

Dighapatia Estate -

A Historical Reconstruction of the Zamindari

Dighapatia Zamindar house is located about 3 miles north of Natore town on the northern side of Natore – Bogra highway. The founder of the Dighapatia estate was Dayaram Ray.¹ He was the most capable dewan of the Natore Raj. He was born in a village named Kalam under Singra Police Station of the then Natore sub-division.² Narsingha Ray was his father who belonged to *Tili* family.³ He was born in the year 1680. Sitaram was his only brother. They had lost their mother in their early childhood.⁴ In his early career, Dayaram Ray got appointed as an ordinary employee under the Raja Ramjiban of Natore Raj family when Ramjiban was in power.⁵ Later, by virtue of his merit and work efficiency he was raised to the position of Dewan of Natore Raj. Raja Ramjiban had a great faith in him because of his honesty and sense of responsibility.⁶ Despite having no formal education in the school, he was well-versed both in Bengali and Persian language to conduct the functions of the Zamindari estate. In fact, Natore began to emerge as an important Zamindari by dint of his hard labour. There was an influential landlord named Sitaram Ray at Bhushana, Muhammadpur under Jessore district. This Sitaram revolted and all on a sudden stopped paying taxes. To punish this landlord, one Raghunandan was assigned to send force against him. As Raghunandan was sick, Dewan Dayaram was sent to deal with this revolt.⁷ Sitaram was defeated and in the long last he was interned. Dayaram's talent – and diplomacy was the main reason behind Sitaram's defeat. Sitaram lost his whole property and his belonging too. While Dayaram was to take possession of Sitaram's belongings he took away the statue of Krishnaji with him and brought it to Dighapatia. He installed the statue as a family Bigraha and started^d worshipping it with much devotion.⁸ He later on established a big temple at Dighapatia.

Dayaram brought Sitaram as a captive and handed him over to Natore Raj. It was Natore jail where Sitaram breathed his last.⁹ There is, however, controversy about his death.¹⁰ As Dayaram brought Sitaram to the darbar of Nawab, he was honoured with the title "*Ray-Rayan*" by the Nawab¹¹ and at the blessing of Raghunandan he gained Ramjiban. In recognition of bravery and winning the fight against Sitaram. Ramjiban allotted Dayaram some portion of the confiscated territory of Sitaram as ordered by the Nawab.¹² This gifted property were identified as Taraf Silimpur, Pargana Bhaturia, Taraf Nanda-kuja of Pabna district. Taraf Maul Kalna, Taraf Dumai of Jessore district. Naukhila belonged to this Taraf Dumai. Some portion of Naukhila fell under Mymensingh and rest under Bogra district.¹³ It may be noted that all the Tarafs mentioned in the Dumrai was the most prominent one in terms of strengthening the economic foundation of Dighapatia. Incidentally, the collection of revenue during this time rose approximately Rs. 20000.00 from Rs.35000.00. Dayaram used to look after administrative matters of the Natore estate along with the supervision of his own Zamindari (i.e. Dighapatia) As a result, he emerged as one of the most influential personalities of Natore Raj. In course of time he became the most trustworthy person of Ramjiban and this was due to his extraordinary merit, perseverance and some human qualities. The Raja himself used to pay respect to Dayaram and rely on him in any circumstances. His worth was fairly known when he was empowered to sign the "Nuptial tie of Ramakanta and Rani Bhavani in 1137B.S. (i.e., 1730. He was also authorised to sign the deeds of the Brahmattara lands under the estate.¹⁴ After the demise of Ramkanta, Rani Bhavani took the full charge of administration of Natore Raj showing and respect to Dayaram. She is reported to have not taken any course of action without his prior permission.¹⁵ Dayaram used to perform the assigned responsibility with utmost sincerity. During the tenure of Dayaram, the name and fame of Natore Raj spread out far and near and nothing could impede its progress.

Ramkanta became Raja after the death of his father Ramjiban. As Ramkanta was very young in age, he failed to rule successfully rather indulged in prodigality. Dayaram tried to bring Ramkanta to right track but was humiliated and in the long run was removed from the office of the Dewan by young Ramkanta.¹⁶ Having failed to bring back the young Raja to the right path, Dayaram complained against Ramkanta to Alivardi Khan, Nawab of Bengal.¹⁷ Nawab Alivardi Khan removed Ramkanta from the office and gave the charge to Deviprashad who belonged to the same family. At the later stage, however, Dayaram helped reinstating Ramkanta and Rani Bhavani to power after seeing their distressful condition and sufferings. Eventually, Dayaram got back his post of Dewan.¹⁸ Dayaram was a devout Hindu. He constructed "Krishnaji" temple in his own capital Dighapatia and donated huge amount of land for the maintenance of the temple. Besides, he further constructed two temples named Krishnadev and Gopaldev at Mashudpur of Jessore and Binod of Murshidabad district respectively. He donated lands to look after the Brahmins there.¹⁹ Although Dayaram was not much educated, he was an enlightened man and showed interest in education. He arranged for learning Sanskrit and established many Chatuspatis for it. To meet up the expenditure of these academic centers, he arranged monthly and yearly donations. To deal with the scarcity of water, he arranged digging ponds in many areas with a view to removing the suffering of people.²⁰

In 1734, Dayaram handed over the power to Ramkanta and preferred retirement. He constructed Dighapatia palace (Rajbari) in the land, which he received from Ramjiban. The Zamindari of Dayaram became one of the leading Zamindaris during his time. He departed in 1760 at the age of 80 leaving behind his only son Jagannath Ray and other five daughters.²¹

Jagannath Ray

After the death of Dayaram, his only son Jagannath Ray inherited all the property, left by former. Jagannath Ray was just 15 years old when he took the

possession of the Estate (1776).²² Within a short time an unprecedented famine came over the whole of Bengal with a huge loss of human lives. During this famine, Rajshahi District suffered a lot²³. This famine also affected Dighapatia Zamindari like other parts of Rajshahi.

