

Minor Zamindars of Rajshahi

The importance of the Zamindars and the historical role they played in India's socio-political and economic life is well known to the students of India's colonial past. No other social group apart from the Zamindars received so much attention by the British during the colonial period. In the above pages attempt has been made to study various aspects of a few leading Zamindars of Rajshahi. The present one is intended to carve out a comprehensive history of the minor Zamindars who enjoyed and maintained a considerable degree of importance during the period of our study. They kept their dignity intact and rose in prominence in the given circumstances. Although some stray references have already been made with reference to the presentation of the previous chapters it seems to be essential to underline an exhaustive history of the minor Zamindars who played no less a significant role side by side of their contemporaries. It may be noted that the minor Zamindars of Rajshahi had also some contribution to dominate and determine the history and society of Rajshahi during the colonial period.

Here eleven Zamindar families in total have been located and they were (1) Tahirpur Zamindar Family; (2) Chougram Zamindar Family; (3) Darikushi Zamindar Family; (4) Karachmaria Zamindar Family, (5) Joari Bishi Zamindar Family; (6) Dubalhati Zamindar Family; (7) Kashimpur Zamindar Family; (8) Raybahadur Zamindar Family of Kashimpur; (9) Balihar Zamindar Family; (10) Bagchi Zamindar family of Chamari (11) Choudhury Zamindar Family of Natore and so on.

Tahirpur Zamindar Family

Tahirpur is a renowned village of Bagmara Police Station under Rajshahi district. A river named *Barahi* flows beside the village on the west. There is a

village market at present. It is situated at a distance of 08 Kilometers east of the Natore-Santahar Railway line, 10 kilometres west of Madhnagar Railway Station and about 20 kilometres north of Puthia of Natore-Rajshahi highway. A metalled road leads from Puthia upto Tahirpur. On the eastern side of the *Barahi* river, there is a village named *Ramrama* which was the head quarters of Tahirpur Raj family. On the western side of the *Ramrama* village and *Barahi* River, the Rajbari (the palace of the Zamindars) of Tahirpur is situated. Recently, a college has been set up there.

The earliest founder of Tahirpur Raj family was a *Shandilya* Pandit (Hindu scholar) *Bhatta Narayan* or *Narayan Bhatta*. He was the son of Kshitish of *Shandilya* group.¹ According to the *Varendrakul* calendar, *Bhatta Narayan* was the first progenitor of the Varendra Brahmins. The 27th descendant of this family was Kamdev Bhatta². This Raj family from *Bhatta Narayan* to the immediate predecessor of Kamdev Bhatta used to cultivate religious philosophy and literature over the ages. But Kamdev Bhatta was a man of different nature. In spite of studying religious philosophy, he became skilled in shooting arrow, using sword and wrestling. Later he united a number of youths and made them expert in physical exercise and weapon training. Kamdev Bhatta had the credit of organising a group of youths and in course of time these youths became a fighting force in the region.³

At that time, a man named Tahir Khan ruled that region. After his name the *Pargana* was named as Tahirpur. Utilizing the weakness of Tahir Khan, Kamdev Bhatta attacked him with his organized force and after defeating him occupied the whole of Tahirpur region⁴. He got the approval of the then reigning emperor of Delhi.

The son of Kamdev Bhatta named Vijay Laskar was a man of very strong personality. When conflict grew between the Emperors of Delhi and the rebellious

rulers of Bengal, Vijay Laskar took the side of the emperor of Delhi. Because of the role played by Vijay Laskar the emperor was so happy that he conferred him the title of "Laskar" and gave him the region Laskarpur⁵. Laskarpur Pargana was extended to present Rajshahi, Murshidabad and a major part of Kustia⁶. After getting the Zamindari, Vijay Laskar built a palatial building at Ramrama. Vijay Laskar (sometime used Narayan) had three sons named Bhupnarayan, Hridaynarayan and Harinarayan⁷. For unknown reasons, the Zamindari was succeeded by Hridaynarayan in place of Bhupnarayan. Pusparaksha of Puthia Raj family had close ties with the youngest brother. He lived at Ramrama with Hridaynarayan. Hridaynarayan was childless, so he was not very much attentive to the worldly affairs. He cherished the desire to go to Venaras dham. Before going to Venaras, he gave away much of his possessed property to Pusparaksha⁸. After the death of Hridaynarayan, his younger brother Harinarayan got the Zamindari of Tahirpur. Harinarayan was a Zamindar and a man of outstanding personality. He himself was devoted to learning and encouraged others for it. When he died he left his son Raja Kansanarayan and daughter Karunamayee. Kansanarayan was a famous Zamindar⁹. During his time hindu religion was boosted up and this was due to his personal interest in this matter. His qualities of heart made him famous and his desire to perform "*Mahayanja*" (i.e., the great sacrifice) was opposed by the courtiers and the *Pandits*. They opined that he was a feudal Raja and as such he was not eligible to perform the "*Mahayanja*". Besides in the *Kaliyug* it was not suitable for a Raja to perform "horse sacrifice" or "cow sacrifice" in the name of *Muhayanja*. They advised him that it was better for him to perform "Durga Puja" introduced by Ranchandra of the Ramayana fame. He listened to the Pandits and arranged "Durga Puja" gorgeously. The present festival of Durga Puja in Bengal is largely due to his credit. Raja Kansanarayan spent almost Rs. 09 Lakh for the arrangement and grand festivities. At present estimation it stands not less than six hundred crores of rupees¹⁰. Raja Kansanarayan was a sincere Brahmin. At that time the economic condition of the

aristocrat Brahmins was deteriorating. He spent a lot of money to save those Brahmins. Besides, many historians anticipate that he had spent so huge amount of money in arranging “The Durga Puja” in order to show his grandeur. His system of celebrating ‘The Durga Puja’ is still in vogue. The sister of Kansanarayan, Karunamayee was married to Sri Krisna Bhaduri, the founder member of Chougram Raj family of Singra police station under Natore district. Sri Krisna Bhaduri was a Varendra Brahmin of “*Kashyapa*” community (*gotra*).¹¹

To reduce the gap between the castes of “*kap*” and “*Shrotriya*”, he married off his two daughters to the son of Jibai Dhabar Sing and Sadananda, the son of Daor Majhi respectively. They were “*kap*” Brahmins. During his time the dignity of “*kap*” caste increased¹².

After the death of Kansanarayan, his son Udaynarayan took the charge of Zamindari of Tahirpur. The son of Udaynarayan was Indrajit. Indrajit was married to the daughter of Mallick Janaki Ballav, the Raja of ‘Susanga’¹³. Raja Indrajit ran his Zamindari for a long time in peace and order. For the cooperation rendered to the Dewan Tadarmal of Akbar’s revenue department, in survey work, Indrajit got 52 Parganas. These were under the ‘*Lakheraj*’ land. Indrajit did not have to pay any revenue for this. At that time the annual revenue of Tahirpur was 5,05825 *Dam*¹⁴. The area of Tahirpur paragona was 129.60 square miles¹⁵.

Indrajit had two sons named Chandranarayan and Suryanarayan. Suryanrayan had conflict with the Mughal Emperor Shah Suja. As the aftermath of the conflict, Suryanarayan was attacked by the force of Shah Suja. Many members of the Zamindar family were killed by the army of Shah Suja. Only one of his sons Lakshminarayan was alive. Meanwhile, a change of power took place in Delhi and emperor Aurangazeb came to power. After assuming power, Aurangazeb reinstalled Lakshminarayan as the Zamindar of Tahirpur. Aurangazeb awarded him the title

“Raja”¹⁶. But he did not recognise him as before. He was given the Zamindari on condition of paying annual revenue. Raja Laxminarayan shifted the office of Zamindari from Ramrama to Tahirpur and built a new royal palace there. The house of the Raja of Tahirpur was completed after 1660¹⁷.

Raja Lakshminarayan was married to the daughter of Raghunandan, the founder of Natore Raj family¹⁸. Owing to this marriage the relation between Natore and Tahirpur Raj family was created. Lakshminarayan was the father of four sons namely, Kandarpanarayan, Mahendranarayan, Rupendranarayan and Bhupendranarayan. After the death of Bhupendranaryan and Kandarpanarayan, the charge of Zamindari went over to Mahendranarayan and Rupendranarayan. According to the Will of their father, Rupendranarayan became the owner of 10 *ana* and Mahendranarayan got 06 *ana* property¹⁹.

10 *ana* Zamindar Family of Tahirpur

Rupendranarayan was the partners of 10 *ana* Zamindari of Tahirpur. He was a cunning and intelligent Zamindar. He had good relation with the Raja of Natore. During the reign of Murshidkuli Khan Rupendranarayan saved his Zamindari with the help of the Raja of Natore. Ranendranarayan was the son of Rupendranarayan and he took the charge of Zamindari after the death of his father. Ranendranarayan had no son, he had two daughters. At the time of his death, he left his wife Rani Sankari and daughters of his second wife and they were Uma Sundari and Durga Sundari²⁰. Before his death, Ranendranrayan made a Will of his property in the name of his wife Rani Sankari. Rani Sankari did not accept any adopted child²¹. After the death of Rani Sankari, her grandson became the owner of the whole property. Uma Sundari was married to Anandiram Ray and Durgasundari was married to Vinodram Ray. Anandiram and Vinodram were two brothers. They belonged to Chougram Raj Family²². Umashundari and Anandiram died childless.

Durgasundari and Vinodram gave birth to a child in 1782. The name of that son was Bireswar Ray. After the death of Ranisankari, Bireswar Ray became the owner of 10 *ana* of Tahirpur Zamindari. As Bireswar was minor, he made a permanent settlement with his father in 1793. Vinadram Ray was an intelligent but cunning man. This Vinadram Ray was the cleverest man of Tahirpur Raj family²³. He was an aristocrat of Bhaduri generation related to “*Nirabilpati*”. After the death of his father Vinadram Ray, Bireswar Ray became the owner of the property. He was very extravagant. Bireswar Ray was an ill-tempered Zamindar. By his instigation, the houses of the Tamali a (betel-leave sailor)²⁴ were looted. With the instruction of Bireswar, his subjects burned down the documents and other things of the Tamli. This incident speaks about the lawlessness of the region. When the government became active in this regard, a case was filed. Raja Bireswar had to undergo imprisonment for a day as the result of the case. More than a lakh Rupees was spent and he suffered from agony owing to the case. He had to plunge into debt for this case. As a result, he died leaving a huge amount of loan. Bireswar Ray had two sons name Chandrashekharesawar Ray and Maheswar Ray. Chandrashekharesawar Ray was an intelligent and pious. He was a sincere Brahmin and a successful Zamindar. He improved his Zamindari greatly and repaid the loans of his father. He set up a “*Sebabrtata*” (i.e., vow of social service) at Rajshahi in 1854. He introduced the system of daily feeding, monthly payment and donation on the day of Poush Sankranti. He paid a monthly payment of 04 *ana* to one Rupee to the poor. For the running of this “*Sebabrtata*” Raja Chandrashekharesawar Ray used to spent Rupees 1200 annually²⁵. He was very modest, and a man of loving personality in terms of the royal business. The two brothers Chandrashekharesawar Ray and Maheswar Ray were very friendly. Before his death Chandrashekharesawar Ray gave away half of his property to his younger brother Maheswar. Though Chandrashekharesawar Ray had no formal title as a ‘Raja’, his subjects used to address him as “*Raja*”.

He was a person who was interested in education. He also spent money for the spread of education. His interest in this matter is proved by his initiative to establish a school at Tahirpur. He allotted a monthly payment of Rupees 60 and 12 *ana* for the three schools of Dinajpur, Malda and Tahirpur²⁶. He also set up a charitable dispensary at Tahirpur for the health care of his subjects. He introduced the “*RathJatra*” and “*Mela*”. Raja Chandrashekhareswar Ray took three wives. As the first two wives did not beget any child, he married Rani Saudamani in 1856. She begot Shashi Shekhareswar Ray in 1860. Chandrashekhareswar Ray died in 1865.

Shashi Shekharessawar was only five years old when his father died. According to the prevailing rule, the property/Zamindari went under the control of Court of Wards. In 1881 at the age of 21, he got the charge of Zamindari²⁷.

Shashi Shekhareswar was a clever zamindar and a man of practical sense. Most of the farmers of Bengal during that time were unhappy because of the policy of the Govt. of India. Shashi Shekhareswar realized the situation and took initiative to improve the condition by various policies and courses of action. First of all he set up an ‘Agricultural Association’ at Tahirpur. He arranged the supply of modern agricultural tools and high yielding varieties of seeds to the farmers. He edited two magazines on agriculture and industry. He wrote article on the management of agriculture and livestocks. He also published booklets on sericulture and a number of lyrics/short verses. The British Government awarded him the title “Raja” (the Raja) in 1889. He got the title “*Raja Bahadur*” in 1896²⁸. He was the fourth Chairman of the Rajshahi Association established in 1872.²⁹

Raja Shashi Shekhareswar was nominated as the non-official member of ‘Hemp Drug Commission’. While submitting the report of the Commission, he opined against the drugs like *ganja* (hemp). He protested against the running of such drug business under the patronage of the government³⁰.

Shashi Shekhareswar was a representative of the Bengal Legislative Council in favour of Rajshahi Division from 1898 – 1900. He was also the representative of Rajshahi District Board³¹. He had also a credit to become the president of the association named “*Bharat Dharma Mahamilan*”³²

He was a learned, wise, religious, benevolent and above all and noble hearted Zamindar. In 1889 he established ‘*Zamindar Panchayet Sabha*’³³. At the later part of his Zamindari, he did not stay at Tahirpur, he used to come occasionally. He came to Tahirpur in Aswin of 1345 B.S., i.e., 1938, for the last time. Perhaps he came to Tahirpur to attend the celebration of his family tradition the ‘*Durgapuja*’.

Shashi Shekhareswar died in 1928. He left three sons and two daughters. The sons were Shiv Shekhareswar, Shanti Shekhareswar and Shakti Shekhareswar³⁴. The two daughters of Shashi Shekhareswar were married to *Janardan Bati* of Khazura, Natore³⁵.

Shashi Shekhareswar fell into financial crisis in his later life. He sold out a few *Moujas* (fragments of land) to Enaetullah Sardar of the village Kundals of Tarash Police Station under the district of Serajganj³⁶.

