Under-15 football tournament, and that is the only chance she needed, because her enthusiasm and talent got her into national focus.

She faced plenty of barriers from her neighbours and her mother when she first started expressing her interest in the sport. But she had a guardian angel in the form of her maternal grandmother Rokeya Begum, who used her authority to bat away such objections.

She is a student in class-IX at Chand Sultana Maddhomik Balika Biddalay.

“ I want to progress further, and don't want to sit on the bench. I am forever thinking about the moment when I can get into the 11.”



JOSNA AKTER
POSITION: LEFT-BACK
DOB: SEP 8, 2001
HOMETOWN: MYMENSINGH
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Studying in Class-X in Shuti BM Pilot High School, Josna was mentored by the under-16 national team coach Golam Rabbani Choton's brother Golam Raihan Bapon.

She got her start in the 2012 Inter-School Tournament. Her family refused to let her play the sport she loved, but she found a pillar of support in the form of her cousin Samiul Alam.

The turning point in her career came in the Plan Under-15 football tournament.

The Under-16 girls won all their five matches of the AFC U-16 Women Championship's Group C Qualifiers in August-September and qualified for the final round of the Championship.

“ I love football. When I see Messi play, I wish I could be like him.”



TASLIMA
POSITION: GOALKEEPER
DOB: JUN 15, 2002
HOMETOWN: MYMENSINGH
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARM PRODUCE DEALER

Taslima found the attitude of the world changing with her successes on the field. The daughter of a farm produce dealer and one of five children in the family, she had to deal with a lot of opposition initially. The people in her village as well as her family would prove as obstacles to furthering her football career.

However, inspired by Mofiz Sir and Litu Sir, she started her career in the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup from where she never looked back.

She initially wasn't that interested in football, but the game grew on her.

“ At first I didn't like football but then I started to like it. Playing football gave me my first opportunity to get on a plane and it was very scary. Now I really like playing and alongside my studies, I want to keep playing.”



NAZMA AKTER
POSITION: CENTRE-BACK
DOB: DEC 10, 2003
HOMETOWN: MYMENSINGH
SIBLINGS: 3
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Nazma is another national team member from Mymensingh. She is a student of class-IX at the Kalsindur High School.

Starting her foray into football in the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup, she faced some resistance while trying to begin her blossoming career. She would watch football with her father Abul Kalam during World Cups and she also played with her brother.

However, her mother attempted to stop her from playing but the chairman spoke to her mother and all was good. Mentored by Mofiz, her career finally went on an upward trajectory after the 2013 Plan Under-15 tournament.

“ I love playing football, even during Eid I don't stop playing. By becoming a good player I can bring the worldwide recognition to our country.”



SHEULI AZIM
POSITION: RIGHT-BACK
DOB: DEC 20, 2001
HOMETOWN: MYMENSINGH
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Sheuli Azim is one of the many to have benefited from the drive and passion of coach Mohammad Mofizuddin at the Kalsindur Government Primary School in Mymensingh.

The main obstacle she faced was from her mother and neighbours, but happily it was her father, Nikunja, who encouraged her to carry on regardless. Once she started doing well, however, the objections from her mother and neighbours faded.

She got her start and breakthrough playing for her school in the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup. She is a student of class-IX in Kalsindur High School and College.

“ I want to become even better and play in the leagues. I want the existing clubs to form teams for women, so that people like me can continue playing.”



SIRAT JAHAN SHOPNA
POSITION: CENTRE FORWARD
DOB: APR 10, 2001
HOMETOWN: RANGPUR
SIBLINGS: 2
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Sirat Jahan Shopna hails from Rangpur. She has had to face hardship in her young life. Her whole family was against her playing football, but it was her teachers in Palichara Primary Government School, including coach Harunur Rashid, who talked to them and convinced them to let her pursue her dreams.

Her start in football came with the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup and she helped her school become runners-up in the inaugural edition of the tournament. Her breakthrough moment came two years later in 2013 when her performances in the Plan Under-15 football tournament earned her national recognition.

She is a class-IX student in Shuti BM Pilot High School.

“ I play football because I like it. I want to be like [national footballer] Sabina [Khatun] Apu.”



ISHRAT JAHAN RATNA
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DOB: MAY 7, 2001
HOMETOWN: RANGPUR
SIBLINGS: 3
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARM PRODUCE DEALER

Ratna played in the Bangamata Gold Cup around five years ago, when her school, Palichara High School, finished runners-up.

