



Samhati

Bangladesh Women's Organization

13107 Laneview Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171, USA

samhati.org

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Noorjahan Bose

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September 7, 2026

Dear Friends,

Please join us for Samhati's Annual Benefit Dinner on **Saturday, October 17, 2026, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. This year was challenging due to elections and long school closures, but we have succeeded in giving out our scholarships and continuing all our projects. Our important work goes on!

Founded in 1984, Samhati is the longest-running organization of Bangladeshi women in the United States. We design and support small projects – focused on education, health, and environmental sustainability – to improve the lives of impoverished women and families in Bangladesh. Samhati is tax exempt (IRS ID Number 52-1390261). As an all-volunteer organization with negligible overhead, Samhati can direct approximately 95% of your contributions to needy families. This is what your contribution will do:

- *If you donate \$75, it will provide a one-year scholarship to ensure that a middle or high school girl or boy stays in school and does not have to work.*
- *A donation of \$100 provides adult literacy or vocational classes for a village woman.*
- *A donation of \$125 provides a bicycle and helmet for a girl to help her get to school.*
- *A donation of \$300 provides six months of college costs for a low-income young woman.*
- *A donation of \$500 funds our health clinic in Katakhal village for one month, providing care for the entire Barobaishdia Island of 27,000 people.*
- *Your gift of \$1000 supports a woman nursing student for a whole year.*

This coming year we are again providing bicycles to girls and more high school and college scholarships. We are providing training and skills-building in eco-farming, computers, and leadership. Hundreds of women, children, and families are empowered by Samhati's work. We recently sponsored the formation of a girls' soccer team and self-defense classes. Please support our work and join us if you can on October 17th.

With our best wishes and many thanks,
The Samhati Board and Advisors

UPDATE ON SAMHATI'S WORK IN BANGLADESH

Katakhali Project in Patuakhali District (plus Modhukhali Project)

Since 2000, Samhati has been working to empower women and families in the remote Katakhali community, a village on an island off the southern coast of Bangladesh. Samhati provides adult literacy classes and leadership and skills training to women in Katakhali Village and neighboring Modhukhali Village. In 2026, Samhati provided: scholarships to 60 students in Katakhali High School; bicycles/helmets to 30 girls; free menstrual hygiene supplies to all the girls in the high school every month. The bikes for girls program is an incredible success, increasing female mobility, safety, and empowerment. Our Computer Center (started in 2020) is a resource for students and adults. The youth center (inaugurated in 2023) is still popular, providing an opportunity for making art (painting and drawing), singing lessons, reading books in our small library, and computer access/lessons. Samhati's Health Center provides medical care to 27,000 families on the island. Samhati maintains the only oxygen tank in the island, saving many lives every year. This year we organized a community seminar on nutrition. Our two preschools in Katakhali and Modhukhali (started in 2022) currently have 40 enrolled. A graduate of our scholarship program is the new preschool teacher. Samhati hired local women to sew uniforms for all the preschool and elementary children.

Eco-Village Project in Natore

Our project in Hatianda, Natore District is now in its 19th year. Hatiandah is a Union of eight villages in northern Bangladesh, and our work has brought considerable positive change. In 2026, we gave out scholarships to 35 high school students (24 girls, 11 boys) and bikes/helmets to 20 girls. Owning a bike is empowering for the girls, who have all promised to finish secondary school. Last year, 65 young people graduated from the computer course, and currently 52 are enrolled. A new computer was purchased this year. Three adult literacy classes are being held in three villages, with 150 completing the three-month class this year. After taking the class, the women can read simple books and do basic writing. Sewing classes are going well, with 45 students learning to make all kinds of garments. Some of these women have now obtained jobs in garment establishments in Dhaka. A new eco-printing project will be launched this year. The women will be trained to print fabrics using natural dyes derived from leaves, flowers, and tree barks. Our library remains popular and the composting program is going well.