Due to this famine, it was not possible to collect the land revenue from the peasants of this region but timely payment of revenue to British company was customary failing which the Zamindari was to be auctioned. Under the given situation, Dighapatia Zamindari fell into a great crisis. The reserve fund Dayaram left behind was exhausted and this affected the future of the Zamindari of Dighapatia. At this juncture Jagannath decided to sell out some parts of his estate in order to get over the crisis and pay dues to the East India Company Government. During this critical period, Nandarani, wife of Jagannath Ray came forward as counselor to help her husband and took care to save the Zamindari. As per her advice, family expenditure was paid off from own farm and whole of the stock fund from Zamindari was used to settle the dues and taxes to be paid to the government.²⁴ With this timely precautionary step, Zamindari was saved from being put in auction. It is, however, true that there was hardly any development of the Dighapatia Estate during the Zamindari of Jagannath Ray. He did not take any effective steps during his tenure to help and change the fate of the people of Dighapatia. Many Zamindars of Bengal lost their Zamindaris as a result of the heavy burden of land revenues which could not be realized from the Zamindars. It was indeed an exceptional credit on the part of Jagannath Ray that he could save his Zamindars at this crisis moment. The role of his wife Nandarani in this respect was, however, a significant factor behind such an exceptional case that happened at Dighapatia. Jagannath Ray had 16 sons and daughters in all and excepting Prannath' all had their prematured death. Jagannath Ray breathed his last in 1790 at the age of 45 only.²⁵

Prannath Ray

Prannath Ray was the third Raja of Dighapatia Family. He was born in 1786. After his father's death, he was nominated the Raja of Dighapatia Estate. As he was a minor, the Zamindari fell into the hand of "Court of wards" with the demise of his father. He took the charge of Zamindari after reaching his adulthood. Prannath Ray was a trustworthy Zamindar. He used to love sports. He was also fond of animal husbandry. He used to rear up animals like elephants, horses, dogs and many other animals. During his tenure, there was, however, no development as such of the Zamindari. However, he was an open hearted man and is still remembered for his charity. He observed the *sraddha* of his mother with grandeur.²⁶ He had no son. He adopted Prasannanath as son. He died in 1827 when he was only 41 years old.²⁷

Prasannanath Ray

Prasannanath Ray, the fourth Raja of Dighapatia Family was born in 1826. He was the next ancestor of Dighapatia Raj after his father's death. The Zamindari again fell into the hands of "Court of Wards" as he was a minor child.²⁸

He studied in Rampur-Boalia (Now Rajshahi) Zela School.²⁹ Despite having education for quite a long time in the school, he failed to gather knowledge of English language. However, he was fairly expert with regard to Zamindari activities. He indulged in bad habits as he left his school. According to report, after leaving school he with some unsocial elements of the Europeans who tried to tempt him to several indulgences and fleece. But he soon shook off their influences and learned to think and judge for himself. He at last stumbled into the right path and found for himself a field for active usefulness.³⁰

He came back to right path at last being aware of his faults and concentrated in Zamindari. In fact, during his time onward the Family started prospering. Taking

charge of Zamindari he purchased many pieces of land of Jessore, Nadiya and Rajshahi and thus speeded up the development of the estate of Dighapatia. He was cheerful, amicable and the renowned hunter and he had inclination to education. He was keen at hunting birds, tigers and fishing.³¹ Raja Prasannanath had great contribution to the field of education. In 1851, the Deputy Magistrate of Natore established a school in Natore which later on merged with Prasannanath Academy at Dighapatia with the financial grant of Raja Prasannanath. The Deputy Magistrate of Natore sent special thanks to Prasannanath for such a great contribution. In his version it has been reported "Impressed with these sentiments, I hail the establishment of the Prasannanath Academy as a harbinger of better days for Rajshahi."³²

The officiating Magistrate of Natore Subdivision established a hospital at Natore in 1841. To meet the required expenditure relating to Dighapatia English School and Natore Hospital. Prasannanath issued a government promissory note of Rupees one lack including one-year interest to government through the Commissioner. Receiving this grant the government sent a letter to Commissioner on 16th July, 1851 appreciating this sacrifice of Prasannanath. The government formed a committee to run the school and hospital. The Commissioner, Judge, Collector and Magistrate were included in the committee as ex-officio members. The government further formed a sub committee electing officiating deputy Magistrate of Natore and other local elites as members.³³ Prasannanath was also honoured for his works of public welfare. Prasannanath constructed a number of roads within his Estate. The existing capital road from Dighapatia to Rampur Boalia (Rajshahi) was previously extended up to Natore. Later on the road was further extended up to Dighapatia and was connected with the road to Bogra. To repair that road Prasannanath donated a lumpsum of Rs. thirty five thousands.³⁴ He not only contributed to public welfare related establishment but also to religious establishment

as well. He established Prasannakali under his own name and arranged her lunch and dinner therein. Everyday one mound of rice was cooked during day and during night about 10-15 Brahman would take lunch with full satisfaction.³⁵

Prasannanath became immortal establishing Shivmandir at random in various places and all these bear the testimony about his great gesture. Besides, he used to help destitute people and excavated a pond to alleviate the scarcity of drinking water. The Government honoured Raja Prasannanath with the title "Raja Bahadur" in recognition British of his unparalleled contribution and good deeds. The then Viceroy Mr. Lord Dalhousie handed over the certificate for his title "Rajbahadur" at a Public Darbar in government House. In that Durbar many prestigious Rajas including Maharaja of Patiala and other local elites were present.³⁶

Having been satisfied with the performance of Raja Prasannanath, the government appointed him. Honorary Magistrate. He took over the charge of that prestigious post on 10th September 1857. 20 gunmen including a police jamadar were put under his command.³⁷

Most of the buildings and swinging structures were built at Dighapatia during his time. After the earthquake in 1897 most of these structures got destroyed. The cheerful Prasannanath died in 1861 only at the age of 35.³⁸ As he had no sons and daughters to succeed him, he took Pramathnath as his adopted son before his death.

Raja Pramathnath Ray

Raja Pramathnath Ray inherited his fathers Zamindari of Dighapatia after his father's death in 1861. It may be recalled here that Dayaram Ray was the founder of Dighapatia Raj and Pramathnath had a direct link to his daughter's family and then he came out as a family member of Dayaram-Daughter's family. Pramathnath was born in 1849 and since he was a minor, the Zamindari came under the custody of the East India Company as per 'Court of wards'.³⁹