After the death of Shahsi Shekoressawar, his eldest son Shiv Shekhareswar got the zamindari. He was a tyrant zamindar. He was full of power and torture. Five kilometers west of Tahirpur, he looked Tamolis house and a murder took place³⁷. He demolished the houses of Zadu Mandal of Shukpara with his elephants. Later Zadu Mandal was killed. By the indication of oppressor Shishekhar another murder was committed at Kashibari 10 kilometers away from Tahirpur³⁸.

He left the country within 24 hours by an order of the Government owing to his oppression. Later the charge of Zamindari fell on Shantishekhar. For the

dissatisfaction of the subjects and political situation he also left the country in 1930 A.D. transferring the charge on his official. Afterwards, there was no control of the Raj family on the subjects. The situation deteriorated after the division of the country in 1947. Later, after the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Acts was passed in 1951 and the Tahirpur Zamindari came into an end.

Though Tahirpur Zamindari continued for a long time, it could not contribute remarkably to the development of the subjects and that of Rajshahi like the other Zamindari of Rajshahi region. In spite of one or two proofs of development, the picture of torture and oppression was serious. Their stories of good deeds and torture will remain as a matter of discussion in the history.

Chaugram Zamindar Family

Chaugram Zamindari was situated on 04 kilometers north of Singra police station of Natore district and west of Natore-Bogra highway. On the west and north of Chaugram Rajbari (the house of the Raja) there are vast areas of Chalanbeel. Chaugram is situated at the center of Chalanbeel. A canal named '*Jangal*' dug by Rani Bhabani runs beside Chaugram via Pakuria to the Bhavanipur of Bogra district.

The founder person of Chaugram Raj family was Rasik Ray. He belonged to *Bhaduri* family of *Kasyap* caste. The ancestor of Bhaduri family was *Sukhen*. There was relation between the ancestor of Tahirpur Raj family and Chaugram Raj family. Karunamayee the sister of Raja Kansanarayan of Tahirpur, Karunamayee was married to Sri Krishna Bhaduri, the ancestor of Chaugram Raj family.³⁹ He was a Barendra Brahmin of *Kasyap* caste. He was the descendant of Pandit Udayanacharyya. The fifth descendant of Jagananda Ray was Rasik Ray⁴⁰. Rasik Ray had two sons. The name of the eldest son was Krishnakanta Ray and that of the youngest one was Ramkanta. As the Raja of Natore Ramjiban had no son, he decided

to take an adopted son. At last the Maharaja took the youngest son of Rasik Ray of Chaugram as his adopted son. This adopted son was the second Raja of Natore who was known as Ramkanta⁴¹.

For allowing the son of Rasik Ray as an adopted son to be taken by Ramjiban, Rasik Ray was given the parganas of Chaugram of Natore and Islamabad of Rangpur as gifts⁴².

The elder son of Rasik Ray, Krishnakantha Ray built a *Rajbari* (palace) at Chaugram⁴³. the son of Krishnakanta was Rudrakanta. As Rudrakanta had no son, he took Rahinikanta as the adopted son. Again as Rahinikanta had no son, he took Ramanikanta, the son of aristocrat Kripanath Moitra of Nirabilpati as an adopted son.⁴⁴

As a Raja, Raja Rahinikanta became a famous zamindar. He established himself as a Raja of Chaugram. He set up many statues at Chaugram *Rajbari* (Palace). Rahinikanta married a Brahmin lady named Saudamini of the village Khajura. She was the grand daughter of Raghunath of Joari Bishi family. As she did not have any son, he again married the daughter of a Brahmin, named Baradasundari of Brikutsa of Natore district. The elder daughter of Rahinikanta had no son. She lost her husband at a tender age. The younger daughter of Rahinikanta became a widow with a daughter at the age of 17⁴⁵.

After the death of Rahinikanta, the Zamindari went under the charge of Court of Wards. Ramanikanta, the son of Rahinikanta took the zamindari when he became adult. He passed B.A. from Calcutta University⁴⁶. After getting zamindari, he set up a junior English School at Chaugram which became a High School later on. Many students were enrolled there and established themselves. He was a frugal zamindar and showed a lot of excellencies in his administration. During his tenure

the income of the zamindari increased a lot. He bought zamindari in Khalispur under Nadia district and Dakshin Shahbazpur in Barisal district and increased the area of his zamindari⁴⁷. He donated Rupees 500 for the establishment of Resham (silk) school there⁴⁸. Ramanikanta married a daughter of Krishnapur Zamindar family. He had three sons and daughters but all died in infancy. When his wife died he married a Brahmin lady named Brajabala Devi of Puthia. Three sons and three daughters were born to her. The daughters are Induprava, Motiprava and Mayaprava and the three sons were Rajeskanta, Rabindrakanta and Ramendrakanta⁴⁹. Ramanikanta bought a land at Landdown Road in Calcutta and built a house there the number of which was 44/2 Landsdown Road where he resided permanently. On the suburbs of Calcutta he bought a vast area of land for farming. Many talented students of Rajshahi studied in Calcutta living in this house. After completing education many of them established themselves in life. It is noteworthy that the owner of Calcutta Chemical Company named Birendranath Moitra was the relative of Kripanath Moitra, from the paternal side of Ramanikanta.

Outside his zamindari, Ramanikanta had interest in business and trade. He was the first Chairman of Hindustan Life Insurance Company. He was again the Director of Hindustan Bank⁵⁰. When the bank went into liquidation, he incurred a great financial loss. He set up Building Construction Company together with Brajakishore Ray Choudhury of Gouripur Zamindari (Mymensingh) in the name of "Ray Choudhury"⁵¹. Through this Company he constructed many buildings in south Calcutta. He bought a beautiful lodge at Darjeeling. During the tenure of Ramanikanta, the area of Chaugram Zamindari was 29,487 acres or 4607 square miles. Ramanikanta died in 1945 at the age of 80⁵².

Rajeskanta the eldest son of Ramanikanta, married Manju Devi, the daughter of the zamindar of *Kalipur* under Mymensingh district. Rabindrakanta and

Ramendrakanta married Shanti Devi and Usha Devi respectively, the daughter of Jatindranath Lahiri, the Zamindar of Naldanga of Rangpur. His first daughter Induprabha was married to Bimalendu Ray, the zamindar of Balihar of Naogaon. The second daughter was married to Haridas Chandra Lahiri, the zamindar of Naldanga of Rangpur district. The third daughter was married to Dr Dijendranath Bagchi.

His second and third sons had no child. After the death of his second son, he gave Islamabad and Shahbazpur parganas to the younger one of the living two sons and gave Khalispur pargana to Ramendrakanta⁵³.

Nirmala, the first daughter of Rajeshkanta, was married to Bibhuti Bhusan Ray, the zamindar of Rajshahi. Nirmal Ray died leaving two sons and a daughter. The younger daughter Nandita was married to Devnath Chatterjee, the eldest son of Barrister Nirmal Chatterjee. Nandita gave birth to a son and a daughter⁵⁴.

Chaugram High School still bears the testimony of their zamindari. Many meritorious students studied here and established in their career after wards. With the promulgation of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act was passed in 1951, this zamindari came to an end.

Darikushi Zamindar Family

On the eastern border of Rajshahi district (Natore) and on the west of Pabna district, is situated the Darikushi village. It is said that in ancient time a river flowed through the village. At present it has been dried up. A branch of the Padma named Baral is now flowing two miles away from the village. It is situated 22 miles away from Natore town and 09 miles away from Baraigram Police Station⁵⁵.

A person named Rajkishore Sanyal was the founder of this zamindar family. This zamindari was established during the later part of the 18th century⁵⁶. Rajkishore

Sanyal is said to have been a milkman by profession. For the maintenance of his cows, he got some land from the Raja of Natore. He became the owner of huge wealth and property within a short time. After having a lot of money, he occupied the property of the *Tamali* with his muscle-might⁵⁷. After getting the title of zamindar he took the title of ‘*Adhikari*’ instead of ‘Sanyal’. Rajkishore had two sons named Rajendra and Harendra⁵⁸. The wife of Harendra was Bhubanmoyee and the wife of Rajendra was Sarnamayee. They had no children. After the death of the two brothers both the wives took adopted sons. The name of the son of Swarnamayee was named Surendranarayan Adhikari and that of Bhubanmayee was Shivendranarayan. When these wives separated, two *Tarafs* (divisions) were created. The wife of Shibendranaryan was Kamalkamini who gave birth a child but died in infancy. A daughter named Kalisundari Devi became the heir of the property. Kalisundari was married to Surendranarayan Sanyal of Majhgram near Natore.

Surendranarayan had two sons named Bhupendranarayan and Narendranarayan. Bhupendranarayan had two sons and three daughters and Narendranarayan had also the same number of sons and daughters. Their maternal grandfather’s house and father in law’s houses were in Calcutta. That is why they spent most of their time in Calcutta. Bhupendranarayan who was also known as Malik Babu had two sons named Jatindranarayan and Haranchandra and the names of Naren Babu were Gupendranarayan and Upendranarayan. The elder brother Gupendranarayan took the job under the Nawab of Murshidabad and the younger brother alias Chuni Babu looked after the Zamindari with Bhupendranarayan Adhikari. As both of his sons lived in Calcutta, Bhupendranarayan gave all his property to his nephew Upendranarayan through a Will⁵⁹. Bhupendranarayan used to drink much. As the consequence of excessive drinking, he was attacked with a serious disease in his later life. He died on 16 Shravvan of 1369 B.S. (i.e., 1962 A.D.) in the village Darikushi⁶⁰. He was burnt to ashes at Zonail burning yard.

These zamindars were very enthusiastic towards religion. There was a Shivmandir in the house of Zamindar. This Shivmandir was built in the later part of the 18th century. There was also a Kalibari in the neighbouring village under their zamindari. In this eight-roofed tin made Kali mandir festivities went on for seven days in the month of Bhadra. The Kali statue had wheels under it. Music, songs, etc gave people much enjoyment⁶¹.

Among the Zamindars of this family, Bhupendranarayan was a benevolent Zamindar. He got excavated many tanks including Bahari Pukur, Rani Pukur, Khirki Pukur, Jyathaimar Pukur and Rangmahal Pukur.

After the death of Bhupendranarayan, Upendranarayan sold out his land and went to Murshidabad⁶². Among the zamindars of Rajshahi, this zamindarship was not so big. Their contribution is also not so remarkable to mention. But their activities and policies were matters of awe to the people of that time. They did not hesitate to materialize their aims and objectives by muscle power. Their conflict with the Bishi Family of Joari is an example of such policy. With the passing of the Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1951 passed the Zamindari of this zamindar family was also abolished.

Karchmaria Zamindar Family

Another zamindari was established in the village Karachmaria, 3 or 4 miles north-west of Chaugram. The founder of this zamindari was Nimai Chand Sarkar. The father of Nimai Chand lived in the village Chattardighi. He became the owner of some land by doing the business of taking mortgage of land and that of usury. He possessed landed property by the sanad (certificate of grant of land) offered by Rani Bhabani and Raja Ramkrishna⁶³.

After the death of his father, Nimai Chand Sarkar came to Karachmaria with his family members and started living there⁶⁴. He made huge wealth and property

within a very short time. To make his house secured, he ordered digging canals on all sides and built his house in its centre. At that time the village Karachmaria was under the possession of Ray family of Kalyannagar of Natore. The Ray family sold out their landed property experiencing frequent robbery and lawlessness everywhere. Nimai Chand Sarkar bought those pieces of land⁶⁵. With the possession of Zamindari, his influence and power naturally increased. He got some *Debattar* land and the statues of Gopinath from a *Kayestha* family of village Pratisar near Karachmaria. Leaving his son Ramkumar, Nimai Chand Sarkar died in 1850 A.D.⁶⁶

Ramkumar Sarkar got the Zamindari after his father's death. With the effort of Ramkumar his zamindari extended far and near. Ramkumar had two wives. As his first wife did not give birth to any child, at his father's request he got the second one and she was named as Krishnamayee. Ramkumar became a father of three sons and a daughter by his wife. The sons were Rajkumar, Nandakumar and Harakumar and the daughter was Harisundari⁶⁷. Leaving his wife and sons and daughters Ramkumar Sarkar died in 1857.⁶⁸

Rajkumar was the eldest among the sons of Ramkumar. He was a very brilliant student. Rajkumar began his education in Rajshahi town. He passed the Entrance Examination in 1857. Afterwards he got himself admitted into Bahrampur College (Murshidabad) for higher education⁶⁹. For the sudden death of his father he could not go ahead with his college education. He passed F.A. and was awarded for his excellent result in Mathematics. He had to go back to his village to look after the zamindari and then and thus another phase of his life started. Since he was a mere boy, the neighbouring zamindars took advantage of the situation and thus Rajkumar had no other alternative but to live in his native village Permanently. He developed his Zamindari and increased its name and fame. He was a modest and proficient Zamindar.

He built a palace-like residence in Rajshahi town. The members of his family used to live there⁷⁰. While staying in Rajshahi, he had connection with many social welfare organizations. He was the Secretary of Rajshahi Association. He had a great contribution to the establishment of Rajshahi College. He was a Patron of Rajshahi Dharmasabha. He edited and published a monthly magazine entitled "Rajshahi Bashi" and the cost of its printing was being borne by him. On the beginning of the Twentieth century, he formed a political association named "Rajshahi People's Association".⁷¹

He had great intimacy with Pramathnath Ray, the Raja of Dighapatia. He served as the manager of the Dighapatia Raj Estate for a long time. He gave up this managership in 1899 at the age of 60⁷².