Project in Laksmichap Union in Rangpur

Our project in the diverse community of Laksmichamp Union, Rangpur (commenced in 2011) continues to shine. This year, we provided: 80 scholarships in two high schools; bicycles to 15 girls; an intensive winter sewing course and sewing machines to 10 young women; literacy and vegetable cultivation courses to 60 women. We also provided health, hygiene, and basic health awareness orientation and menstrual hygiene supplies to adolescent girls. We supported 12 debate competitions among high schools. We funded and launched a soccer club for girls last year: the top player was recruited to play at the district level and is now training in Dhaka in hopes of the national team. This year, we supported a very popular girls' karate and self-defense course, and we will provide two more courses this year. This winter was particularly cold; we provided cardigans, sneakers, and socks to 300 girls in six high schools. Girls are often neglected by their families and not given adequate warm clothing.

Jahanara Ali Memorial College Scholarship for Women

The Jahanara Ali College Scholarship Program, honoring a founding board member, is now in its eighth year. We are providing 15 scholarships this year. Several participants have recently graduated. From Katakhali, Tamanna is a third-year science student at Barisal Mahila College, Shoronika is in her second year at Barisal Nursing College, and Rimi is a first-year science student at Rangabali College. Mithila graduated with H.S.C. from Rangabali College, while Ashamoni earned her B.A. (Honors) in Economics from Patuakhali Mahila College and now tutors online. From Laksmichamp, Beauty Akhtar earned her B.A. (Honors) in Botany from Rajshahi University and is now pursuing a master's degree there. Purnima Roy transferred to Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur. At Nilphamari Government College, two students—Bhumika Roy and Akhimoni—are in their second year, and five students graduated with H.S.C. this year and gained admission to B.A. (Honors) programs: Dalima Rani Roy, Shikha Rani Roy, Ayesha Siddika, Juthi Akter, and Joty Roy. From Natore, Mahmouda Khatun earned her nursing and midwifery diploma this year and is now completing a nursing residency. At Udayan Nursing College, Keya Rani and Arjina are enrolled in the diploma program, with two years remaining, while Sharmin is in the final year of the B.S. nursing program. Musfika Meheajabin is our newest scholarship recipient and is pursuing a B.A. (Honors) in Persian Language and Literature at Dhaka University.

Samhati's Annual Benefit Dinner

Saturday, October 17, 2026

6:00 to 9:00 pm

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 (entrance @Whittier Blvd.)

Free parking in lot. Exit 39 from Beltway to River Road. Go towards Bethesda/Washington, take left at Whittier Blvd and venue is immediately on left. Public Transport: Bus M82, RideOn 29.

Featuring:



Performance by Mayur Dance Academy's

Riya Deb, Shreya Mathur, and Anjelica Mukherji

Also featuring: [Henna/Raffle/Mini Auction](#)

Benefit Chairs: Monica Jahan Bose & Jhinuk Hasan-Fulton

Admission per person: \$75 (early-bird until **September 20**), \$100 (regular) or higher amounts if feasible, and \$40 for full-time students only. Includes drinks, dinner, dessert. If

you send in your check, we will reserve a ticket for you and your name will be on the guest list at the door. You may also call to reserve tickets and bring check or credit card to event. For information or reservations call

703-618-4618 or email info@samhati.org. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS NOW OR PAY ONLINE at [https://](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/samhati/2363345)

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DONORS OF \$500 OR MORE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN OUR PROGRAM AND WEBSITE. YOU MAY ALSO SPONSOR US AND PURCHASE A TABLE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT FOR \$1000.

☐ I would like __ tickets to the Benefit Dinner. I enclose a check for \$_____. The price per ticket is \$100 of which \$80 may be tax-deductible. (\$75 early-bird ticket before September 20). **Our costs have gone up and additional donations are very much appreciated.**

☐ I enclose \$1000 as Sponsor of a table and will later send a list of my 8 guests. (Name on table and program.)

☐ I am unable to attend the Benefit Dinner but would like to support Samhati's projects in Bangladesh. I enclose a check for: ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐\$500 Silver ☐\$1,000 Gold ☐\$5,000 Platinum ☐_____ Other amount (fill in)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Your email helps us save postage and paper.

Please make your check payable to "Samhati" and mail with this form to

Samhati, 13107 Laneview Ct., Oak Hill, VA 20171, USA .

Or visit our website at samhati.org to reserve tickets/donate.