Keeping pace with the family tradition for his education he was admitted into the Watson Institution in 1863.⁴⁰ His mother had a great affection for Pramathnath. She rented a house in Calcutta. During the vacation, he used to visit his mother's house and after completing the vacation he used to get back to his institute. From this institute Pramathnath got through his Entrance examination of the University.⁴¹ Later on, he was admitted into Presidency College of Calcutta when he became adult, he had to discontinue education and take interest in the affairs of the Zamindari. Within a short time, he could show his calibre as a Zamindar and by dint of his labour and wisdom he proved many excellencies of the estates. By his own effort he also captured several Zamindaris. Among these most notables were Seorafuly Estate which was included in Hugly and Habra, Dihi Shivpur, Taraf Bishalpur, Rampur Bowalia and Vaidya Belgharia which were included in Rajshahi District. He acquired the Zamindari of Muhammadpur which was included into Jessore District and he also occupied Telihati which was a part of Madhya Narail Zamindari and some of Nasrat Shahi's Zamindari. The area of the Dighapatia Zamindari became doubled when it incorporated the Zamindari of Shell Barsa, (in Bogra) Pratab Bazu Pargana (Bogra) and Dihi Ramchandrapur (Nadia). In this way the boundaries of Dighapatia Zamindari were extended upto Rajshahi, Faridpur, Pabna, Jessore, Murshidabad, Habra, Nadia and Hugli districts.⁴² What a contrast! When the Zamindari of Dighapatia was extending its territory, several renowned and mighty Zamindars including Natore Raj were going to loose their estate due to their inability to pay revenue in time. It was a single credit of Pramathnath who was able to run Zamindari facing all odds. During their tenure Dighapatia Zamindars had been richer than all other Zamindars of Rajshahi of their time.⁴³ Pramanathnath, although not only a successful zamindar but which stood for him for the better had some human qualities prospect of Dighapatia. He had an extraordinary thrust for English literature, Science and History. After lunch he used to pass his time by doing study.

In 1868, he donated six thousand rupees to Rajshahi Girls High School. Besides, in order to meet the expenditure of the school, he donated an annual government 'promissory note' amounting to Rs. 180.00 only. He arranged three scholarships for the development of this school.⁴⁴ In addition, he established several number of schools. He was the founder of Rajshahi Association.⁴⁵ He contributed Rs.1,50,000.00 with a view to developing Rajshahi college through Rajshahi Association.⁴⁶ In 1871 a Madhyamik School was founded at Noukhila (Bogra District) and it was directly patronized by Pramathnath. Thereafter in 1882, the school turned into as high school.

Pramathnath had also enough contributions in the medical sector. He donated Rs.10,000.00 for the construction of Rajshahi (Charity Medical Centre⁴⁷. The first building was constructed in the premises of existing Rajshahi College. During 1871, he founded a charity medical center at Noukhila of Bogra district.⁴⁸ He bore all the expenses like his father, for the renovation of the road which leads to Rampur Boalia (Rajshahi) from Dighapatia.⁴⁹ As a benevolent man he never hesitated to offer financial assistance to the distressed people. In 1871, the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi wrote a letter to the Viceroy of India that the Government of India should offer him the title "Raja Bahadur" as a measure of recognition of his achievements as a zamindar. The Viceroy responded to this appeal and offered him the title "Raja" on behalf of the Government.⁵⁰

In 1877 Pramathnath was nominated a member of Bengal Law Committee. He took great initiative to pass the road tax act.⁵¹ He served the Rajshahi association as a President and obviously it was his brain child. He was as such a zamindar who always kept himself busy in thinking the betterment of his subjects. It was the reality that he increased the tax rate to his subjects but didn't torture them in respect of its realization. All the time he tried to create a congenial atmosphere so that his people could go through peacefully and happily. During his tenure, people would

pass their time without facing any trouble or hazardness. If he had come to know that one of his countrymen was being tortured having no particular reason by any of his employee, then he would take prompt initiative to stop the harassment without making any delay. He would not solely depend on the adviser regarding people's happiness.

Pramathnath constructed a building in Rajshahi. He passed away, when he was only 34, in 1883, he left four sons – Pramadanath, Basanta Kumar, Sarat Kumar, Hemandra Kumar and only one daughter Indraprava by name respectively.⁵² All of them were just minor children when he left this world. Before his death he made a Will. He endorsed Dighapatia Zamindari to his elder son as well as he handed over his self earned property to his rest of sons. Consequently, Dighapatia Zamindari was divided into two parts. Accordingly Barataraf used to link up with Dighapati and Chota Taraf with Dayarampur.⁵³

Pramadanath Ray

Pramadanath Ray was born in 1876. According to will, after his father's demise, he inherited the Zamindari of Dighapatia. During his underage Zamindari went away under the supervision of "Court of Wards". In 1894, when he became adult, he got the responsibilities to look after the Zamindari.⁵⁴

At first he studied at Rajshahi College and later on he studied at Presidency College, Calcutta. He was a knowledge seeker and had a great passion for education. He spent a lot of money for education purpose. He took over the charge of Dighapatia School so that it could run smoothly. He took over Noukhila school under his supervision which was founded by his father as well. He made a building that valued Rs. 6,000.00 (six thousand) for P N School, Rajshahi.⁵⁵ He donated property which was amounted to Rs.25 thousand to Rajshahi College. He started a scheme of scholarship for the student of M.A. of Rajshahi College which was amounted to

Rs.10.00 so that student could be inspired for higher education.⁵⁶ As a movement of Queen Victoria, Diamond Jubilee Industrial School was founded by Raja Pramathnath in 1898.⁵⁷ This school played a vital role for the development of silk industry. For this school, Raja Pramadanath donated 34 *bighas* of landed property in Rajshahi.⁵⁸ He established a library at Dighapatia as well. Raja Pramadanath Ray contributed a piece of land for the establishment of Rajshahi library. He donated some land for the foundation of Museum as well. For the bee breeding center, he donated 34 *bighas* of land which was amounted to Rs. 20 thousand for Rajshahi agriculture farm.⁵⁹ He donated Rs. 20 thousand to lady Duffrin Fund.⁶⁰ He contributed Rs. 25 thousand for Rajshahi Hospital. He donated Rs. 7 thousand for 'Natore charity hospital' that was established by Prasannanath. Apart from these, he used to spend about Rs. 25 thousand for charity purpose annually. He supervised Naukhila Charity Hospital which was founded by his father.⁶¹ He accepted the liabilities of spending all the required money for the renovation of Rajshahi – Natore Road.⁶² He was the president of Rajshahi Association in 1901.⁶³ To meet the expenditure of Rajshahi Association he donated Rajshahi Town Hall to Rajshahi Association.⁶⁴

To mitigate the water crisis of Natore's inhabitants he established "Natore water works' where he donated Rs. 1,500.⁶⁵ In 1901 "Bengal land Holder Association" was established by Raja Jagindranath Ray, Maharaja Surya Kanta Acharya Chaudhury, Ashutosh Choudhury as well as Pramadanath.⁶⁶ During 1897 the summit of Bengal state congress had been started in Natore on 10th, 11th and 12th June respectively, Pramadanath bore a part of the entire expenditure of that summit.⁶⁷

Lieutenant Governor Sir Lancilot Hare came to Dighapatia in 1909 and planted a banyan tree as a mark of memory in front of Palace (the house of the Raja). He had been a member of parliament in 1909, 1920 and 1926 respectively. In 1922, he joined himself Delhi as member of parliament and was invited to Imperial Festival.⁶⁸