He was a Zamindar who had great thirst for knowledge. During the recess hours between the works of Zamindari, he spent time reading books. When high ranking Englishmen went to their country (i.e., Britain), they used to sell books to him. He bought those books and built a big library in his house⁷³. He set up a primary school in his own village and ran the administration of the school. He also set up a charitable dispensary at Karachmaria in order to take care of his subjects. He married Harisundari of the village Malanchi of Pabna district. Rajkumar was the father of seven sons and three daughters⁷⁴. Rajkumar Sarkar died on 18 July 1914 at the age of 74 years.⁷⁵

The most noted one among the sons of Rajkumar was his fifth son Jadunath Sarkar. Jadunath Sarkar was born at the village Karachmaria under Singra Police Station of Rajshahi district (Now Natore) on 10 December 1870 A.D.⁷⁶ He began his education at home. Then he read at the primary school set up by his father for two years. He was admitted into Rajshahi Collegiate School at the age of eight. After studying for some days there, he went to Calcutta for further studies. After

studying there for two years, he again came back to Rajshahi and re-admitted to Collegiate School. In 1887 he passed his Entrance Examination from Collegiate School and came 4th in the merit list. After passing the Entrance Examination, he got himself admitted into Rajshahi College in F.A. Class. He passed F.A. from Rajshahi College in 1889.⁷⁷

After his F.A. he got admission in B.A. in Calcutta Presidency College. He stayed at Eden Hindu Hostel. He studied there very attentively. Under the supervision of the students of the Hostel, a quarterly magazine called "*Suhrid*" was published. Jadunath wrote an article entitled "*The Fall of Tipu Sultan*" and it was published in that magazine. In fact he started writing as an author while staying at that Hindu Hostel. He passed his B.A. with honours in English and History standing second in 1891.⁷⁸ He stood second in both the subjects and received monthly scholarship worth Rs. 50.00.⁷⁹

He passed his M.A. in English from that college (Presidency College, Calcutta) and he stood first Class first in the examination. He obtained the marks 90, 92, 95 in three papers respectively in that examination.⁸⁰ After passing his M.A. in 1893, he joined as a professor of English in Calcutta Ripan College. He served there as a lecturer of English for three years. Later he served as a lecturer of English literature in Metropolitan College, Calcutta. For his outstanding result in M.A. the Government awarded him scholarship for higher studies in London. He could not avail himself of the scholarship for personal reasons. Afterwards, he received '*Premchand Raychand Scholarship*' in 1897 and got a gold medal and a award worth Rs.10,000.00. In spite of being a student of English, he started research on History. He published his thesis named "*India of Aurangazeb*"(Topography, Statistics and Roads) in the form of a book in 1901. It had drawn the attention of the scholars of that time.⁸¹

He joined Provincial Education Service in 1898 and was appointed a lecturer of Presidency College. He was transferred from Presidency College to Patna in 1899. He returned to Presidency College again in 1901 and after some years again went to Patna. He was appointed a lecturer of History in Kashi University in 1917.⁸² After serving there for two years he was transferred to Katak in 1919 and again returned to Patna and went to retirement from there in 1926.⁸³

After retirement he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University in 1926.⁸⁴ He served there for two years. Being satisfied with his performance the British Government awarded him with the title of C. I. E. in 1926 and Night title in 1929. He became the fellow of Calcutta Asiatic Society in 1939. Besides, he was also elected members of the Great Britain and Irish Asiatic Society⁸⁵.

Sir Jadunath Sarkar earned name and fame not only in his service life but also in his research in History. His remarkable books are '*History of Aurangzeb*' (in five volumes), '*Studies in Aurangzeb's Reign*', '*Mughal Administration*', '*India Through the Ages*', '*Shivaji and His Times*', '*Fall of the Mughal Empire*' (in four volumes) and '*History of Bengal*', Volume II.

In personal life Jadunath Sarkar was a father of ten children. Of them three died in infancy and seven remained alive.⁸⁶ Studying History throughout his life, this noted person died in 19th may 1958.^{86(a)} He became famous as a Historian but no evidence of fame is found as a Zamindar.

The Zamindari of Karachmaria was small. But this Zamindari became more famous than the other Zamindari of Rajshahi as regards its patronage to education and culture. This Zamindari was abolished with passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1951.

Joari Bishi Zamindar Family

The village Joari stands in the Boraigram Police Station of Natore. The river Barai flows beside the village. Brahmins of Varendra and Vedic groups lived in this village⁸⁷. The village had a privilege become native place of many scholars was one of such a family.

The Bishi Raj family traces its origin to a person named Pipariya Ojha (Upadhyay), a man belonging to *Sandilya gotra* of the Brahmins who is said to have started his career in the court of Mughal emperor Akbar as a scholar and judge of Hindu law.⁸⁸ He was a renowned scholar of Hindu Shastras (religious laws and customs). It is said that his previous residence was at Agra. Emperor Akbar gave him the village Haribati and he came to live at Paridingi. For the service of the guests, Akbar gave him *parganas* of Hulikhali, Ziasindh, Khanda, Sindur, Kusumbi, Kaligaon, and Tegachi and a lot of Brahmattar land located in and around Pubna and Rajshahi. After being the owner of this huge property, this Pipariya Ojha constructed buildings, temples, sanskrit schools and guest houses at large. Many water resources were also dug to meet up the water scarcity of the area. Akbar gave Ozha blue stones from Agra which were set up at the front of the wall⁸⁹.

Satkari was the son of Pipiria Ojha. Harapria was the son of Satkari. Jadunath was the son of Harapria and Durgadas was the son of Jadunath. Durgadas had two sons named Ramhari and Gangahari. Both of them lived in Paraizingi the living place of their ancestors. Gangahari had a good connection with the Mughal Govt. There was a criminal court at Chapila under Gurudaspur Police Station At that time Chapila was an affluent village. Talpe Chapila or *Taraf Chapila* was an important area of administration during the reign of Murshidkuli Khan. Then its area was 389.84 square miles and 95 estates were under its jurisdiction. It was one of the 48 parganas of Rajshahi⁹⁰. At the favour of the Emperor of Delhi, Gangahari became the chief official of the *Chapila's* Criminal Court. While doing the job at Chapila,

he married a daughter of the Majumdar family of Joari. The father in law of Gangahari had no son. So after the death of his father in law, Gangahari became the owner of his whole property⁹¹.

When Gangahari died, his wife and sons went to Paraidingi, their native place. The brother of Gangahari was, Ramhari who lived in Paridingi usurped the whole property. Being deprived of the property, his nephews came back to Joari with their mother finding no other way. Thus wife of Gangahari had no alternative but to establish herself at her paternal property and lived at Joari permanently⁹².

Joari Bishi Zamindar family came into being from the Gangahari Bishi. The sons of Gangahari could not develop this Zamindar family very much. From the time of Darpanarayan, the great grandson of Gangahari, Darpanarayan the Zamindari of Joari Bishi Raj family came into prominence. He got the *beel* on the north of joari and the property of Chakbhavani from Rani Sarbani of Satail⁹³.

Many researchers guess that as the family members of the Bishi Raj family were Brahmins, they might have got some property as donation from Rani Bhavani of Natore and bought Sonabaju Pargana at Rupees 32,000. Later they sold out 12 *ana* (75%) of the property to the Choudhuries of Dulai and Tantiband. The Bishi family of Joari seems to have originated from such a background.⁹⁴

Darpanarayan had three sons named Bhabani, Hariprasad and Balram. Bhabani died at a tender age without leaving any son. As a result the rest two brothers—Hariprasad and Balram became the owner of the whole property. From the time of Hariprasad and Balram, the Zamindari started flourishing.⁹⁵

After the death of Darpanarayan, the property was divided between the two brothers –Hariprasad and Balram and they came to be known as *BaraTara*f and *ChotaTara*f respectively⁹⁶. The founder of *BaraTara*f was Hariprasad. He was a

scholar of Sanskrit. He had much knowledge in astrology and religion⁹⁷. Hariprasad had four sons named Shibnath, Haru, Ramdhan and Budhram. The eldest son Shibnath was a scholar in Sanskrit art and culture and astrology. He was not only an educated person but also a person with worldly affairs. He administered his Zamindari with utmost success. The area of Zamindari extended during his time. Shibnath had two daughters named Mahamaya and Brahmamayee. The later was married to Sri Girish Chandra Moitra, an aristocratic family of the village Italy of Singra Police Station. He gave him the property of an annual profit of Rs. 300. The other daughter Mahamaya was married to Radhamohan Sanyal of Naogaon. The promising son of that dignified family was Perimohan Sanyal who was the son of Radhamohan and Mahamaya. He was a reputed and popular man and at present the Perimohan Library has been set up in Naogaon after his name. Shibnath gave Mahamaya a property the annual profit of which was Rupees 1000.00 at Govindapur Kangardaha.⁹⁸

Shibnath had three sons named Shambhunath, Kalinath and Kashinath. Shambhunath was an educated man. He was the manager of Shatkuthi of Wardson Company. He also served as a Dewan at Natore Raj estate for some time. He saved a lot of money by doing job and bought huge landed property with that money. He was a liberal and generous zamindar of his time. He always tried to develop his own village. He constructed many roads in the village at his own cost⁹⁹.

The second son of Shibnath was Kaliprasad who was childless. He had only daughter named Gaurmani who was married to Gaurmani Anandanath Choudhury, the Zamindar of Kasimpur. As dowry he gave his daughter a property the annual profit of which was Rs. 600.00.¹⁰⁰

The third son of Shibnath was Kashinath. He married off his daughter Sudhamayee to Bholanath Khan, the Zamindar of the village Khajura near Natore.¹⁰¹

As dowry he gave his daughter the Zamindari of the village Bamangaon the annual income of which was Rs. 1000.00.¹⁰²

Shambhunath had three sons named Jaynath, Maheschandra and Ishanchandra. Joynath was well-versed in Sanskrit and Persian languages. He wrote several books in Bengali which include '*DeviYuddha*', '*PadmaPuran*' etc. Among his hobbies were travelling and pilgrimage. He made some property by doing jobs. For the development of the Bishi Raj family, Jaynath had great contributions.¹⁰³

Maheschandra, the second son of Shambhunath, had a daughter named Kumudkamini and a son named Kamadachandra. The daughter Kumudkamini was married off to Rohinikanta of the Raj family of Balihar.¹⁰⁴

Ishanchandra was childless. Jaynath had three sons named Jadunath, Zadavchandra and Madhavchandra and a daughter named Saradasundari. She was married to Ananda Mohan Choudhury of Kasimpur of Naogaon district. Jadunath, the first son of Joynath, was childless. He had education in Bengali and Sanskrit. Very quiet-natured Zadav died before his marriage¹⁰⁵.

Zadav was the second son of Jaynath and he was a member of the then District Board. He was very helpful to others. With his endeavour a Govt. charitable hospital was set up at Joari.

Madhav Chandra had no son. He had only two daughters named Hemlata and Banalata. Hemlata was married to the son of Ray Jogendra Kishore Choudhury Bahadur of Ramgopalpur. Banalata was married to Raja Krishnasinh of Susanga¹⁰⁶.

The third son of Shibnath was Kashinath. The only son of Kashinath was Shashinath and Shashinath had his only son named Gyanadanath. He lived in Natore. He had two sons named Pramathnath and Upendranath¹⁰⁷.

The second son of Hariprasad was Haru or Gangaprasad. The son of Haru was Raghunath. Raghunath had two sons named Golaknath and Baikunthanath.

Golokndranath had a son named Vijaynath and two daughters named Saudamini and Kalimahini Devi. Saudamini was married to Rohinikanta, the Raja of Chaugram. The second daughter Kalimohini was married to Girish Acharya of Muktagacha of Mymensingh district¹⁰⁸.

The third son of Hariprasad was Ramdhan and the later's son was Krishnapati. Keshabnath was the son and Shakhisundari was the daughter of Krishnadhan. Keshabnath was a student of Rajshahi Zela School. While studying in Rajshahi, he was introduced to the then Judge Louis Jackson. Later Louis Jackson became the Justice of Calcutta High Court. He was given the charge of the appointment of *munsiff*. After passing B.L. in 1872. Keshabnath met Jackson at Calcutta and got appointment as a *munsiff*¹⁰⁹. He died after a short time. By his initiative an English School was set up at Joari. He had no son. So his wife Anandamayee took Nalininath as her adopted son. The daughter Shakhisundari was married to Ishanchandra Moitra of the village Italy under Singra Police Station. Krisnadhan gave Ishanchandra a property of an annual profit of Rs. 700.00.¹¹⁰

Nalininath, the son of Keshabnath, was a very strong man. Nalini Bishi was the first graduate of Rajshahi district¹¹¹. He had four sons. They were Pramathnath Bishi, Prafullanath Bishi, Dhirendranath and Hirendranath. He was associated with Congress politics. He suffered imprisonment even at the old age for the struggle for independence of India¹¹².

Birendranath and Hirendranath became residents of West Bengal for a long time. Pramathnath Bishi was the guide of modern Bangla literature. He was born at Joari in 1901. He started his student-life in the minor school of Joari. When he was nine years old he was sent to Shantinikatan with his brother to study there. His father was Nalininath Bishi. In 1919 he passed his matriculation form Shantinikatan as a private candidate¹¹³. Besides his own education, he got the charge to teach the

students from Rabindranath. He passed his Intermediate in 1927 and passed his B.A. from Rajshahi College¹¹⁴. He also got himself admitted for M.A. in English. But for the imprisonment of his father, he had to leave the Calcutta University. To look after the property he came back to Joari leaving Calcutta. But he did not give up education. In 1932 he appeared as a private candidate and stood first class first in Bangla in M.A.¹¹⁵ He joined as a Ramtanu Lahiri researcher in 1933 in Calcutta University¹¹⁶. He was associated to this work till 1936. He wrote "*Rabindra Kavya Prabaha*" while working as a researcher there. The edition of the book was printed from Calcutta University. In this time he worked as an Editor of 'Bangla Spelling Reformation Association'. He joined Ripon College as a Lecturer in Bangla in 1936. He was associated with this College for ten years stretching from 1936 to 1946¹¹⁷. He published some books of poems, novels, stories, prose, research work and criticism during his stay at Ripon College.

He worked as an Associate Editor of *Jugantar patrika* in 1944. He also worked as an Assitant Editor of *Ananda Bazar patrika* from 1946 to 1949¹¹⁸. In 1950 he joined as a professor of Bengali in Calcutta University. He was the Rabindra-Professor and Departmental Head of the Bengali Department from 1963 to 1966. He got retirement in 1971. After being retired he was appointed the Honourable Professor of University Grant Commission¹¹⁹.