She got her first football lessons from the school's football teacher Harun Ur Rashid before being selected through the Plan U-15 Talent Hunt programme.

She went on to become a regular member of the under-14 teams before being selected for the triumphant under-16 team.

She says she never faced obstacles from family; rather they encouraged her. School teachers and neighbours, too, provided encouragement. She is now in class-IX.

“ I play the game because I love it. I want to be a good footballer. And I hope I can get a permanent job, like one in BJMC, so I can continue playing football for without much worries.”



MOSAMMAT SULTANA
POSITION: RIGHT WING
DOB: AUG 10, 2003
HOMETOWN: RANGPUR
SIBLINGS: 3
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Born in Rangpur, Sultana is studying at the Palichara Government High School and she had never faced any obstacles to furthering her career.

While many of the girls were hindered by the disapproval of the people in their villages, Mosammat says that it was the people in her village who have proven to be her biggest inspiration.

So, with the support of her community bolstering her will to work hard to realise her dreams, she began her journey in the 2011 Bangamata Gold Cup.

She gives special credit to coach Harunur Rashid, under whose watchful eye she blossomed into the player she is today.

“ Football is my favourite game. I want to play even better in the future and the next time I want to feature in the playing eleven.”



MONIKA CHAKMA
POSITION: MIDFIELDER
DOB: SEP 15, 2003
HOMETOWN: RANGAMATI
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Monika Chakma is another one of the lucky few who had not faced obstacles in pursuing her dream of playing and excelling in the sport she loves.

Studying at Mogachori Primary School in Rangamati, she was taken under the guidance of coach Shantimoni Chakma. Her father Bindu Chakma was the major inspiration behind her taking up the sport.

She started out on 2011 playing for her school in the Bangamata Gold Cup. The turning point in her career came when she played in the Plan U-15 football tournament.

She is a student of class-IX in Ghagra High School.

“ From as far back as I can remember, from a very young age I always loved to play football. I want to keep playing football and keep getting better.”



SARA BAN TOHURA
POSITION: ATTACKING MIDFIELDER
DOB: MAY 5, 2003
HOMETOWN: MYMENSINGH
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Sarah Ban Tohura is from Mymensingh. She started out in 2011 with the Bangamata Gold Cup playing for Kalsindur Government Primary School. Her biggest obstacles to following her dreams were her parents, whom her paternal uncle Motiul Alam convinced into letting her play football.

According to Sarah, her biggest inspiration for taking up the sport was another paternal uncle, Hamid.

Under coach Mohammad Mofizuddin, she developed into a talented footballer, and with her performances in the Bangamata Gold Cup in 2013 -- when her school became champions -- she garnered national attention.

She is studying in class-IX in Kalsindur High School and College.

“ I played in the Bangamata Gold Cup three times and then became champion. I love football and don't feel well when I can't play. It felt great to hear when they chanted my name from the stands.”



AKHI KHATUN
POSITION: CENTRAL MIDFIELD
DOB: JUN 18, 2003
HOMETOWN: SIRAJGANJ
SIBLINGS: 1
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

A student of class-VIII in BKSP School and College, she got her start in the 2013 Bangamata Gold Cup where she represented Rajshahi's Bagmara Primary School.

Mentored and encouraged by coach Monsur Rahman, she began to watch games on TV, which only fuelled her fire for football.

The people in her village began asking what the point of a girl playing football was.

They said she would find it very difficult to find a suitor once she had grown up and was about to get married due her career.

The Plan Under-15 tournament, where Akhi represented Rajshahi, got her break and she was called up to the national team.

“ I like playing with everyone, I get to meet everyone and we have fun. I want to say with football.”



RUKSANA BEGUM
POSITION: GOALKEEPER
DOB: FEB 5, 2001
HOMETOWN: SYLHET
SIBLINGS: 4
FATHER'S OCCUPATION: FARMER

Hailing from Sylhet, Ruksana was another of the national team's players that say they had faced no obstacles due to the path they had chosen. A student at the Charighata High School, she was mentored by Amanur Rashid, a teacher at the school.

She got her start in a 2011 tournament, and was inspired by everyone around her, including her parents, her teachers and even the village folks.

The turning point in her career came in the 2015 National Championships where she played for Bangladesh Ansar.

She hopes that she can hold on to her spot in the team.

“ I love football and I want to keep hold of my spot. And if football would provide some money then it would be better.”