He was a successful zamindar no doubt. During his tenure, Dighapatia Zamindari made a considerable progress. His Zamindari was also found at Silimpur, Sara, Karanja and Bhulbariah in Pabna district.⁶⁹ He received an award from government as “Raj Bahadur” for his successful exercise of power and made people’s life style developed.⁷⁰

Dighapatia Rajbari and *mandir* were pulled down to the ground due to fatal earthquakes. Then he rebuilt Rajbari and made a beautiful garden. The Post office Library, Club, Daily bazaar, hat, Thakur Bari, medical Centre, Stable, Bungalow of Dighapatia are the marks of his achievements. He planted huge mahogany tree that helped to increase the elegance both of the school road and steamer *ghat*. He was as such zamindar who was lavish in manner. He had a recreation boat dubbed as “Nurjahan”. He died in 1925. He left six sons namely, Prativanath, Bijendranath, Sailesnath, Chanchal Kumar, Tushar Kumar, Surendranath and two daughters Ushaprava and Nilimaprava respectively.⁷¹

Basanta Kumar Ray

As per will, Pramathnath’s second wife lived at Dayarampur along with her sons Basanta Kumar Ray, Sharat Kumar Ray, Hemandra Kumar Ray. We may recall here that the previous name of Dayarampur was Chalk Abhirampur. The place was dubbed as “Dayarampur and it had been named as the name of the founder of Dighapatia Raja Dayaram.”⁷² The construction activities of Dayarampur Rajbari started in 1297 B.S., i.e., 1890 and ended in 1304 B.S., i.e., 1897. From the architectural view, the Dayarampur Rajbari has some exceptionality. New architectural design had been introduced in that building. The Rajbari was surrounded by high walls and inside the wall, several types of fruit and flower plants which were brought from different places, had been planted for the beautification of the building-complex.

The new state, which was situated in Dayarampur, had been dubbed as Dighapatia Junior Raj Dayarampur state". It was also known as Chotataraf of Dighapatia state. This Zamindari was divided into four parts i.e. (i) Dayarampur (Natore) (ii) Zhenidah (iii) Chota Pir (Dinajpur) (iv) Seaurafully (Hugly). There were different Sheresta for each and every estate. The main head office was in Dayarampur Rajbari.⁷³ The corporate income of these estates were Rs. 3,00,000.00 annually. There was a coal mine in Birbhum district which belonged to them.⁷⁴

Basanta Kumar Ray was the first Raja of Chhota Taraf of Dighapatia Raj. He obtained his M.A. degree in philosophy from Calcutta University and thereafter he obtained B.L.degree. He was a brilliant student and got the first place in M.A. examination. Like his father he was benevolent and a sound scholar. He lost his wife who is said to have expired at the time of giving birth of a child.⁷⁵ After wife's death, he did not get married for the second time and he lost his all interest from mundane activities like Zamindaris.

As a philanthropist Basanta Kumar Ray donated Rs.2,50,000.00 for the progress of agricultural education . His consideration was to boost up the economy of the country through the development of agriculture. He contributed the above mentioned amount on 11th August in 1920.⁷⁶ Thereafter, the supervisor of Bashanta Kumar Trust agreed to pay furthermore Rupees one lakh. Though the college didn't take shape at his existing period, it took shape in 1936.⁷⁷

He contributed Rs.15.00 monthly to Hamantakumari Sangskritik College (Rajshahi) for cultural education in Rajshahi.⁷⁸ He subscribed Rs. 20,000 for the construction of old Art building of Rajshahi College.⁷⁹ In 1928 Rajshahi P.N.Girls School turned into High School. Then, the responsibilities of officiating the school went to the Raja of Dighapatia so that the school could be developed. Basanta Kumar gave a company paper valued Rs.10,200.00⁸⁰ to the P. N. High school at a

time. A library was built in the Dayarampur Rajbari by the joint effort of Basanta Kumar and his brother. The library possessed several valuable and antique books.⁸¹ During the establishment of Rajshahi Museum he subscribed Rs.30,000.00 for the development of the Museum.⁸²

Sharat Kumar Ray

In 1876 Sharat Kumar Ray was born in the family of Dighapatia.⁸³ As per Will of his father, Pramathnath, Basanta Kumar, elder brother of Sharat Kumar, used to look after the Zamindari. Having no child and immature death of Basanta Kumar the responsibilities of looking after the Zamindari went to Sharat Kumar. He got married Srimati Kiran Rekha Ray who was the first daughter of Girish Chandra Majumdar and an inhabitant of Kalikapur village, Baraigram Police Station in 1901. His better half passed away in 1918.⁸⁴

The academic career of Sharat Kumar started from Rajshahi. After completing eight class from Rajshahi Collegiate School, he set out for Calcutta along with his brother for higher education. He passed his F.A. degree from Calcutta University. Then he got admitted himself in Ripan College, Calcutta. He passed his F.A. Examination successfully.⁸⁵ During his study at Ripan College Lal Gopal Chakrabarti, the then professor of that college was engaged as his house tutor. It is said that he got many information about Rabindranath from his tutor Lal Gopal Chakraborti. Thereafter, he took admission in Presidency College. Ramendra Sunder Tribedi get engaged as his house tutor during his study at Presidency College. Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose and Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray were his teachers as well. He passed honours from Presidency College and under the same college he completed his M.A. in Physics.⁸⁶

He had a passion for Literature. When he was at Presidency College, Calcutta, he became the member of Bangiya Shahitya Parishad. Then, Digendranath Tagore

was the president of that committee. The session of the Bangiya Shahitya Parishad used to take place at the residence of Raja Binod Krishna Ray in Sobhabazar. There Sarat Kumar got a chance of coming into close contact with several renowned writers poets⁸⁷ and intellectuals. There he got Nabin Chandra Sen who was well known as the poet of *Palasir Yuddha*, a famous book of Bengali poems. When he was at Calcutta, he also met Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya. For the first time Sharat Kumar met Rabindranath Tagore at the residence of Natore Raj which was located at Calcutta. Jagadindranath Ray got acquainted him with Rabindranath.⁸⁸

“*Bharatiya Sangeet Samaj*” was established by the joint initiative of Rabindranath, Jyatindranath, Jagadindranath of Natore and Dighapatia’s, Zamindar Pramadanath. The Sangeet Samaj was built in 1897. Sarat Kumar was one of its popular members. Here, a deep relationship was built up between Sharatkumar and Rabindranath.⁸⁹ Hemendra Kumar Ghosh was a class mate of Sharat Kumar. Hemendra Kumar’s residence was at 82, Sitaram Ghosh Street, Calcutta. Sharat Kumar used to visit Hemendra Kumar’s residence almost regularly. Suresh Chandra Samajpati, the editor of *Sahitya Patrika* had a common programme of gossiping at the residence of Hemendra Kumar and he wrote the criticism of literature there only. Suresh Chandra Samajpati used to criticize the writing of Rabindranath. Sharat Kumar would have to pay a rapt attention to the criticism and he took it by his heart⁹⁰ “Bangiya Sahitya Parishad” arranged the “Bangiya Sahitya Sammelan”. In 1908 the first session of Bangiya Sahitya Sammelan took place at the residence of Raja Manindra Chandra Nandi of Kasimbazar and the second session of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad took place at Rajshahi in the month of February, 1909. The session which was held at Rajshahi, Sharat Kumar was the president of the reception committee.