He wrote many books. These include "*Joradighir Choudhury Paribar*", "*Chalanbeel*". "*Padma*", "*Keri Shaheber Munshi*", "*Napoleon*", "*Bangla Gadyer Padanka*", "*Desher Shatru*", "*Chapati O Padma*", "*Dynamite*", "*Michael Madhusudan*", "*Hansa Mithun*", "*Ashshkher Abhisap*", "*Gali O Galpa*", "*Mouchake Dhill*", "*Shrikanter Pancham Parba*", "*Shrikanter Sastha Parba*" etc.¹²⁰

He became famous as a critic and adroit analyst of Rabindra literature. He criticized 11 books written on Rabindranath. The books are – "*Rabindranather Chotogalpa*", "*Shilaidhahe Rabindranath*", "*Rabindra Kavya Prabaha*", "*Rabindra*

Bichitra", "*Rabindra Natta Prabaha*", "*Maharastra and rabindranath*", "*Rabindra Kabye Bastu Bichar*", "*Purana Diner Katha*", "*Shuvakankhi Rabindranath*", "*Rabindranath O Shantinikatan*", "*Rabindra Smarani*", and "*Rabindra Sahitya Samalochona*". For these books and academic exercises Pramathnath still remains as one of the leading figures in Bengali literature.¹²¹

Besides he wrote several books, which include "*GandhiJivan Bhassya*", "*Jaharlal Neheru*", "*Byakti O Byaktitya*", "*Bangalee O Bangla Sahitya*", "*Chitra Charitra*", "*Bangla Manisha and Bangla Sahitya*", "*Bangla Sahitte Naranari*" etc.¹²²

In recognition of his work he received many awards and titles. He got "*Padmashri*" in 1971 and "*PadmaBhusan*" in 1978. Besides, he also got Sarajini Gold Medal, Prafulla Kumar Memorial Award, Rabindra Award, Sharat Award, Viddyasagar Award, Jagarini Award etc. during his life time. The authorities of VishvaBharati University and RabindraBharati University awarded him the honourable title of D.Lit.¹²³

In his personal life Pramathnath Bishi was a plain and simple man. He was not very caring to wealth and property as may be expected from any member of a Zamindar. He married Suruchi Devi, the daughter of a noted Advocate of Rajshahi named Sudarshan Chakravarty¹²⁴.

Pramathnath Bishi was the father of four children. Among the four children the eldest daughter named Ujjwala died a premature death. Among the surviving sons and daughters we come to know about Kanishka Bishi, Milinada Bishi and the daughter Chirassi Bishi. They have also proved their worth as the children of the great Late Pramathnath Bishi.¹²⁵ This noble hearted man died in 1985 at the age of 84.¹²⁶

Pramathnath Bishi contributed much to art and literature but he could not do anything remarkable in his Zamindari. He only stayed in his Zamindari at the time

of imprisonment of his father. He spent rest of the time outside his Zamindari (estate). It appears that he had no such affinity towards wealth and property.

Prafullanath Bishi another member of this family was a first class honorary Magistrate of Rajshahi and was the Estate Officer of Rajshahi University. He became famous by writing many stories. His books entitled “*Russ Valluk*” (Bear of Russia), “*Vagya Chakra*” (*Wheel of Fortune*), “*Haradhan Kahini*” (*The Story of Haradhan*) and “*Maran Kamad*” (*Pain of Death*) are worthy of mention.¹²⁷

Chhota Taraf of Bishi Zamindar Family

Balaram was the founder of the Chhota Taraf (smaller Partner) of Bishi Raj family. Balaram Bishi was a competent person. He got appointment as Dewan in Natore Raj estate owing to his own aptitude. He became the owner of huge wealth and property working there¹²⁸. He was the father of a son named Ratan Krishna and a daughter named Jaysundari. He arranged the marriage of his daughter with Bireswar Ray, the Raja of Tahirpur Raj family. He died before the marriage. After the death of his father, the son Ratan Krishna finished the unfinished work of his father¹²⁹. He started the work of building a Shiv Mandir but he could not finish it. Later his son finished the work of the Mandir (Temple).

Ratan Krishna had two sons named Dwarakanath and Chandranath. Dwarakanath died childless. For the death of Dwarakanath, Chandranath became the owner of the whole property. Ratan Krishna married off his daughter to the aristocratic family of *Nirabil Pati*.¹³⁰

Chandranath took two wives each of whom gave birth to one child. The first wife gave birth to Mahini and the second wife gave birth to Chandranath. The first wife died leaving the son. On the other hand the son of the second wife died in infancy. After the death of the first wife Chandranath wanted to make ‘Will’ in favour of the second wife at her instigation. Considering the situation Mohini sought

help of Yadav of *Bara Taraf*. Mohini recovered the property with the help of Yadav and Vijay Govinda Choudhury the Zamindar of Tantiband (Pabna).¹³¹ Chandranath had two daughters. The elder daughter was married to Pramada Govinda, the Zamindar of Tantiband of Pabna¹³².

Chandranath gave both his daughters property, the worth annual income of which was Rupees 1200. After the death of Chandranath his son Mohini became the owner of the whole property. He was very pious. He arranged various types of worship in his house. During the tenure of Mohini, he had conflict with the neighbouring Darikushi Zamindari. The Zamindari suffered a great loss. Finally Moukhara and Goalfa Parganas were slipped out.¹³³ Mohini Bishi had four sons named Saileshnath, Gyanendranath, Satyendranath and Himadrinath. The eldest son Saileshnath was a good writer. He wrote various books including "*Salome*" "*Bolshevikbad*", "*Chityakatha*" etc.¹³⁴ Saileshnath and Himadrinath were newly recognized lawyers. Satyendranath was a famous painter. He was the superintendent of Calcutta Art College.¹³⁵

Joari Bishi Raj family could not contribute remarkably in the field of Zamindari. What they actually did were setting up an English School and a Charitable dispensary at Joari and one or two temples for the people. Though this Raj family could not improve in running the Zamindaris, they earned name and fame throughout Bengal by virtue of their contributions in art and literature. The people of Natore still remember their achievements in the field mentioned above. As this was a small Zamindari, many members of this Zamindar family lost their interest in it and concentrated on service and business.

Like other Zamindaris of Bengal, this Zamindari also came to an end with the passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1951.

Dubal Hati Zamindar Family

The village Dubalhati is situated five miles away from Naogaon town. As the village stands in the middle of a *beel*, it looks like an island. A beautiful Zamindar house had been built up there for the need of the Rajas. It has about 60 *beels* surrounding the area. Most of the *beels* were included within the Zamindari of Dubalhati.¹³⁶

Among the Zamindars of Rajshahi the Zamindar of Dubalhati was the ancient one.¹³⁷ A salt trader of Shunri (a lower caste of Hindi Community) caste named Jagatram Ray was the founder of this Raj family. His original house was at Jageswarpur of Murshidabad district. With the aim of doing business in this region he came to a village named Kasba near Dubalhati and settled there¹³⁸. He got lease of these *beel* areas. Jagatram was the half-independent land lord of this marshy *beel* areas. Later during the Muslim rule, tax was demanded of that region. In place of money 22 Kahan *Koi fish* (a popular fish of Bengal) was paid as tax according to some historians¹³⁹. The Dubalhati Zamindari consisted of Barbakpur Pargana¹⁴⁰. Kalinath Chaudhury, a researcher of this region, mentions that there were 54 generations from Jagatram to Ghanadanath Ray Chaudhury.¹⁴¹ In fact we come across the founding person and these is a gap of 44 persons of this family.

We do not thus have any chronological history before Krishnaram Choudhury. Krishnaram and Raghuram were two brothers. Krishnaram was the elder and Raghuram was the younger¹⁴². The two brothers lived together in Kasba village for some time. When conflict grew between the two brothers, they divided their landed property. Probably for the difference of opinion, the two brothers settled in two different places. Krishnaram Choudhury got 09 *ana* and the younger brother Raghuram Ray Choudhury got 07 *ana* share of the property. Krishnaram Choudhury began to live at the village Mainamgram near Balihar with his property. The younger brother Raghuram Ray Choudhury started living at Dubalhati with his property.¹⁴³

It can be easily guessed that the house of Raja of Dubalhati was built by Raghuram Ray Choudhury and his posterity.

The elder brother Krisharam Ray had no son. After his death his widow wife took four adopted sons one after another. But it was an irony of fate that each of them died. As a result the widow became averse to this world and property. On the other hand, as she had no good relation with the younger brother of her husband, Raghuram Ray Choudhury, she had sold out her 08 *ana* property to the Zamindars of Damnas and Balihar¹⁴⁴. With the selling of the property, the Raj family of Krishnaram Ray Choudhury came to an end.

The posterity of Raghuram Ray Choudhury started living at Dublahati. After the death of Raghuram Ray Choudhury, his son Raghunath became the owner of the whole property. No development of Zamindari was observed during the reign of Raghunath. Before his death Raghunath made a Will (Heba) in which he authorized his wife Bidyadhari Chowdhurani to enjoy 02 *ana* of property and the right to sell it. After the death of Raghunath his son named Parameswar became the owner of the rest 14 *ana* property.¹⁴⁵

Parameswar Ray had two sons. The elder one was Shibley and the younger one was Kashinath. Shibley took the charge of the estate after the death of his father Parameswar. After the death of Shibley his son Krishnanath became the owner of his paternal Zamindari. During the reign of Krishnanath Choudhury a permanent settlement was signed with Lord Cornwallis in 1793 and an Annual tax of Rs. 14495.00 and 08 *anas* was fixed.¹⁴⁶

The son of Krishnanath was Anandanath who was a childrens father. Before his death he permitted his wife Rupmanijuri to take adopted son. After Anandanath's death the charge of running the Zamindari fell on Rupmanjuri., No evidence was found as to any new Zamindar had taken over the power before this. Rupmanjuri

ran the Zamindari as per expectation. The Zamindari developed much during the tenure of this Rani who showed her efficiency in it. During her time Chakkalidaspur, Raghunathpur and Mahal Dewanpur were including in her Zamindari.¹⁴⁷ In spite of being a female Zamindar, it can be said that she was a successful Zamindar.

Acting upon the last wish of her husband, Rupmanjuri took Haranath as her adopted son. When the mother-adopted son relationship was deteriorated, she filed a case in Rajshahi Court to cancel the adoption. But both the lower and higher courts favoured the legitimacy of Haranath.

While the case was running in the higher court, the mother became sick and wished to meet Haranath. Responding to his mother's call Haranath met his mother and in 1853 took over the charge of the Zamindari. After a short time the mother Rupmanjuri died.¹⁴⁸

After taking over the Zamindari, Haranath improved it much. From Jagatram to Haranath their Zamindari was confined only in the Rajshahi district. Haranath extended the Zamindari to Bogra, Sylhet, Dinajpur and Faridpur outside Rajshahi.¹⁴⁹

Though Haranath Ray Choudhury was not educated, he administered his Zamindari with much skill. In running the Zamindari he was assisted by his qualified adviser Babu Shashibushan Ray and her eldest wife.

With the extension of the Zamindari he did many philanthropic works for his subjects. For the spread of education he started a free Junior English School in his own house.¹⁵⁰ To upgrade Rajshahi Zela School to College he donated a property of annual income worth Rs. 5000.00 to the Government on 21 January 1873.¹⁵¹ The valuation of that property was about one lakh Rupees. For the construction of the Hindu Hostel of Rajshahi College, he donated Rs.1000.00. Besides, he donated another Rs.1000.00 for building the Hindu Hostel of Eden College of Calcutta. For

the publication of the oldest Hindu Ranjika magazine, he donated a printing press the cost of which was Rs.2000.00.¹⁵² For the entertainment of the guests, he spent selflessly. He opened a Guest House at Dublahati. If any guest stayed in the Guest House for more than a month, he was never instructed to leave the Guest House nor was he shown any negligence on behalf of the caretaker and attendents. In the famine of 1874 the arranged food for huge number of victims.¹⁵³

He constructed a road from his own purse worth Rs.2000.00 from Naogaon to Dublahati for the facility of the movement of his subjects. To build the Government Court House in Naogaon Town, he donated 36 bighas of land.¹⁵⁴

For the social development activities of Haranath, the British Government gave him the title of honour “*Raja*” in 1875 and “*Raja Bahadur*” in 1877.¹⁵⁵ One of the events of the time of Haranath was revolt rebellion of his subjects. For the increased rate of tax, abnormal increase of price of leased land, various types of oppression and physical torture, about 50 thousand subjects rebelled against Haranath under the leadership of Astan Mollah of Hasaigiri in 1883 and the ryots did not pay any tax for seven years. This peoples protest came to an end with the mediation of settlement officer and through the apology of the two Ranis.¹⁵⁶

He ran his Zamindari for about 38 years extending from 1853 to 1891. Before his death in 1891, he made a Will. He left behind two sons named Kumar Ghanadanath Ray Choudhury and Krinkarinath Ray Choudhury and two daughters. As both the sons were minor at that time, his two widow wives named Rani Shaymasundari Choudhurani and Rani Umasundari Choudhurani took over the charge of the administration of the Zamindari.¹⁵⁷

In the Will of Haranath, he mentioned that his elder son would get 08 Ana and the younger son would get six *ana* of the property. According to the prevailing tradition, the property was supposed to be vested with the Court of Wards as the

two sons were minor, but it was mentioned in the Will that during that time the two Ranis would look after the property. Thus, according to the Will, his wives looked after the Zamindari. In running the Zamindari, the faithful and experienced manager Babu Shashibushan Ray assisted them.¹⁵⁸

These Ranis also patronized various development activities. They built the building of “Price Charitable Hospital” of Naogaon and excavated a pond with *pucca ghat* near the Court of Naogaon. Besides, they also dug many ponds for the use of the subjects. They too spent a lot of money for religion and for the service of the guests.¹⁵⁹

When the sons reached adolescence, they divided the property according to the Will. Though the Zamindars of this Raj family conducted zamindari for a pretty long time, no evidence is found about any Zamindar of this Raj family who did anything for the development of their subjects except Haranath Ray Choudhury and his wives. It can be said without any doubt that in spite of mentioning the contribution for the subjects of Dublahati, the peasant protest had disgraced his reign. He did all these development work by increasing the rate of tax from the subjects to please the British Government. Like other regions of Bengal, this Zamindari was abolished after the passing of the “East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1951”.

