

BIT alumni bid farewell to MS LUBNA CHOUDHURY

Lubna Choudhury, Founding Principal and Chairperson of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT), passed away on October 7. Her former students share a few words on what she meant to them and how much of an impact she had on their lives.



PHOTOS: COURTESY

I feel proud to be a student of Ms Lubna. She taught me how to be disciplined in everything I do. I express my deepest gratitude and respect for the invaluable lessons she provided me.

I am truly grateful for the positive impact she had on my life, and I carry her teachings with me every day to serve the nation. I have put my daughter, Zunhera Ashraf, in BIT so she too can take this legacy forward.

I will always miss her. I pray for strength and solace for everyone who mourns her loss. I pray for her eternal peace and rest.

- Zia Ashraf, Class of 2004, and Founder, Chaldal

Ms Lubna wasn't just a principal. She was a mentor, guide, and friend to all.

One memory that stands out vividly from my early days as a student is when I had been struggling with spelling and felt discouraged. Ms Lubna noticed my struggle and, rather than letting me fall behind, she invited me to sit at her desk, in her own chair, and personally taught me. She gave me the attention, patience, and care I needed, helping me not only improve my spelling but also build my confidence.

Today, much of what I have achieved is due in large part to the foundation she helped lay for me.

- Mehboob Ashraf, Class of 2005, and Director, Chaldal

I feel privileged to have stood by her side during her final rites and to say with pride that she was not only my teacher but also my guide throughout my professional journey.

Her contributions to the field of education in Bangladesh are immeasurable. A true pioneer, she dedicated her life to shaping minds, enriching the lives of countless students, and leaving an indelible

mark on our educational system.

Madam, as I promised during our last conversation in the hospital, I will do my utmost to carry forward your legacy and make you proud.

- Rayana Rahman, Class of 2003 (O level), and Head of Senior School, BIT Gulshan

You were always proud of how independent your girls were, and here I stand today, strong and independent.

Your encouragement when I recited Bangla poetry in the poetry competition in grade one gave me confidence and helped me overcome my fear of the stage. Choosing me as a prefect in grades three, five, and eight showed your belief in my leadership abilities.

I promise to continue to make you proud and pass your teachings and principles to my child. May you rest in peace and find happiness wherever you are and reunite with Numayr bhaiya in the heavens above us.

- Ishrat Jahan, Class of 2003 (O level) and 2005 (A level), and COS, Chaldal

Ms Lubna was a woman of honour and pride, and a role model for her students. I feel truly blessed to have worked with her for the last 13 years, which was the greatest achievement of my life.

I will dearly miss being hugged by her and her calling me 'beta' for the rest of my life.

- Fariya Khan, Class of 2004 (A level), and Head of Junior School, BIT Gulshan

There are no words big enough to express Ms Lubna's passing. As a person she had a strong personality, as a teacher she was strict with her rules, and, as a chairperson of the school, she was humble.

She will be deeply missed but I am sure her legacy will live on.

- Istiyaque Ahmed Mullick, Class of 2012

Madam, you were the main source of our knowledge and wisdom. A leader and a teacher. I have been under your wing since 1999. You touched the lives of so many and shaped each and every one to become a better human being.

- Sharreen Reza, Class of 2004 (O level), and Headmistress, BIT Junior School

You were not just my principal, but also my boss. I still remember in grade eight, when you awarded me the prefect badge with a big smile and said, "How did you become the prefect?"

While working under you, I also had the opportunity to drop you home a couple of times, and during those rides, you shared stories of your life and BIT that were truly mesmerising and inspiring.

- Nayeem Huq, Class of 2003 (O levels), and Director, Change Associates Limited

Ms Lubna Chowdhury was one of the strictest yet profoundly influential women in my life, and I know I am not alone in feeling this way. She shaped thousands of young minds with a firm hand and a caring heart, always pushing us to become better versions of ourselves.

After our parents, we owe so much of who we are today to her. She nurtured us not only academically but also as human beings, instilling values that will stay with us for a lifetime. Her loss is truly immeasurable, not just for us as her former students,



but for the entire education sector, which has lost a beacon of excellence today.

- Anis Zaman, Class of 2004

She always called us "My girls" – a phrase that carried all the pride, love, and hope she had for each of us. She believed in us, and that belief sparked a confidence we didn't always see in ourselves.

I still remember the time I dressed up as Ms Lubna Chowdhury for Children's Day and was asked to imitate her in front of her. It felt intimidating, but when I finally did it, she simply said, "I want you to be this confident and bold like me for the rest of your life."

- Zoana Shahab Khan, Class of 2003 (O level)

Ms Choudhury was an embodiment of power – the aura, the voice, the energy, the roar; no one could ever come remotely close. Thank you for shaping us, for inspiring us, for making us so capable that our light shines brighter than most in a crowd.

- Nasrin Yeasmin Kornia, Class of 2019