A Huge number of renowned and distinguished person took part in that conference. Among distinguished delegates worthy of mention were Maharaja

Manindra Chandra Nandi, Ramendra Sundar Trivedi, Acharjya Prafulla Chandra Ray. They cordially accepted the hospitality of Sharat Kumar Ray. The third session of the similar conference took place at Bhagalpur in 1910. Sharat Kumar participated there. Akshay Kumar Moitra (Maitreya) and Ramprashad Chanda participated in the conference as representatives of North Bengal. Sharat Kumar's intention of collecting antiquities drew the attention of the delegates present in the conference. Sharat Kumar had the privilege to draw the attention of all the scholars and thereby he got an opportunity to spread education in the region vis-a-vis in India.⁹¹ Sharat Kumar built many libraries, education centers in different parts of the states. His elder brother was Basanta Kumar. After Basanta Kumar's death, Sharat Kumar built a school named "Kumar Basanta Kumar M.E. School" in memory of his elder brother. All the expenditure would have to bore from Zamindari state.⁹² Sharat Kumar made a library, which was big in size and enriched with valuable books at Dayarampur Rajbari (Palace). He had contributions to upgrade the public library of Rajshahi District. He served as a President of the library since 1925-1942⁹³ The Trustee will of Rajshahi General Library which came into bills in 1929. Sharat Kumar engaged himself as a member of the Trustee Board. After serving 18 years at a stretch as president, he tendered his resignation in 1942.⁹⁴ The pace of development of the library stumbled due to his absence. During his presidency, several discussion regarding several library work would took place there. Sharat Kumar had all along to take part in most of the academic discussions.

He not only established educational institutions, but was himself a lover of books by several renowned authors. Rabindranath, Bankim Chandra, Sharat Chandra, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Byron, P. B. Shelley, John Keats,⁹⁵ etc. were among his selections. He published a book named as *Tailik Jati*. Mahan Lal was his notable another work of creation. His wife, Kiran Rekha Ray, wrote two books entitled "*Varendra Randhan*" and "*Varendra Jalkhabar*" respectively.⁹⁶ She was

equally a dualist scholar and a writer with the joint initiative of the then Raj of Rajshahi, Zamindars and distinguished personalities, he built up a Association named Rajshahi Association in order to make Rajshahi district a popular and renamed center in any sense. Sharat Kumar was nominated as a special member of Rajshahi Association". Then, there was no provision for railway communication. To travel any where by rail, each and every one had to go to Natore district to catch up the train. Sharat Kumar made a move in this respect and he took the help of the Rajshahi Association for this. As a result of this initiative for the first time the first train plying in Rajshahi, started on 14th March, 1929, in Rajshahi district.⁹⁷ It was really breakthrough of the district so far as the communication system was concerned. There was no recreation or waiting room at Malanchi station, a railway station of Rajshahi. Sharat Kumar made a first class waiting room there from his own purse.⁹⁸ He spent a large amount of fund for the renovation of the road of that locality.

Philanthropic zamindar Sharat Kumar Ray realized that for the development of the agrarian based economy of the country as a whole effective steps should be taken for the all round development of agriculture. In this consideration, he built up an upto date and developed agricultural farm at Dayarampur which possessed 300 bighas of land. He named the farm "Rani Drabamai Farm" after the name of his mother.⁹⁹ He made a farm with an intention to create employment opportunity for the local youths and made the people aware regarding the advanced technology of cultivation. He constructed a canal from the Baral River in order to facilitate the irrigation of those farms". Not only this, he sent his son, Kumar Bibudhnath B.Sc., to America for higher education on agriculture. He also built up a poultry farm¹⁰⁰. He sent a man named Samarendranath Choudhury to Lucknow for the advanced training on poultry farm. It is noteworthy that he bore the expense of this training for Samarendranath Choudhury.

With a view to improving the overall conditions of the livestock of the country, he built up a cattle-breeding center under the close supervision of Drabamai Farm.¹⁰¹ He collected so many highly productive and developed livestock from several countries for this farm. In order to breed high breeding cattle he brought two developed and high productive oxen from Bhagalpur so that people could be inspired regarding the venture and initiative.

He established a sugar mill in Dayarampur. The sugarcane, what was produced in Drabamaie Farm, was used in this sugar mill.¹⁰² In fact there was no any sugar mill in the area as before. He planted several high productive and developed types of mango trees on 25 bighas of land, which was adjacent to the Rajbari. An agriculture farm was established at Rajshahi as well by "Rajshahi Association".

Sharat Kumar was such a man who had a fascination for travel. He set out for London along with his younger brother Hemandra Kumar after the completion of his Master degree in Physics. Incidentally, Jagadish Chandra Bose, the teacher of Sharat Kumar was going to London along with his better half by the same voyager.¹⁰³ Apart from visiting London, his extensive tours were included places and countries like Egypt, Italy and few countries of Europe. During traveling he visited several museums. As a result, he was motivated to know about Archaeology. Under such a background it may be said that, "Varendra Annusandhan Samity" was built up by the joint endeavour of Sharat Kumar Ray, Shashadhar Ray, Akshay Kumar Maitreya and Ramaprashad Chanda in 1910.¹⁰⁴ Later on, the famous historian Rakhal Das Bandhapadhya and Ram Kamal Singha joined "The Varendra Samity."¹⁰⁵ Then they contemplated themselves in searching operation in North Bengal. Within a short span of time several antiques and archeological assets were collected.¹⁰⁶ As a result, the necessity of establishing a Museum was failed and this hunt led them to seek the permission from the government of India to establish a non government museum at Rajshahi district on the date of 14th February, 1913.¹⁰⁷ Raja Pramadanath helped

to buy some land for Museum. The then Governor of Bengal Mr. Carmichael laid the foundation stone of the museum on 13th November in 1916.¹⁰⁸ Undoubtedly the achievement most unmemorable achievements of Sharat Kumar was his initiative to found the Varendra Museum. Sharat Kumar himself contributed monthly Rs.200.00 as donation to meet the expenditure. The major cost of the books which were published from Varendra Anusandhan Samity, were borne by Sharat Kumar himself.¹⁰⁹ Sharat Kumar sent Nani Gopal Majumdar, the curator of Museum to get some modern and advanced training on archaeological excavation, which was under the direct supervision of the then Director General Sir John Marshal of Archaeological Survey of India.¹¹⁰ He also spent money for excavations in different parts of North Bengal.