Kashimpur Choudhury Zamindar Family

Kashimpur is situated six miles south of Naogaon town beside the river Yamuna. It is three miles away from Raninagar Railway Station. During the reign of Emperor Akbar a Pathan Jaigirdar named Kashim Khan lived there. After his name the place was named Kashimpur. The Maharaja Mansigh cancelled the Jaigir of Kashim Khan and settled it to a Hindu Brahmin. This Brahmin was the founder

person of the Choudhury Raj family of Kashimpur¹⁶⁰. Gangananda Sanyal lived in the village named Upilsar of Rajshahi. He belonged to Dharadhar Raj family. He was an aristocrat of *Nirabil Pati*. Kashimpur Raj family started developing from the time of Gangananda Sanyal.¹⁶¹

Ganganada Sanyal had four sons named Shivram, Shitaram, Ramnarayan and Devidas¹⁶². The present Chowdhuries of Kashimpur are their posterity. Shivram got the abandoned property of Kashim Khan worth Rupees 3 lakhs. After getting this huge jagirdarship, Shivram Choudhury settled at Kashimpur and increased the area of Zamindari. Shivram had two wives. The first wife gave birth to two sons named Joy Krshna Ballav and Visnu ballav and the second wife had a son named Shayam Mohan. The sons of the first wife started living at Kashimpur and the son of the second wife built a residence at Hazrahati leaving Kashimpur.¹⁶³

Braja Ballav was the son of Krishna Ballav. The Raja of Natore named Ramjiban got the Zamindari during the tenure of Braja Ballav. For the influence of Raja Ramjiban in the Nawab Government, he grasped all the regions of Zamindari of Braja Ballav except Kashimpur¹⁶⁴. On the other hand the posterity of Visnu Ballav, the second son of Shivram left Kashimpur and began to live at Joari. Among the descendants of Gangananda Sanyal, the zamindar family of Rudrakanta Choudhury was famous. The son of Rudrakanta was Harakanta. He was a pious man. He led a very plain and simple life. For the study of the ‘Mahabharata’ and ‘Purana’ he spent a lot of money. He went on many pilgrimage. Saradakanta was the son of Harakanta. He was an educated person.

The sister of Raghunath Choudhury was married to Gadadhar Lahiri of Zhikra. The descendants of Gadadhar Lahiri constituted the Lahiri zamindar family of Kashimpur.¹⁶⁵

The Ray Bahadur Zamindar Family of Kashimpur

The daughter of Raghunath Choudhury of Kashimpur was married to an aristocrat Brahmin named Gadadhar Lahiri. His original residence was at the village named Zhikra of Naogaon district¹⁶⁶. Gadadhar Lahiri died shortly after the marriage for his being sick. After the death of Godadhar, the son of his first wife named Ramkishore Lahiri came to Kashimpur. Rudrakanta Choudhury married off her sister to Ramkishore Lahiri, the son of Gadadhar Lahiri and gave him some land to live beside the river of Kashimpur. Some villages under his Zamindari were also given to him on easy terms and conditions. Getting the landed property at Kashimpur, Ramkishore Lahiri built his residence there. He was the founder person of the Lahiri Zamindar family of Kashimpur¹⁶⁷.

Ramkishore Lahiri was the father of three sons named Kalikanta, Kashikanta and Kalisankar. Kalikanta had no son. The second son Kashikanta had two sons named Kamalkanta and Rajanikanta. Kalisankar had only one son named Girish Chandra¹⁶⁸.

The three sons of Ramkishore Lahiri lived in a joint family at Kashimpur. At that time Natore was the Head Quarters of Rajshahi districts. Kalikanta lived in Natore and was associated with legal profession at the Natore Court. He served for the Chowdhuries of Kashimpur, Zamindars of Dihi Chatni, Muktagacha and Chota Taraf of Natore. Afterwards in 1825, when the Head Office was transferred from Natore to Rajshahi, he also went to Rajshahi and built a beautiful residence there¹⁶⁹. Kalikanta earned a lot of money by doing his profession as a lawyer. With the savings he earned by the profession he could tactfully purchase some small Zamindari of the region. By employing his intelligence he bought property of having a profit of about Rs. 80,000.00.¹⁷⁰ He was an intelligent and talented person. He got two wives. The name of the first wife was Kashiswari and that of the second one was Mrinmoyee. But none of the wives begot any son.¹⁷¹

The second son of Ramkishore Lahiri was Kashikanta. His wife and elder son died in a very short gap of time. The second son of Kashikanta named Rajanikanta was alive.

The third son of Ramkishore Lahiri was Kalisankar whose only son Girishchandra remained alive. As Kalikanta had no son, he took Rajaninkanta, the son of Kashikanta as his adopted son and named him Sardakanta¹⁷². After the adoption, Kalikanta and his second wife Mrinmayee Devi did not like their nephew Girish. On the other hand, the first wife of Kalikanta, Kashishwari Devi was very affectionate to Girish. At the advice of Mrinmayee Devi, Kalikanta tried to deprive Girish of the property by any means. In spite of tremendous effort, Girish failed to get the property. At last he succeeded in getting monthly grant of Rs. 900.00 for his mother from the court.¹⁷³

Before death, Kalikanta expressed his desire to hand over his wealth and property and the charge of the estate to his adopted son Saradakanta. The first wife of Kalikanta, Kashisawri Devi went to Kashidham accepting the monthly payment and the second wife Mrinmayee Devi died. After the death of Kalikanta, the adopted son Saradakanta became the sole owner of the Zamindari.¹⁷⁴ After some days, Saradakanta died childless. He permitted his wife to keep an adopted son and handed over all his property to his wife. Before keeping any adopted child, the wife died within a year. At that time Kashisawri Devi, the first wife of Kalikanta was living at Kashidham. She became the owner of the whole property. As she was very old, she had no passion for the property. Just after receiving the news of the death of Saradakanta, Girish went to Kashiswari Devi at Kashidham. The old wife loved Girish from the beginning. So she agreed to give Girish all the property in exchange of the annual payment of Rupees 900.00 and other necessary expenditure. As a result, Girish became the owner of the movable and immovable property of Kalikanta and took over the charge of the Zamindari.¹⁷⁵

None was in charge of the Zamindari during the time extending from the death of the wife of Sarada to the time before Girish took over the charge of the Zamindari and taking advantage of the situation the bureaucratic officials became the real masters. The dishonest officials misappropriated much valuable movable property¹⁷⁶. As a result Girish had to take the charge of power with a very little movable property. In this miserable condition of Zamindari, Girish needed money and as such he was forced to borrow. He was a man of worldly knowledge. By employing his intelligence and tactics, he became free from loan in a short time. As a Zaminder he was successful. He did not collect tax at the displeasure of his ryots in any sense.¹⁷⁷

Being a Zamindar he always thought of the well being of his subjects. In 1867 when water entered Rajshahi breaking the embankment at Boalia, many people sustained a loss. To help these flood victims, he sent food and other necessary things. For rendering medical help to the poor people he set up a third class charitable dispensary in his own village Kashimpur in 1872 . Later on this dispensary was upgraded to a first class dispensary in 1882.¹⁷⁸ In 1872 he was nominated a member of Road Irrigation Committee of Rajshahi district. In the same year he was also nominated a member of the District School Committee¹⁷⁹. In 1873 he was proposed to be appointed as an Honorary Magistrate of Rajshahi but as his residence was away from Rajshahi he did not accept the proposal¹⁸⁰. In 1874 he proposed to the government to build a railway station by donating some land of his own Zamindari at Chatiangram under Adamdighi Police Station of Bogra district. The Indian Government accepted his proposal and let him know about it.¹⁸¹

He had great attention to the development of education. For the education of the people of his own locality he set up a middle English school in Kashimpur at his own cost in 1867.¹⁸² He bore the expenditure of feeding clothing books paper, pen of the outside students and the tuition fees of the poor students were paid from

his own Zamindari. This school was a renowned Middle English school. Later the school became a high school. In 1875. He gave money for constructing the academic building of Rajshahi Madrasha¹⁸³. To set up Bogra Zela School he himself donated money and collected fund in 1876. In 1881 he donated money and collected fund for the building of Hindu Hostel in Calcutta¹⁸⁴. He had remarkable contribution to the development of the Public Library of Rajshahi. Besides, by writing the biography of Sharatsundari, the Rani of Puthia, he became famous.

In 1882 he donated money for the improvement of the drainage system of Rampur-Boalia (Rajshahi) town. At that time Mr. L Hare was the Joint-Magistrate of Rajshahi.¹⁸⁵

For his virtues and contribution, the Hon'ble Governor Sir George Campbell honoured him by conferring on him the title of "Ray Bahadur". He was greatly honoured in the Varendra Brahmin society for his work. He married off his five daughters to the members of aristocrat families and gave away some parts of Zamindari for their sustenance.

He breathed his last leaving a son named Kedar Prasanna Lahiri and five daughters. After his father's death, Kedar took over the charge of Zamindaris. He was also an ideal Zamindar. He supplied food to many people during the rainy season and famine. He also earned the title of "*Ray Bahadur*" from the British Government for his deeds.

This family came into being through many ups and downs. The early Zamindars of this family did not take part in any remarkable development activities. During the tenure of Girishchandra Lahiri and his son Kedar Prasanno Lahiri, this family had contributed much to the development of the subjects. The people of Kashimpur still cherish the memory of their contribution with pride.

Like the other regions of Bengal this Zamindari was abolished with passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1951.

Balihar Zamindar Family

The village Balihar is situated 11 miles west of Naogaon town and one mile north of Naogaon-Rajshahi Highway. Now a metalled road leads to Balihar from this Highway. In ancient Kulajna book the name of Balihar is mentioned as “*kurmile*” or “*Kurkuri*” Kurmile village was famous village in “*Kul*” book¹⁸⁶. Balihar village is famous for pond and tanks there are about 60 ponds in the same village¹⁸⁷. The houses of the Rajas of Balihar *pargana* were built in this village.

A descendant of Dharadhar, a Brahmin of Batsa caste, named Bardhawan lived in this Kurmile or Balihar village. The father of Bardhawan named Laxmidhar lived in a village named Sanjibini. Later, Bardhawan went to his father’s house at Sanjibini. Laxmidhar had two descendants named Ananta and Ramnath. The posterity of this Anantanath founded the Zamindar family of Balihar.¹⁸⁸ The descendants of Ramnath established the Zamindari of ‘Ray Choudhury’ of Dinhata of Rangpur district (present Coochbehar, West Bengal).

The founder of Balihar Zamindar family was Nri Singh Chakravarty. He married in the Khan Zamindar family of Balihar. After his marriage he came to Balihar leaving his previous residence at Bikrampur of Dhaka district. He got some leased (*Taluk*) property from his father in law and increased its area. Afterwards, he got the title of “Sanyal”. The son of Nri Singh Sanyal was Gopal and the son of Gopal was Kamkanta Sanyal¹⁸⁹. Ramchandra Sanyal got the title of “Ray” for his personal achievement. The Royal title of Ray was preserved and followed by this Zamindar house for a long time.

After NriSingh Chakravarty (Ray) the fame and might of Balihar Zamindar family were increased by his grandsons. The son of NriSingh Ray was Gopal and

the eldest son of Gopal was Ramkanta Ramkanta had four sons named Krishnadas, Prankrishna, Ramram and Visnuram. Visnuram died a premature death and the living three sons contributed much for the consolidation of the Zamindar family¹⁹⁰.

The eldest Krishnadev, son of Gopal married the sister of Satyavati, the Zamindar of Bahirbandar of Rangpur with reference to the marriage the other two brothers Prankrishna and Ramram started serving under the Rani Satyavati. Within a short time they played a very important role in various administrative work of the estate¹⁹¹. The husband of Rani Satyavati, Raghunath Ray died in 1310 B.S. (i.e., 1903 A.D.) and Rani Satyavati took over the charge of Zamindari. By marrying the sister of Satyavati, Krishnadev got the Zamindari of Laxmanpur under Swaruppur Pargana¹⁹². Rani Sattavati administered a huge Zamindari from 1130 B.S. to 1189 B.S. i.e., 1723 to 1782.¹⁹³. By serving under Rani Sattavati, Prankrsihna bacame the Head of the employees and Ramram was appointed Dewan. Being satisfied with work of the two brothers, the Rani gave them VitarBandar Pargana in their father's name¹⁹⁴.

Afterwards Prankrishna and Ramram became the owner of this property. Ramram got 09 *anas* and Prankrishna got 07 *anas*¹⁹⁵. For the division of this property, the Balihar Zamindari was divided between the *Bara Taraf* and *Chhota Taraf*. The posterity of Ramram was known to be *Bara Taraf* and that of Prankrishna as *Chhota Taraf*.

The Zamindari of Ramram was awarded the title of "Ray Choudhury" in Bangla in 1229 B. S., i.e., 1822.¹⁹⁶ Later on, the Zamindars of this Raj family built their house in *Bhitar Bandar* of Rangpur and started living there leaving Balihar.

Prankrishna was the founder of 07 *ana* Raj family. Prankrisna had two sons named Ramchandra and Gyananath. After their father's death Ranchandra got the Zamindari¹⁹⁷. The next generation of this Ranchandra built a huge Zamindar house

at Balihar. The son of Ramchandra was Nilkantha. Rajendra Ray was the son of Nilkantha¹⁹⁸. Rajendra Ray had great contribution towards the increase of the Zamindari and fame of the *Chhota Taraf*. He married in the Natore royal family. His father in law was Ramkrishna who was the son of the famous Rani of Natore, Rani Bhavani¹⁹⁹. Kashishwari Devi was the wife of Rajendra Ray. After marrying Kashishwari Devi, Rajendra Ray got a lot of land as dowry²⁰⁰. the area of Balihar Zamindari increased from his time. Kashishwari gave birth to a son and a daughter. The son died in infancy. The daughter named Shiveswari was married to Kaliprasad Lahiri of the village called Khajura of Natore²⁰¹.