Above all he was liberal zamindar with many human qualities. His temperament was advanced of his age. Religious superstitions couldn't touch him. Sharat Kumar engaged four Muslims as cook. They were i) Rajab Ali; ii) Tamej Ali; iii) Babar Ali; iv) Maser Ali. He also employed a cobbler named Budhan Ruidas whom he got trained in cooking from Calcutta.¹¹¹

He also introduced modern theatre at Rajbari for the recreation of the people and employees of the Rajbari. The employees of Rajstate used to take part in dramas and many recreational activities. He became sick just two days before his death in Dayarampur Rajbari. Dr. Kanailal Ray, the private doctor of Sharat Kumar, brought him Calcutta for his better treatment. He was under the treatment of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ray. But all efforts were in vain. He breathed his last on 12th April in 1945.¹¹² At his death he left five sons – I) Kumar Amitav Ray (M. A.), ii) Kumar Mihir Bijay Ray (M. Sc.), iii) Kumar Arun Prakash Ray; iv) Kumar Bibudhnath Ray (B.Sc.), v) Kumar Tapan Bikash Ray.¹¹³

Hemendra Kumar Ray

Hemendra Kumar Ray was the youngest brother of Sharat Kumar Ray. He was a learned and well educated man. He played a significant role for the progress of education like other members of Dighapatia family. Hemendra Kumar donated Rs.1500.00 to Rajshahi College for procurement of apparatus for chemistry.¹¹⁴ He contributed Rs.10000.00 to Rajshahi P.N.Girls High School for the construction of office complex.¹¹⁵ He came forward to develop Haricharan Child School located in Rajshahi. He wanted to turn the backdated school into a modern one with maximum facilities. He purchased the movable and immovable properties of the school and he changed the name into Sabitri Siksha Vidyalaya.¹¹⁶ He turned the School into High School He served as president in the general library of Rajshahi for a short span of time.

Hemendra Kumar Ray was a famous painter. He used to live in Rajshahi where he built his own house. In his youth he traveled several places of Europe and visited several art museums. He had served the Varendra Museum as honorary keeper since 1923 to 24.¹¹⁷

With a view to developing the overall educational condition of Rajshahi District, he followed the examples of his predecessors. During Hemendra Kumar's death, he left only one son named Himadrinath.

Prativanath Ray

Prativanath Ray was born in Dighapatia's Raj family in 1894. He was the elder son of Pramadanath. After his father's death he had to look after the Zamindari. After the Partition of India, Prativanath stayed at Dighapatia. He went to Calcutta to get the medical treatment and he died there on 14th Ashwin in 1371 B.S., i.e., 1964.¹¹⁸ He left two sons named Prativanath and Bimalandunath.¹¹⁹ Prabhat Kumar

was the managing director of North Bengal Sugar Mill. After 1961 he migrated to Calcutta, but remained unmarried. Bimalendu Kumar stayed in Calcutta as well. His son was Biswanath.

Scores of educational institute of Rajshahi and Natore such as Rajshahi College, College Hostel, Varendra Museum, Town Hall, Hospital, P.N.Girls' High School, Sabitri Girls High School, Public Library, Dighapatia High School. Dayarampur M.E. High School, Bashanta Kumar Agriculture Institute, Rajshahi Agro Farm, Rajshahi Association are still bear the testimonials of his achievements.

1. Most of the Raja of this family or estate was well educated.
2. Most of the Raja contributed their all valuable times and money for the well being of people and locality.
3. No one Raja or member of this estate was luxurious and ever care for a disciplined life.
4. There is hardly any proof that the members of this great family invested their money in any way other than the development of the Zamindari.
5. They were the first among all other Zamindars who turned the agro economy of this region into industry based economy by setting a sugar factor. Introduction of technology and advanced method of cultivation was one of the main consideration of the leading members of this family.
6. They had a coal mine beyond the Zamindari.
7. Some of the measures of this family were above sectional views and they established an example of secular views on social relations.

As per Bengal Tenancy Act 1951, the term of Dighapatia Zamindari had come into end like other regions of present Bangladesh.

Notes and references

1. Satish Chandra Mitra, *Jessore-Khulnar Itihas*, Calcutta, 2001 (Reprint), p. 885; Sir Jadunath Sarkar, *History of Bengal*, Vol. 2, Dacca, 1974, p. 414; Kazi Muhammad Meser, *Rajshahir Itihas*, vol. 2, Bogra, 1965, p. 277; Also Kalinath Choudhury, *Rajshahir Sankshipta Itihas*, Calcutta, 1308, p.202; Anil Chandra Banarjee, *The Agrarian System of Bengal*, 1582-1793, Vol. 4, Calcutta, 1980, p. 51.
2. Kalam (Gram) is a big village. It is situated by the bank of the river, 4/5 kilometers away south from Sibra Police Station. Several honest and elite Brahmins lived there. Among other ethnic groups people, Barber, Fishermen, Potters were worthy of name. Then, Kalam was known as a second Nabadwip as the place of that time was a great center for Sanskrit learning.
3. Sir Jadunath Sarkar, op.cit. p. 414.
4. Samar Pal. *Natorer Itihas*, vol. 2, Natore, 1984, p. 1.
5. Sir Jadunath Sarkar, op.cit. p.414; Bimala Charan Moitra, however, points out that when Ramjiban was employed under Putthia Raj and used to get Rs. 7 as salary, he appointed Dayaram as a servant by paying him a monthly salary of eight *anas* only. (*Bimala Charan Moitra, Puthia Rajbangsa*, Calcutta 1357 B.S. p.25) Kalinath Choudhury holds a separate view when he informs that on one occasion of *Jalbihar* at *Chalan bill*. Ramjiban found two boys near his boat anchored at Kalambazar. Having been impressed by the wit and promptness of Dayaram. Ramjiban brought him to Natore and thus a new chapter of Dayaram's career started at Natore Raj under the care of Ramjiban. Ramjiban got Rs.7.00 as salary, he was engaged under Puthia Raj. (Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 202)
6. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 202; Sri Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. *Natorer Katha O Kahani*, Calcutta, 1981, p.75.
7. Satish Chandra Mitra, op.cit. p. 885; Dayaram was cunning. He played an obnoxious game and by tricks he assassinated Mrinal Ghosh alias Monahati commander – in chief of Sitaram Ray. He made an order by Nawab so that Sitaram wouldn't be able to receive any sort of help from adjacent and nearby Zamindar. Consequently, at the time of curbing insurgents none came forward to help Sitaram.
8. Enamul Haque, *Bengal Towards the Close of Aurangzib's Reign*, Dacca, 1974, p. 99 (Foot note); Satish Chandra Mitra, op.cit., p.888, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 203; K.C.Mitra, *Rajas of Rajshahi*, Vol.56. Calcutta Review, Calcutta, 1873, p.8.