Rajendra Ray was a sharp and intelligent Zamindar. He had great fondness for religious rituals. To make the *Rath* festival ever memorable, he made a huge *Rath* made of brass. The *Rathajatra* started to be celebrated grandly every year from the time of Rajendra Ray²⁰². He installed a ten-hand statue of *Raj Rajeswari* in his royal house. He contributed not only to religion but also to administration increasing the area of Zamindari. Probably, Rajendra Ray took three wives. The name of his first wife is not known. The name of the second wife was Umamoyee and that of the third was Anandamayee. During the life time of the Raja, the second wife Umamoyee died. As a result after the death of Rajendra Ray, the charge of running estate fell upon the third wife Anandamayee²⁰³. Rani Anandamayee was an accomplished woman. He ran the estate with great reputation. Like other Zamindars of Balihar, she had keen interest in religions matter. During her time more than a lakh of Rupees were spent for the reading of “*Mahabharata*” inviting the noted *Purahits* (priests) from all over the country. She installed a stone-statue called ‘*AnadaKali*’ in her house. She arranged daily worship of this statue and gave away *Bhog* (food of puja). At the time of death, Rajendranarayan allowed his wife Anandamayee to keep an adopted son. Anandamayee took Shivprasad as her adopted son. Shivprasad took three wives²⁰⁴. Nothing is definitely known about the first

wife of Shivprasad Ray. The daughter of Trilochan Lahiri of Balihar named Harasundari Devi was his second wife. His third wife was Sushila Devi. Leaving his wives Shivprasad died. According to the wish of mother in law Anadamayee, Harasundari Devi took Raja Krishnendra Ray Bahadur as an adopted son in 1252 B.S., i.e., 1845.²⁰⁵ The other wife of Shivprasad Sushila Devi took Harendra Ray as her adopted son. For the untimely death of Harendra Ray, Krishnendra Ray became the owner of the whole property. Krishnendra was the son of Shivchandra Lahiri of Khajura village of Natore²⁰⁶. The name of the mother of Krishnendra Ray is not known. His father was an aristocrat Brahmin of *Nirabil Pati*. He was born in 1241 B.S., i.e., 1834. He passed his remarkable period of boyhood in this Khajura village. Rani Harasundari Devi of Balihar took him as an adopted son when he was 11 years old²⁰⁷.

Raja Krishnendra Ray was brought up in the Zamindar house of Balihar with great care. The grandmother Anandamayee Devi took great care of the education of Krishnendra Ray. He was educated by a house tutor. He got enough knowledge of Bengali literature in a short time. He was also well versed English, Persian and Sanskrit. Though he did not get education in a school, he started reading Bangla books and newspapers by dint of his knowledge and perseverance²⁰⁸. He became a man of knowledge with his own efforts.

Raja Krishnendra Ray had two wives. The name of his first wife was Shivasundari Devi and that of the second wife was Rani Ganesh Janani Devi. Krishnendra Ray took his first wife after the choice of his mother Harasundari Devi²⁰⁹. Shivasundari Devi had mixed complexion. She had projected teeth. As Shivasundari could not give birth to any son, he took a second wife. The father of the second wife Janani Devi lived in a village named Borai of Bogra. Ganesh Janani looked very fair and beautiful. Raja Krishnendra married her after his own choice, but this second wife also failed to give him any children. Afterwards, he took his

brother's son Sarabindu Ray (son of Jogendrachandra Ray) as his adopted son on 20 *Shraban*, 1293, i.e., 1886.²¹⁰

Raja Krishnendra Ray had a bright career all along life. Before he reached adolescent, his grandmother Anadnamayee looked after the Zamindari. After becoming adult, he took the charge of Zamindari at the age of 21 in 1854. During his time, the Zamindari improved much. In 1876 there were 08 Estates in Balihar Pargana and the total area of Zamindari was 18,013 acres²¹¹. Besides Balihar, his Zamindari was extended to *Demajani* of Bogra district.

He was a benevolent Zamindar. Though he himself did not receive any formal education, he set up a middle English School in his village for the education of his subjects. He bore all the expenses of this school. The students of this school were provided with paper, pen, ink without any cost. Raja Krishnendra Ray set up a primary school at Balihar in memory of his second wife Rani Ganesh Janani Devi after her death. With the assistance of his private Pandit, he ran a reading room (Chatuspati) at Balihar. Besides his own Zamindari, Raja Krishnendra Ray spent a lot of money for the spread of education. He donated money for Naogoan High School building, some reading rooms, Rampur Boalia (Rajshahi) College²¹². At the time of the founding of Rajshahi College in 1973 his contribution played a remarkable role. He did not only spent money for the building of the educational institutions but also came to be known as a person interested in education and writer of that time. He wrote about 10 books.²¹³ Originality is noticed in his writing. Clear Philosophy and awareness of life are found in each of his writing. Such a noble deed had been made possible for his sincere effort.

He contributed not only in education but also in religious rituals. Raja Krishnendra Ray installed a "*Kali Murti*" (statue of Kali) in 1296 B.S., i.e., 1889 and arranged its *bhog* (food) and daily service. Besides, the statues including the

statue of “RajRajeswari, Anandakali” and others that were previously installed in the house, he managed to continue the prevailing custom of worshipping. The *Rath* fair that was introduced by his grandfather, had been continued for a month in a very grand way. The Raja arranged foods for the people who came to the fair. During the fair, *Jatra* parties from different parts of the country were invited to come to Balihar. The local people enjoyed much during the fair. The Raja himself loved to listen to the *Kabigans* (the songs of the poets)²¹⁴.

For the communication facility of his subjects, he constructed 10 miles long road from Balihar to Prasadpur. He dug many pond and tanks for the removal of the water scarcity of the people. He excavated two big tanks at Saraswatipur and Baidyapur. On the occasion of the observing the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, he excavated the tank of Saraswatipur in 1887. The rest house and cowshed of the Raja were established by the side of this tank. “*BaniPuja*” of the Raja was held at Baidyapur. While going to his father in law’s house to Prasadpur, he stayed there for 10 to 12 days. A fair was held on the north of the Saraswatipur Tank. There were arrangements of amusement such as dance, songs, *Jatra* (theatre) etc. There was also arrangement of *Durga Puja*. The Raja had two mango groves at Prasadpur and Balihar. Besides, he planted mango saplings beside the road of Saraswatipur²¹⁵.

He set up a hospital at Balihar in 1878. He bore all the expenditure of setting up and running of that charitable hospital. That hospital was under the charge of a native doctor. Later it was entrusted with the Assistant Surgeon.²¹⁶

Besides feeding the poor people in the famine of 1874, he donated money in the fund of the Government. For the development of Rajshahi, the Zamindars of Rajshahi formed an association named “Rajshahi Association”. He ornamented the Association as the second Chairman. For his social and reformatory works, the British Government awarded him with the title of “Raja” in 1880 and “Rajabahadur” in 1887.²¹⁷

Raja Krishnendra Ray was a benevolent Zamindar. In his personal life he was an open-natured person. He always inquired about the well being of his subjects' neighbors. When a neighbour fell sick, he took initiative for the treatment.

Hunting was one of his hobbies. Many high ranking officials went hunting with him riding on the back of elephants. He earned much reputation by hunting many tigers. He made a zoo in his own house. He used to keep beasts and birds of various species there.²¹⁸

His tenure was the golden chapter in the history of the Zamindars of Balihar. His tenure improved much in skilled administration, art and literature, religion and many other aspects. He ruled his Zamindari very competently for long forty four years. He was attacked by a fatal disease in his later life and died at 6 a.m. in 1898 A.D. His dead body was cremated on the bank of the river 'Karotoa' six miles north from Balihar.²¹⁹

After the death of Raja Krishnendra Ray in 1898 his adopted son Saradindu inherited his property. The first wife of Krishnendra Ray named Shivsundari Devi took the charge of looking after Rajkumar Saradindu Ray. On the other hand, the second wife of the Raja, Rani Ganesh Janani took the daughter of her sister named Kusumkamini as the adopted child.²²⁰

Rani Ganesh Janani wished to get her daughter Kusumkamini married to Rajkumar Saradindu Ray. The eldest Rani opposed the marriage. The mother of Krishnendra Ray also didn't support the marriage negotiations. However, afterwards Kusumkamini was married to Saradindu Ray. The marriage ceremony was completed on the 3rd *Falgun* of 1299 B.S., i.e., 1892 spending a lot of money in a very majestic manner.²²¹

For his physical illness, Rajkumar Saradindu Ray could not run the administration of his Zamindari very efficiently. As a result Kusumkamini Devi

administered the Zamindari. In 1328 B.S. Kusumkumari Saradindu Ray died. Prince Saradindu Ray donated Rs. 6000.00 for the development of Rajshahi College.²²²

After the death of Saradindu Ray, his son Rajkumar Bimalendu Ray took over the Zamindari. He passed his B.A. from Presidency College of Calcutta. He increased the income of the Zamindari. It is not known whether he did any philanthropic activities for his subjects. Kumar Bimalendu Ray was the last Zamindar of his royal Raj family.²²³ After the partition of the country he went to India and died there. After passing the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1951 and the Zamindari came to an end.

Bagchi Zamindar family of Chamari

Chamari was a famous village of Singra Police Station under Natore Sub-Division (Presently District). This village was situated beside the road of Nalbata-Bil-Dohar, 11 miles east from Natore town. There were a High School and a Post Office. The village was divided into two parts – Uttarpara and Dakshinpara. On the west of the Dakshinpara were Kaibartapara and Sutarpara (carpenter). Besides a number of Muslims lived there. The Bagchi Zamindar family lived in the Uttarpara.

No evidence is found as to when and how this Chamari Bagchi zamindar family rose into prominence. The founder of Bagchi Zamindar family was KaliKrishna. He was the father of six children named Madhusudan, Nilkanta, Bhupendranarayan, Satischandra, Jatindranarayan and Gyanendra Mohan²²⁴.

Madhusudan Bagchi's elder son was Gopendra Krishna Bagchi and the younger one was Jagadish Bagchi. Gopendra Krishna Bagchi was a highly educated person. He passed Entrance Exam from Natore Maharaja School and Intermediate from Rajshahi College with distinction. Afterwards, he went to Calcutta for higher education and studied M.A. and Law in Presidency College and passed with

distinction.²²⁵ After the completion of education, he started pleading in Bogra Court. But when this profession could not please him, he gave it up. He concentrated on business. He bought motor launch and introduced service from Bhangura to Shahzadpur. He failed in his business as he had little knowledge about business. But he did not give up the hope of business. For the manufacturing of boats, he took lease of one and a half Bighas of land by setting up a factory at Tiljola. An Engineer named Mr C E Kleghorn of R.V. Rada Company provided him with required assistance²²⁶. He brought many books from abroad and gathered a lot of knowledge. He faced loss at the very beginning of this business. This time he did not get disheartened and continued his business. Within a short time fortune smiled on Gopendra. After the ensuing of the second World War, the military authority ordered him a big supply. As a result he gained much profit in his business within a short time.²²⁷ He first introduced motor launch service from Kanning to Gosava. When a Launch Association was formed in the Sundarbans regions, he became the Chairman of the Association.

In his personal life he was fond of travelling. When he felt monotony in his work, he set out for traveling in the Sundarbans regions and hunted there. For traveling in the Sundarban regions, the roads, ways and canals and rivers of Sundarbans became familiar to him. He submitted a plan of the development of the Sundarbans regions to Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ray, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal. For the sudden death of Dr Bidhan Ray, the plan was not implemented.²²⁸

In spite of being born in the Zamindar family, no evidence has been found that he ever did anything in running of the Zamindari. He was more attentive to business than to Zamindari.

Jagadish Chandra Bagchi, the younger son of Madhusudan Bagchi, was a successful man. He was an Engineer in his personal life. He served in many places

of India after he had passed Engineering from Jadavpur Engineering College. Outside India, he also served in Burma. He was the Chief Engineer of Orissa Cement Factory. For the deterioration of health, he went to retirement. In 1946 he opened a launch service from Gurudaspur to Lalore. In his business career Jagadish Bagchi met many rich businessmen. Dalmia, the famous industrialist of India was one of them.²²⁹

As Jagadish Chandra Bagchi had no son, he took Shyamakanta, the younger son of his elder brother, as his adopted son. Shayamkanta Babu was a Marine Engineer. He worked in a foreign Shipping Company.

The elder son of Gopen Babu, Rishikesh Bagchi was a meritorious student. He passed his Engineering from Jadavpur and afterwards went to London for higher education. He became expert in automobile and boat manufacturing in London. Coming back home, he devoted himself to his father's business and set up a large factory near Shivpur Botanical Garden.²³⁰

The third son of KaliKrishna Bagchi was Bhupendranath Bagchi (Bhupendranarayan). He was an amateur Zamindar. The fight of "Bulbul" (a kind of bird) was one of his hobbies. He used to invite the Zamindars and businessmen of Sherpur of Bogra for enjoying "Bulbul" fight²³¹. In the house of Bhupendranath at Kashidham, "Bulbul" was tamed. The house was known as "the House of Bulbul". He established a Theatre Party at Kashidham named "Bandhab Samity".²³²

Bhupendranath Bagchi died at an early age leaving two minor boys named Ramendranath Bagchi and Shivendranath Bagchi. After his death his sons were looked after by his other brothers.

The eldest son of Bhupendranath Bagchi named Ramendranath Bagchi was an active and brave man. Unlike other Zamindars, he did not stay at Calcutta, he stayed at Chamari most of the time. He was the Chairman of Chamari Union Board

for some time. He set up an M E School and a health center in his own village Chamari²³³. He also introduced a launch service.

He was an amateur Zamindar. Like his ancestors, he had hobby for hunting. He was very careful for the family. When his younger brother died, he looked after the whole family with outmost care during his life time. He passed the last part of his life at Calcutta and died there.

The house-god of Bagchi family was 'Sri Sri Gopal Narayan'. Besides regular worship of 'Gopal Narayan', the other pujas like *Dol*, Durga Puja, Basanti Puja etc. were celebrated in an impressive way. Drama was staged on the occasion of the Puja. Local people were entertained watching the drama. They had also interest in games and sports. They had a football team of their own. Santishekhar of Bagchi family was a noted player of that time²³⁴.

Though the Bagchi family ran the Zamindari, they did not do much for the benefit of the common people. We do not get any evidence about their activities in Zamindari.

This Zamindari was abolished for the passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1951 Zamindari became end.