9. Rajendralal Acharya, *Bangalir Bal*, Calcutta, 1328, p. 313.
10. There is different opinion regarding Sitaram's death. Sitaram was sent to Murshidabad from Natore and he was in jail for few months there. Satish Chandra Mitra mentioned in his book *Jassore O Khulnar Itihas* that Sitaram died in Murshidabad, Akshay Kumar Moitra (i.e., A.K.Moitra) on the other hand holds a view that Sitaram died at the Prison of Murshidabad after killing of poisonous ring (A.K.Moitra, *Rani Bhavani*, ed. by Nishit Ranjan Ray, Calcutta, 1990 p.32); K.C.Mitra, op.cit. p. 8, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 203; Fordetalil, M. Enamul Haque, op.cit. p.91; Satish Chandra Mitra, op.cit. pp.887-889.
11. Satish Chandra Mitro, op.cit. p. 888, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit, p. 203; K. C. Mitra,op.cit. p.8.
12. Kalinath Chaudhury, op.cit. p.203.
13. K.C.Moitra, op.cit. p. 29, Sri Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. op. cit, p. 76, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. pp. 203, 04; *Varendrer Raja Zamidar*, an article by Md. Mahabubur Rahman in *Varendra Anchaler Itihas*, ed. by Saifuddin Choudhury, et.el. Rajshahi,1998, p.774.
14. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit, p.203.
15. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.204.
16. Moksudur Rahman, *Natorer Maharani Bhavani*, Natore, 1988, p.46
17. Kalinath Chaudhury, op.cit. p.159.
18. K. C. Mitra. op.cit. p.9.
19. Kalinath Chaudhury, op.cit. p.204.
20. Loc cit.
21. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el. op.cit. p.77; 741.
22. One third people of Bengal died in the famine, For details see Suprakash Ray,*Bharater Krishak Bidraha O Ganatantrik Sangram* (3rd ed.), Calcutta, 1980, pp.12-15.
23. Mazharul Huq, *The East India Company's Land Policy and Commerce in Bengal 1698-1784*.Dacca 1964, p.133.

24. Bimal Prashad Ray, et.el. op.cit, p.77.
25. Samar Pal, vol. 2, op.cit. p.4.
26. K.C.Mitra, op. cit, p. 29, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.204.
27. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el. op.cit. p. 77; Md. Mahabubur Rahman, op.cit. p.741.
28. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 205.
29. Loc. cit.
30. K.C.Mitra, op.cit. p. 29.
31. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 208.
32. Bimal Prasad Ray, et el. op.cit.p. 58.
33. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 207, Samar Pal, Vol. 2, op.cit. p.7.
34. Bimal PrashadRay, et.el. op.cit. p.78; Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 206; Md. Mahabubur Rahman, op.cit. p. 742; Nurul Islam Khan, (ed.) *Bangladesh Zela Gazetteer Brihatara Rajshahi*, Dhaka, 1991, p.369.
35. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 207.
36. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 208.
37. Loc cit.
38. Samar Pal, op.cit. Vol.2, p.8; *Varendrer Raja Zamidar*, an article by Shah Anisur Rahman in *Rajshahi Parichiti* by Varendra Academy, Rajshahi, 1980, p.188.
39. Samar Pal, op.cit. Vol.2, p. 9, Court of Wards made a provision to supervise the minors zamindary under the direct supervision of Government.
40. The Indian Manager Act – 26 had been passed on 11th October in 1854. the latent intention of that Act was to arrange well and higher eructation for the minor zamindar who were under the supervision of “Court of wards”. The minors, whose age were from 8 to 14, was kept altogether in a separate building and all the facilities of their well education had been arranged there. Wardson institute was too in shape in 1856 in Calcutta. Dr. Ragendra Lal was engaged there as a director instead of Rs.300.00 monthly. It was closed in 1880.

41. K.C.Mitra, op.cit. p.40, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.209.
42. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.211, The territory of Dighapatia Zamindari had been doubled due to buy the stated Zamindari.
43. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.211.
44. K.C.Mitra, op. cit., p. 40, Sri Bimal prasad Ray, et.el, op.cit. pp.78-79, Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.212.
45. *Satabdir Aitihyabahi Shangathan : Rajshahi Association*, an articale by S.M. Abdul Latif in *Rajshahi Association Patrika* ed. by Tasikul Islam, Rajshahi, 1987 (henceforth *Satabdir...*), p105-107 ; Association is the remarkable association of the century. It was established on 21st July of 1872 and with a view to bringing economic as well as social emancipation of the people of this locality. Thereafter, this organization played a significant role for the development of Rajshahi.
46. Kazi Muhammed Meser, op.cit. p. 116; Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 212, *A.K.M.Hasanuzzaman et.el. Aitihye Rajshahi College Swarak Grantha*, Rajshahi 2001, p.5 Samar Pal op.cit., vol.2. p. 11; Sri Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. op.cit. p.79.
47. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 211, Regarding spending of Rs.12,00,000.00 has been mentioned in *Natorer Katha O Kahini* by Sri Bimal Prasad Ray et.el. op.cit. p.78.
48. Samar Pal, op.cit. p. 79.
49. Kalinath Choudhury, op. cit., p. 211; Shah Anisur Rahman, op.cit. p189.
50. Nurul Islam Khan, (ed.) *Banaladesh Zela Gazetter Brihatara Rajshahi*, Dhaka 1991 p.370.
51. M.A. Hamid, *Chalan Biler Itikatha*, Pabna 1967, p.279, Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. op.cit. p.79.
52. Samar Pal, op.cit. vol.2, p.11.
53. Bimal Prasad Ray, et.el. op.cit. p.79.
54. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p. 217.
55. Samar Pal, op.cit. vol. 2, p. 15.