Choudhury Zamindar Family of Natore

The ancestors of Choudhury Zamindar family of Natore were the inhabitants of Afghanistan Amanullak Khan, the founder of this Zamindar family came to Bardawan with his son Azam Khan in the 1st half of the 18th century. Later on Mohammad Zaman Khan of this family came to Nature being the *Nazir* of the Criminal Court of Natore. By doing the job, Zaman Khan became the owner of a huge property²³⁵. After the death of Zaman Khan, his son Dost Mohammad Khan

became the owner of his deposited wealth. Getting the deposited money of his father Dost Mohammad bought the Zamindari of Kalam, Piprul and Kholabaria of Rajshahi district (Presently Natore district).²³⁶ He was polite and frugal. In a short time he came to be known as a reputed Zamindar. He got the title “Choudhury” by the English Govt. in 1787. Dost Mohammad Khan laid the foundation of the Choudhury House of Natore²³⁷. He married the daughter of the caretaker (mutawalli) of the Waqf Estate of Bagha²³⁸. After the death of Dost Mohammad Khan, his eldest son Muhammad Ali Khan became the heir of this estate. Muhammad Ali Khan had two sons named Rahid Ali Khan and Ershad Ali Khan. After the death of their father, Rashid Ali Khan became the owner of the estate. He set up a secondary school named Rashid Anglo Persian School at Natore in 1862²³⁹. After Rashid Ali Kahn, Ershad Ali Khan became the owner of the estate. After the death of their father, Rashid Ali Khan looked after the education of his younger brother Ershad Ali Khan. In those days of 19th century (Later part of 19th century) the interest of the Muslims increased to learn English side by side with Arabic and Persian. For the awareness of his brother, Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury learnt English. He was the Chairman of Natore Municipality in 1891. As he was associated with Natore Municipality for a long time, he contributed much to the development of Natore town²⁴⁰. When Head Quarters was shifted from Natore to Rampura Boalia (Present Rajshahi) for the breakout of malaria and dengue, he expressed his grievance. Along with the running of the Zamindari, he was also involved in politics.²⁴¹

He carried out the responsibility of Chairman of the reception committee of the 1st session of Muslim Education Association in 1903 held in Rajshahi.

Muslim League was founded in 1906 and when its branch was opened in Natore, Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury became its Chairman²⁴². He was elected a Member of the Bengal Management Conference as a Muslim representative of

Natore after 1919. He held the post for a long time. He had great contribution towards the awakening of the Muslims. He was elected a Member of Rajshahi Zela Board in 1926. Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury was known as a very polite and a generous Zamindar.

There was a branch of ‘Anjumane Islamia’ at Natore and it has been recorded in the correspondences of the same dated 9th June, 1900.^{242,243} Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury was associated with this organization. Syed Ameer Ali proposed to abolish Madrasha Education to replace it with English School in “All India Education Conference held in 1899”. Muhammedan Literary Society opposed the proposal and distributed questionnaires to survey public opinion. Ershad Ali Khan supported the proposal of Muhammedan Literary Society and sent a letter to Abdur Rahman the secretary of the society.²⁴³ The wife of Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury died in 1921. After his wife’s death he went to Calcutta and lived in the house of his Barrister son Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury, a barister, at House No. 60 of Lower Circular Road, Calcutta. In 1928, Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury died in this house. According to his previous instruction he was buried in the family graveyard of *Pirshaheb* (religious saint) at Midnapur²⁴⁴.

After the death of Ershad Ali Khan Choudhury, his only son Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury became the owner of his Zamindari. He was born in 1878. Her mother’s name was Machirunnesa Khanam. Her father had Zamindari at Shahzadpur²⁴⁵. Being the only daughter of a Zamindar, she became the sole owner of the paternal property. As a result, his vast Zamindari was united with the Zamindari of Natore.

Ashraf Ali was a meritorious student from his childhood. There was Zamindari of Khan Choudhury in Rajshahi. To look after the Zamindari, there was a *Kachari Bari* (court) at the center of the town. He read in Rajshahi Collegiate School for some time staying in that house. There was a pond in front of the house²⁴⁶. (At

present the house and the pond have been sold out by the next generation. The buyers demolished the house and filled up the pond.) Later his father sent him to Calcutta for study. There he carried on his studies living in the house of his cousin sister and passed his Entrance and F.A. Examination. His cousin sister was the daughter in law of Nawab Abdul Latif. In 1886 A.D. only at the age of 18, he married a daughter of a Zamindar of Salar of Murshidabad according as per his father's wish. After three years, his wife died without having a child. Afterwards, he married the younger sister of his wife in 1902 as his father wished for²⁴⁷. In 1909, he went to London to study 'Bar at law' leaving his second wife under his father's care. He returned to the country in 1912 after being a Barrister and got the certificate to join Calcutta High Court²⁴⁸.

Along with the running of the Zamindari, the Choudhury family got involved in politics. The father of Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury was a Member of the Bengal Management Conference²⁴⁹. In 1928, Ashraf Ali khan Choudhury was elected a member of Bengal Management Conference from Natore. In 1937, he was elected a member of Bengal Legislative Council as a candidate of Muslim League. He was also elected the Deputy Speaker of Legislative Council.

The son of Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury was Ahmed Ali Khan Choudhury. Ahmed Ali Khan Choudhury joined Indian Army and was commissioned afterwards. In 1941 he died falling on an accident while playing Polo at Ambala. Ashraf Khan broke down at the death of his son. He died at 11 P.M. on 08 December in 1941, when he was the Deputy Speaker of Bengal Legislative of Assembly. He was buried in the family graveyard of *Pir Shaheb* at Midnapur (West-Bengal)²⁵⁰.

Among the noted sons of the Choudhury Zamindar family of Natore, the name of Abdus Sattar Khan Choudhury is specially known to the people of Natore. Abdus Sattar Khan was elected a member of the *Jatia Sangsad* (National Parliament) of

Bangladesh²⁵¹. The Choudhury family was associated with many development work of Natore. The people of this area still remember the contribution of the Choudhury family in the development of Natore as well as backward regions of the country. The old house of the choudhuries still bears the testimony of the past glory of the Choudhury family. For the multiple division of the property and for service and business many members of the family are living outside Natore.

The Zamindari of this family was abolished by the passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenant Act 1951.

The findings of the above study coverage to support the contention presented in the title of the Chapter, Captioned, Minor Zamindars of Rajshahi an important due to the fact that this efforts reveal some important issues which have not been highlighted so far. The average size of their estates, magnitude of the activities and the liability they maintained are the indicators how the respective Zamindars could perform their responsibilities in the prevailing economic and socio-political life of Bengal. Though many Zamindars were wealthy and rich many of them were highly cultured and patron of learning. But these minor or smaller Zamindars of Rajshahi failed to control on the family and also the timely need to took after the Zamindaries perfectly. The persistent problem of and ever increasing confrontation with the Positish precipitated the crises within the Zamindaris and ultimately the promulgation of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act was the final touch to bring about the complete collapse of these Zamindaris along with the big Zamindars of Rajshahi.

Notes and references

1. Samar Pal, *Taherpur Rajvamsa*, Natore, 1990, (Henceforth *Tahirpur...*) p. 3.
2. *Varendrer Raja* - an article by Md. Mahbubur Rahman in *Varendra Ancheler Itihas*, (ed.) by Saifuddin Choudhury, et.al. Rajshahi, 1998, (Henceforth *Varendrer*), p. 756
3. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur* p. 10.
4. Loc cit.
5. Surendranath Bhattacharya, *The Tahirpur Raj Family (A Short Sketch)*, Calcutta, 1915, p. 2.
6. Differences of opinion is noticed regarding the settlement of lease of Lashkarpur Pargana. Samar Pal has mentioned that the settlement of Lashkarpur pargana was made with the Zamindar of Tahirpur. (Samar Pal, *Tahirpur* p. 15); Bimala Charan Moitra is of the opinion that the aforesaid settlement was made with the Raj family of Puthia. It may be assumed that the settlement was made with the Rajas of Puthia because the house of the Raja of Puthia is situated at Lashkarpur pargana (Bimala Charan Moitra, *Puthia Rajbangsha*, Calcutta, 1357 B.S. p. 14).
7. Kalinath Chudhury has mentioned Udayanarayan as the son of Vijaynarayan (Kalinath Choudhury, *Rajshir Sangkshipta Itihas*, Calcutta, 1308 B.S. p. 112).
8. Bimala Charan Moitra, *op. cit.* p. 14.
9. Muhammad Abdus Samad, *Suborna Diner Bibarna Smriti*, Rajshahi, 1987, p. 111; Many historians mentioned Kansanarayan as Raja Ganesh. But infact Raja Kansanarayan and Raja Ganesh of Tahirpur Raj famiy were not the same person. Kansanarayan of Tahirpur appeared about 100 years after the tenure of Raja Ganesh.
10. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*, p. 33.
11. Samar Pal *Tahirpur*, p.34; Rajshik Ray who was the founder of Chougram Zamindar family he was the 5 descendent of Jagananda Ray.
12. 'Kap' and 'Shashrio'. There is a division of the Hind Cast system.
13. Dharmanda Maha Bharati, *A Short History of Brahmin Rajas and Maharajas in Ancient and Modern Bengal*, Calcutta, 1906, p. 85.

14. 8 Damri = 1 Dam, 40 Dam = 1 Rupees.
15. Samar pal, *Tahirpur* . . . , p. 36.
16. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*.... p. 38.
17. Samar pal, *Tahirpur* p. 39
18. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit* p. 331.
19. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur* , p.40; Md. Mahabubur Rahman. *Varendrer Raja*...., p. 758.
20. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*...., p. 40.
21. She might have taken an adopted son if she desired. Rani Sankari did not agree to take an adopted son because no adopted son had been taken in the Tahirpur Raj family previously.
22. Samar Pal. *Tahirpur*, pp. 40-41.
23. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. ct*. p. 119
24. Betel leaf sailor was called Tamuli. (for detail see, Samar Pal *Taherpur*... p. 42; *Kalinath Choudhury*, *op.cit*. p.119).
25. Md. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*, p. 759; Samar Pal, Tahirpur ..., p. 44. W.W.Hunter, *A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol.viii, Delhi (Reprint), 1974, pp. 118-121.
26. Samar Pal. *Tahirpur*...., pp. 45-46.
27. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*.... p. 48.
28. *Sasisakhoreshor Ray* an article by Md. Mahabubar Rahman in *Rajshahi Pratibha* (ed.) by Dr. Saifuddin Choudhury et.el. Rajshahi 2000, p. 244.
29. *Satabdir Ayitijabahi Shanghaton* : Rajshahi Association an article by S.M.Abdul Latif in Rajshahi Association Sahitta Patrika, (ed.) by Tasikul Islam. Rajshahi, 1987, p. 15; Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit*. p. 342.
30. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*...., p. 41.

31. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*....., p. 49.
32. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*, p. 50
33. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur* , p. 49; It was the object of the Zamindar panchayet Sava (a council consisting of five or more members) to settle the dispute between Zamindars, to give legal advice to the Zamindars regarding rules and regulations and to increase income by imporving agriculture. But this council failed to gain effective result.
34. Md. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*....., p. 759.
35. Sri Bimal Prasad Ray, et el. *Natorer Kotha O Kahini*, Calcutta, 1981, p. 129.
36. M. A.Hamid, *Chalan Beeler Itikatha*, Pabna, 1967, p. 310.
37. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*....., p. 52.
38. Samar pal, *Tahirpur*, p. 53.
39. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*, p. 34.
40. Samar Pal, *Tahirpur*.... p. 34; The three brothers named Subuddhi, Keshaband and Jagananda were born of Vaduri family of Kashyapa tribe. These three brothers were nephews of kasanarayan and later generation of Udayanacharya; Jogananda Ray has two great grand sons named panchu Ray and Vuban Ray. Of them Panchu Ray's son Rasik Ray was the founder of chougram Rajfamily.
41. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 239
42. A.K.Moitra, *A Short History of Natore Raj Family*, Natore, 1912, p. 5.
43. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 239.
44. Loc. cit.
45. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el. *op. cit.* pp. 176-77
46. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 239.
47. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el, *op. cit.* p. 117.
48. Kazi Muhammad Messer, *Rajshahir Itihas*, vol.1, Bogra, 1965, p.127.

49. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 177.
50. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 178.
50. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 178.
51. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el. *op. cit.* p. 177.
52. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol.2, Natore, 1985, p. 38.
53. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 178.
54. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 179.
55. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el. *op. cit.* p. 138.
56. Loc cit: According to many historians father and brother of Ramkishore established the Zamindari.
57. M.A.Hamid, *op. cit.* p. 304.
58. Bimal prasad Ray, et.el, *op. cit.* p. 138; But M. A. Hamid written one son named Rajkishore Adhikari; (M.A. Hamid, *op. cit.* p. 304.)
59. M. A. Hamid, *op. cit.* p. 304.
60. Loc. cit.
61. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el, *op. cit.* p. 138.
62. M. A. Hamid, *op. cit.* p. 305.
63. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el. *op. cit.* p. 171.
64. Loc. cit; A terrible robbery was committed in the house of Manikchand Sarkar, the progenitor o Karachmari Sarker family, a male child of Manikchand Sarker and a servant were killed, Manikchand Sarker was seriously wounded, he was brought to Kansat of Nawabganj district and died there. After this robbery, Nimaichand Sarker, the eldest son of Manikchand Sarker gave his three brothers the property of Chhatardighi. He settled at karachmari as with his wife and children.
65. *Rajkumar Sarkar*, an article by Md. Mahabubur Rahman in *Rajshahi Prabha* (ed.) by Saifudding Choudhury et.el, Rajshahi 2000, p. 243.