56. Kalinath Choudhury, op.cit. p.218.
57. Samar Pal, op.cit. vol.2, p.13, This school had been established for the development of Silk Industry, Collector of Rajshahi, Nanda Krishna Bashu M.A.C.S. laid the stone of this school. Its contribution was very significant for the development of Bangladesh Sericulture Industry. At present the most of produced silk is being produced in Rajshahi.
58. Samar Pal, vol.2, op.cit. p.13; Shah Anisur Rahman, op.cit. p.190.
59. Bimal Prasad Ray, op.cit. p.79.
60. Loc cit.
61. Loc cit.
62. Samar Pal, op.cit. p.14.
63. After establishing Rajshahi Association, the people who chaired the post of president were Raja Pramathnath Ray (Dighapatia), Raja Krishnanandranath (Balihar), Raja Sashi Shekhareshar Ray (Tahirpur), Maharaj Jagadindranath Ray (Natore), Raja Pramadanath Ray (Dighapatia).
64. Raja Pramadanath Ray made a big building named *Victoria Ranga Mancha*. Then it turned into a cinema hall and it had been named as "Rupen Cinema Hall". Later on Alaka Hall and thereafter this Cinema hall had been named "Smriti Cinema Hall". At present the hall is in order. Engraved "Pramadanath Town Hall" is still existing at the top of this cinema hall. The office of existing Rajshahi Association has been established at the backside of this building.
65. Samar Pal, op.cit.,Vol.2, p. 16.
66. Loc.cit.
67. Samar Pal, op.cit. Vol.2, p. 14; From all over India all the invited guests came to Natore. This conference had been taken place in Dompara Rathbari area which is located now by side of Dighapatia Road. On 12th June when the conference was going on. Acute earthquake hit Natore with its full force and plunged the city into debris. The whole city had been entirely demolished.
68. Bimal Prasad Ray et.al. op. cit. p. 80.
69. Radharaman Saha, *Pabna Zelar Itihas*, vol.3, Pabna, 1333 B.S., p. 163.

70. Kalinath Choudhury, *op.cit.* p. 217.
71. Bimal Prasad Ray, *et. el.*, *op. cit.* p. 80; Samar Pal, *op.cit.* p. 17
72. M. A. Hamid, *op.cit.* p. 281.
73. *Varendrer Kriti Santan : Sharat Kumar Ray*, an Article by S.M. Abdul Latif, *Rajshahi Sadharan Granthagar Satabarsha Swarak Grantha*, Rajshahi, 1984, (Henceforth *Varendrer.....*), p. 20.
74. *Loc. cit.*
75. *Kumar Sharat Kumar Ray*, an article by S, M, Abdul Latif, in *Natorer Gaurab* (ed.) by Md. Moksudur Rahman, *Notore*, 1989, p. 97.
76. A. K. M. Hassanuzzaman, *et.el. op.cit.* p. 33,
77. A. K. M. Hassanuzzaman, *et.el. op.cit.* p. 33. At present the building is located at the northern side of the library. Thereafter, when the building became closed it has been named as B.K.Hostel.
78. A. K. M. Hassanuzzaman, *et.el. op.cit.* p.32.
79. Samar Pal, *op.cit.* Vol.2, p.18.
80. Kazi Muhammad Meser, *op.cit.* p.126.
81. Kazi Muhammad Meser, *op.cit.* p.141.
82. Samar Pal, *op.cit.* Vol.2, p.18.
83. *Kumar Sharat Kumar Ray*, an article by Dr. Saifuddin Choudhury in *Rajshahir Pratibha*, (ed.) by Saifudding Choudhury, Rajshahi, 2000. p.3.
84. Mahabubur Rahman, *op.cit.* p.743.
85. Saifuddin Choudhury, *op.cit.* p.3.
86. *Loc.cit.*
87. *Loc.cit.*

88. S.M.Abdul latif, *Varendrer ... op.cit.* p. 22.
89. Loc.cit.
90. Loc.cit.
91. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Varendrer.....*, 23.
92. Mahabubur Rahman, *op. cit.* p. 43.
93. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Satabdir*, p. 105.
94. Loc.cit.
95. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Satabdir.....*, p. 103.
96. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Satabdir*, p. 107.
97. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Varendrer.....*, p. 27.
98. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Varendrer.....*, p. 28.
99. Saifuddin Choudhry, *op. cit.* p. 10.
100. Loc. cit.
101. Loc. cit.
102. Loc. cit.
103. S. M. Abdul Latif, *Varendrer*, p.22, Sarat Kumar was a student of J. C. Bose during his study in Presidency College. Just completing his college life they were going to London altogether Sarat Kumar hoped that J. C. Bose would look after him. He was dishearten as J. C. Bose didn't look after him and he informed Pramadanath regarding the fact Raja Pramadanath was a student of J. C. Bose as well.
104. Samar Pal, *op.cit.* vol. 2, p.19.
105. Loc. cit.
106. He carried out a searching operation on the different places of North Bengal. He called on, the Zamindar of gulai. Hazi Lal Muhammad and he visited several places around

Gulai, such as, Deorapara, Palbari, Malanchi, Jagatpur, Chabbish Nagar, Talai and Maroil. Thereafter, he visited Kumarpur, Bijoyanagar, Khetur etc. There he got a statue of Chandismiriti and he also found 32 types of archaeological items. Historian Rakhil Das, the director of Calcutta Museum requested to donate these archeological object to Calcutta Museum. Ramprashad Chandra opposed the proposal. These collected antiques were kept in the residence of Raja Pramadanath Ray house, Choudhury Mahendra Kumar house who later on got married in Dighapatia Zamindar family. Some of them were also kept in Rajshahi Public Library. (For detail see Kazi Muhammad Meser, op.cit. (Vol. I) pp.138-139.

107. Kazi Muhammad Meser, op.cit., Vol.2, p.180.
108. Samar Pal, op.cit. p.19, Governor Lumiyé Dundus Earl of Ronalsay is said to have laid the foundation stone on 27th November, 1919.
109. Saifudding Choudhury, op.cit. p.9;
110. Loc. cit.
111. S.M.Abdul Latif, *Kumar Sarat Kumar ...*, pp.104, 105.
112. Samar Pal. op.cit. Vol.2, p.20.
113. S.M.Abdul Latif, *Kumar Sarat Kumar ...*, p.116
114. A. K. M. Hassanuzzaman, et.el. op.cit. p23.
115. Kazi Muhammad Meser, op.cit. vol.1, p.126.
116. Loc. cit.
117. Kazi Muhammad Meser,op.cit. p.131.
118. Samar Pal, op.cit., Vol.2, p.20.
119. M. A. Hamid, op.cit. p. 281.