66. Loc. cit.
67. *Jadunath Jiban Katha*, an article by Mahabubur Rahman in *Natorer Gourob* (ed.) by Moksurdur Rahman, Natore, 1989, p. 77.
68. Loc. cit.
69. Bimal prasad Ray, et el, *op. cit.* p. 172.
70. Mahabubur Rahman, *Jadunath Jiban Katha*, p. 78.
71. Loc. cit.
72. Mahabubur Rahman, *Jadunath Jiban Katha*, pp.77-78.
73. Mahabubur Rahman, *JJadunath Jiban Katha*, p. 78.
74. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el, *op. cit.* pp.172-173; son and daughter was stated below. Kumudnath, Susila Devi, Sukumari Devi, Jadunath, Bijaynath, Surobala Devi, Anidinath, Birendranath.
75. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el, *op. cit.* p. 78.
76. Aniruddha Ray, *Jadunath Sarkar*, Calcutta, 1999, p.9
- 76(a). Mahabubar Rahman, *Jadunath Jiban Katha*, p.76, Bimal Prasad,et.el., *op.cit.*, p.173.
77. A.K.Hasanuzzaman, et.el, *Aytijhye Rajshahi College Sharwakgrantha*, Rajshahi, 2001, p. 428; he was placed in 10th position in that examination.
78. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el, *op.cit.* p.176; At that time a student could take more than one subject as his honours subject.
79. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 249.
80. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. p. 173.
81. Mahabubur Rahman, *Jadunath Jiban Katha*, p.80. for detail see, Moni Bagchi, *Acharyya Jagannath O Sadhana*, Calcutta, 1975, p.66. also, Aniruddha Ray, *op.cit.*, p.10
82. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op.cit.* pp. 173-74.

83. Bimal Prasad Ray, op.cit. p.174.
84. A.K.M.Hesanuzzaman, et.el. op.cit. p. 428.
85. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p.174.
86. Loc cit; Name of the sons and daughters are as shown, Abonindranath, Munindranath, Sattendranath, Priyangbada, Depika, Shudha, *Rama*.
- 86 (a). Anirudha Ray, *op.cit.* p.14.
87. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 59.
88. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 249.
89. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 250; Bimal prasad Ray, et el, *op.cit.* p.130.
90. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, (vol. 2), p.26.
91. Bimal Prasad, et.el. *op. cit.* p. 130; Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 251.
92. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 251.
93. Bimal prasad Ray, et.el. *op.cit.* p.131.
- 93.(a) Loc.cit.
94. It has been mentioned that Hariprasad and Balaram, the sons of Darpanarayan had brought Sonabaju pargana and then they sold 12 ana ($\frac{3}{4}$ th) of it to the Zamindars of Tatiband, Haripur and Dulai (M.A. Hamid, *op. cit.* p. 302).
95. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 251.
96. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el, *op. cit.* p. 131.
97. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol. 2, p. 28.
98. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 253, Bimal prasad, et.el, *op. cit.* p. 131.
99. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 253.
100. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* pp. 253-254.

101. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 254, Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol.2, p. 29.
102. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol. 2, p. 29.
103. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 254.
104. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.al. *op.cit.* p.131; Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 254.
105. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 254.
106. Loc. cit.
107. Bimal Prasad Ray, et. el. *op. cit.* p. 132.
108. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol.2, p.30.
109. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p.255.
110. Loc. cit.
111. *Pramathnath Bishi: Jiban O Sahittakirtti* – an article by Amritalal Bala in *Rajshahi Association Sahitta Patrika* (ed.) by Tasikul Islam, Rajshahi, 202, p. 136; Kedarnath grandfather of Promothnath was the first graduate in Rajshahi District (*Pramathnath Bishi: Varedrabhumir Anna Shahitta Sadhak* (1901 - 1985) an article by Sureshchandra Moitra in *Natore gourob* ed. Moksudur Rahman, Rajshahi, 1989, p 150).
112. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, Vol.2, p.30; Nalini Bishi was a patriot Zamindar. When most of the Zamindars of Bengal were busy to please the British, Nalini Bishi Joined the liberation struggle of India and was sent to jail.
113. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* pp. 136 - 137
114. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 137; It has been mentioned about his passing B.A with honours in 1936. Here Amritalal Bala's information is more accepted because it is natural that after passing intermediate one should pass B.A. in 1929.
115. Suresh Chandro Moitra *op.cit.* p. 151; Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p.137.
116. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 137; Suresh Chandra Moitra wrote. He joined as a Ram Tamu researcher at Calcutta University in the year 1932. (Suresh Chandra Moitra, *op. cit.* p. 151).

117. Suresh Chandra Moitra, *op. cit.* p. 151.
118. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 137; He was attached with the Jugantar Patrika since 1950.
119. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 137.
120. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* vol. 2, p. 31.
121. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 145.
122. Loc. cit.
123. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 143.
124. Suresh Chandra Moitra, *op. cit.* p. 151.
125. Amritalal Bala, *op. cit.* p. 139.
126. Suresh Chandra Moitra, *op. cit.* p. 163.
127. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol. 2, p. 31.
128. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 256.
129. Loc. cit.
130. Loc. cit.
131. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol. 2, pp. 31-32.
132. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el. *op. cit.* pp. 132-33.
133. M.A.Hamid, *op. cit.* pp. 302-03
134. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* vol. 2, *op. cit.* p. 32.
135. Loc. cit.
136. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 58, Kazi Muhammad Meser, vol. II, *op.cit.* p.278; Though the area was like an island at present it became cultivable and a good number of people are living there. There is a bazar beside the Rajbari of Dubalhati. In the past it was very difficult to reach there from Naogaon. At present it is possible to go there from Hapunia by a pucca road.

137. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *Naogaon Mohukumar Itihas*, Naogaon, 1970, p.143.
138. Kazi Muhammad Meser, *op. cit.* p. 278; Khan Shaheb Muhammad Afzal, *op.cit.* p. 143; Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* pp.221-22.
139. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.224-25. The Raja told the Muslim rulers that as the area is full of forest and water, after paying the scheduled revenue he would have not got anything. Having believed the Raja, the Emperor asked him to send only 22 Kahan Kai fish. Khan Shaheb Muhammad Afzal, *op.cit.* opposed this opinion because there was no such instance/ proof that the Emperors of Delhi and his courtiers used to ate fish. So it can not be believed. We should also notice the means of communication of that period. It is surprising to thing of a man going to Delhi only with 22 Kahon Kai Fishes. *op.cit.* has mentioned that during the period of Todor Mol, the revenue of land fixed and the revenue of Dubalhati was as small amount. He has mentioned the revenue of Barakpur Pargana was 84952 Dam.(Khan Shabeb Muhammad Afzal *op.cit.* p.144; Kalinath Choudhury *op.cit.* p.225).
140. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p. 144.
141. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 223; After the period of Jagathram to next 44 generations no name has been mentioned. It is difficult to understand on which basis he considered Tulshiram as 45 generation. This opinion can not excepted because there is athentic evidence.
142. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.226.
143. Mahabubur Rahman. *Varendra Raja.....*, p.762
144. Kalinath Choudhury *op.cit.* p.226.
145. Kalinath Choudhury *op.cit.* p.227.
146. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op.cit.* p.144.
147. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p.229.
148. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p.228-229.
149. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja* p.763.
150. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.*, p.114.
151. Rajshahi College Annual Reort, Rajshahi, 1933, p.15; *Haranath Ray*, an article by Md.

Mahabubur Rahman in *Rajshahi Pratibha*, vol. I (ed.) by Saifuddin Choudhury, et.el. Rajshahi, 2000, p.241; Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.*, p. 232.

152. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.235.
153. Mahabubur Rahman *Varendrer Raja* ... p.763.
154. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p. 144, Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 235.
155. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 236.
156. Kazi Muhammad Meser, *op. cit.* pp. 278-279. Ibne Golam Samad, *Rajshahir Itibrata*. Rajshahi, 1999, p. 40.
157. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 236.
158. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 237.
159. Loc cit.
160. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p. 146.
161. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 240.
162. Loc cit.
163. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* pp. 240-241.
164. Raja Ramjiban in the house of Braja Ballav at kashimpur. Out of courtesy Braja Ballav presented him Kaligaon Pargana.
165. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p.241.
166. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* 241-42, Mahabur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja* ..., p.765.
167. Kazi Muhammad Meser, vol.2, *op. cit.* p.279.
168. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* 243.
169. Loc cit.

170. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* pp.243-244.
171. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.*, p. 244.
172. Mahababur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja* p. 765.
173. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 245.
174. Mahababur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*, p. 765.
175. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 246.
176. Mahababur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*..... p. 765.
177. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 247.
178. Ray Kedar Prasanna Lahiri Bahadur, *Family History of the Ray Bahadoor Zaminder of Kashimpur*. Calcutta. 1911, p.9.
179. Loc cit.
180. Ray Kedar Prasanna Lahiri Bahadur, *op.cit.* pp.9-10.
181. Ray Kedar Prasanna Lahiri Bahadur, *op.cit.* p.10.
181. Two ustads used to catch two hundred Bulbulies at the beginning of Agraheyan and train them. Fasting coarse thread at the waste they were were set to sit an iron bar. They were fed different items to find to keep the healthy and strong. Keeping a hand they were made free of being afraid. In every Poush Sankranti this festival was held.
182. Ray Kedar Prasanna Lahiri Bahadur, *op.cit.* p.7.
183. Ray Kedar Prasanna Lahiri Bahadur, *op. cit.* p.10.
184. Loc cit.
185. Loc cit.
186. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.258.
187. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p.145.

188. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.258, Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krishnendu Ray*, Dhaka, 1993, p.10.
189. Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krishnendu Ray*, p. 10.
190. *Rajshahir Balihar Rajbangsher Kritipurush: Raja Krishnendu Ray* an article by Anik Mahmood in *Rajshahi Association Sahitta Patrika* (ed) by Tasikul Islam, Rajshahi 1994, p.80; Name of Ramkanta was not found.
191. Dharmananda Maha Bharati, *op. cit.*, p. 115.
192. Loc cit.
193. Rani Satya Bati was the wife of Raghunath, the Zamindar of Bhitarband, Bahirbandh and Swaruppur of Rangpur. Rani Satyabati had Zamindari in eight parganas of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Bogra.
194. It is mentioned that Prankrishna and Ram Ram tactfully occupied Bahirbandh Pargana. Rani had not gifted it willingly.
195. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 258.
196. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar*..... p.81.
197. Ramchandra and Gyannath were the two sons of Prankrishna, Anik Mahmood, has told that somehow Gyan lost his property. It is not clear why he lost it. (Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krishnendu Ray*, p.81).
198. Dharmananda Maha Bharati, *op. cit.* p. 116.
199. Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p. 45.
200. Rajendra Ray got and Dehi Chandan Nagar and Shapura of Rajshahi, Khidirpur of Pabna, Dih Dari-gacha and Chumipara of Bogra, Lalgola, Domical and Mufatpur of Murshidabad from Natore Raj and expanded Zamindari.
201. Jadav Chakrabarti, *op.cit.* P. 39.
202. Khan Shalib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.* p.145.
203. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar*.... pp. 82-83; Mahbubar Rahman, *Varendrer Raja* p. 760.

204. Mahbubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja* P. 760.
205. Loc cit.
206. This village, Khajura, was mentioned in 'Kulango Shastra' as Khajuri. It was also known as 'Janardan Bati'. At present in the district of Natore is found. Many Brahmins lived in this village.
207. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshir Balihar* pp. 78-79.
208. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p. 262.
209. The residence of Shibsundari's father was at Prashadpur in Manda. She was a sophisticated Brahmin Lady. Her parents' names are not known. Her two nephews were Prafullah Chandra Choudhury and Hemchandra Choudhury.
210. Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krishnendu Ray*, p.16.
211. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*... , p. 761.
212. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar*.... p. 87; Md. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*... , p. 761.
213. He wrote some books : - Kavya: *Shitacharit*, drama *Sukhabhram*, drama *Adbhut*, gitikavya: *Banparajay*, *Jayantaparajay*, *Vrittasanyhar*, an Article 'AkhonAshi' 'Swabhavriti' Sangit: *Sitaharam Panchali* and *Gitavali*. His books have edited and printed several times.
214. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar* ... p. 88.
215. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar* ... pp. 86-87.
216. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar* ... p. 87.
217. Mahabubur Rahman, *Varendrer Raja*.... p. 761; Anik Mahmood, *Rajakrishnanda*.... p. 22; Khan Shahib Muhammad Afzal, *op. cit.*, p. 145, They, mentioned about his having the title Raja in 1878. It is not known when Raja Krishnendra Ray got the letter of title of the Lieutenant Governor. But it was published in the Gazzete in 1880. So Anik Mahmood wrote 1880 as his title.
218. Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krhsinendu*.... pp. 30-31.

219. Anik Mahmood, *Raja Krhsinendu*..... p. 32.
220. Jadav Mazumdar was the father of Kushum Kumari whose rasidence was Harishpur near Natore.
221. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar* pp. 85, 86.
222. Anik Mahmood, *Rajshahir Balihar* p. 88.
223. Khan Shahib Muhamood Afzal, op.cit. p.146.
224. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el, *op. cit.* p.135.
225. Loc cit.
226. Rada Campany is very much able to built ship.
227. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el, *op. cit.* pp. 135-136.
228. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el, *op. cit.* p. 136.
229. Loc cit.
230. Loc cit.
231. Two Ustads (teachers) used to catch two hundred Bulbulies at the beginning of Agrahayan and train them. Fasting coarse thread at the waste they were were set to sit an iron bar. They were fed different items to find to keep the healthy and strong. Keeping in hand they were made free of being afraid. In every Poush Sankranti this festival was held.
232. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* p.137.
233. Loc cit; later on in 1969 that school was turned into a high school and at present no sign of that health center is found.
234. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *op. cit.* pp.134-35.
235. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*, vol.1, p. 56.
236. Kalinath Choudhury, *op. cit.* p.264.
237. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* p.57.

238. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.al, *op. cit.* p. 81.
239. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* p.57.
240. *Uttar Banger Itihaser Ek Bichitra Adhyay : Barister Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhurir Jibon O Karma*, an article by Kamrun Rahman in *Natorer Gaurab* (ed.) by Moksudur Rahman Natore, 1989, p. 123.
241. Loc cit.
242. Loc cit.
- 242 (a). Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas*.... , p.58.
243. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* p. 58.
244. Kamrun Rahman, *op. cit.* p. 125.
245. *Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury* an article by S. M. Abdul Lalif in *Rajshahi Pratibha*, (ed.) by Saifuddin Chudury, vol.1, Rajshahi, 2000, p. 259.
246. S. M. Abdul Latif, *op. cit.* p. 260.
247. Kamrun Rahman, *op. cit.* p. 127.
248. Loc. cit.
249. Kamrun Rahman, *op. cit.* p. 127.
250. S.M.Abdul Laif, op.cit. p. 264.
251. Samar Pal, *Natorer Itihas* Vol.1, p. 58.