

## **CHAPTER - THREE**

### **Profile of the Study Area**

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## CHAPTER THREE

### Profile of the Study Area

#### 3.1 District Profile

“The Rajshahi” is one of the districts of Bangladesh. Rajshahi is bounded on the north by west Dinsipur (a district in west Bengal, India). On the west by the districts of Maldah and Murshidabad (West Bengal, India) and on the East by the districts of Bogra and Pabna. The southern boundary is the river Padma which separates it from the Murshhiabad and Kushtia district of Khulna division<sup>1</sup>

Geologically, it is a part of the Indo-Gangetic trough which includes almost all of Sind, North Rajsthan, almost the hole of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, old Bengal (Bangladesh and west Bengal) and part of Assam. Several theories have been suggested concerning the origin of the Indo-Gangetic trough. Compression, depression and tension are considered to be the main forces responsible for the origin of the trough. Scholars have suggested that the primary force was the weight of the sediments deposited by the rivers from the Himalayan Mountains.<sup>2</sup>

Physiographically, Rajshahi district can be divided into there broad divisions:

- (a) The Berind region.
- (b) The newly laid alluvial deposits along the banks of the Padma.
- (c) The *beel* or the marshy areas.

(a) Barind Region : Barind is a tract of comperatively high land, including portion of Malda, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Bogra districts. A stiff soil of reddish clayey loam distinguishes it from the remainder of the district. Gealogically, Barind is the pact of the old alluvium of middle Pleistocene age, later slightly raised and compressed to the surrounding area due to tectonic movement. The following Thanas in the Rajshahi district can be considered to fall under the physiographic division: Nachole, Patnitola, Dhamirhat, Porsha, Gomostapur, Niamatpur, Mahadevpur and parts of Manda, Tanor, Singra and Godagari.<sup>3</sup> Regarding agriculture, winter is almost all the crop that is grown in the Barind. But the

population is comparatively less, and pressure of population upon the land is far from great.<sup>4</sup>

(b) New alluvial deposit (Reparian Tract) : The second physiographic area, namely, the newly laid alluvial deposits along the banks of the Padma, forms part of Charghat, Lalpur and former Rampur Boalia. Its soil is sandy to sandy loam with grey colour as distinct from the reddish to yellowish soil of the Barind, and clearly formed of recent origin.<sup>5</sup>

(c) The third physiographic area is that vast low-laying area at the east and south Eastern part of the district which is known as the *beel* area. The number and size of marshes or *beel* increases as one moves from west to east, the whole boundary of the district is covered with series of marshes or *beels*.<sup>6</sup> Amongst the several *beels*, the *beel* of widest repute and by far the largest is the chalan *beel* which is the name applied to a series of *beels* interconnected with one another by various channels to form more or less one continuous sheet of water in the rainy season covering an area of approximately 140 sq. miles. The *beel* extends over two districts, Rajshahi and Pabna, the major part being within the Rajshahi district (at present Natore district).<sup>7</sup>

After the permanent settlement the district of Rajshahi extended from the Mahananda river to the Karatoya and included a large part of the present district of Murshidabad (India), almost the whole of Pabna and part of Bogra. Rajshahi was once the largest and most important districts of Bengal. It extended from Bhagalpur (India) on the west, to Dacca on the east, and to have also included a large and important subdivision called Nijchakla Rajshahi on the south of the Ganges. It included a large portion of what now lies within the district of Murshidabad (India), Nadia (India), Jessore, Birlehum (India) and Burdwan (India).

Up to the time of permanent settlement in 1793, Rajshahi formed the largest and one of the most important administrative divisions of Bengal. It could scarcely be called a district for it corresponded with the great Zamindari of Rajshahi which was about five times the size of the present district. So for the administrative convenience the first change took place in 1793, when a general distribution of Bengal into districts was made by the Government.

The first change took place in 1873, when a general redistribution of Bengal into districts was made by the Government. In March 1813 the thanas of Rohanpur and Chapai were separated from Rajshahi, and together with others from Dinajpur and Purnea were formed into the district of Maldah. About the year 1821 four more thanas, viz., Adamdighi, Naokhali, Sherpur and Bogra were separated from Rajshahi and together with two thanas from Rangpur and three from Dinajpur, formed into the present district of Bogra.

Again in 1832 the district of Pabna was constituted in a similar way by the separation of the five thanas of Shaypur, Kheturpara, Raiganj, Mathura and Pabna from Rajshahi and of three others from Jessore. The Headquarters of the district was at Natore until 1823 when they were transferred to Rampur Boalia, the present Rajshahi town on account of the unhealthiness of Natore. The subdivision of Natore was then formed and the Naogaon subdivision was created in 1877.<sup>8</sup>

After partition of India in 1947 five thanas, namely, Nawabganj, Nachole, Gomostapur, Bholahat and Sibganj were received from Maldah district (India) on August 19, 1947 and Nawabganj subdivision was created with these five thanas. At that time Porsha, Patnitala and Dhamoirhat belonged to Dinajpur district and were transferred to Bogra district on September 16, 1948, of these three thanas Porsha was attached to Nawabganj subdivision and the rest of the two thanas were placed under Naogaon subdivision.<sup>9</sup>

The district administration is headed by the deputy commissioner. Both the functions of a district magistrate and the collector of land revenue are entrusted on him. He is responsible for maintaining law and order. He is in charge of supervision and coordination of all the nation building departments, development works, Arms Act, Press Act, etc. The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by two Additional Deputy Commissioners, of whom one is for General Administration and the other is for Revenue Administration.<sup>10</sup>

The subdivisions are under the charge of sub-divisional magistrates who are heads of general and revenue administration within their jurisdiction. In the Sadar subdivision apart from the sub-divisional magistrate, there are three magistrates with first class power, one lawyer magistrate with first class power, one magistrate with second class power, and two with third class power. One of the magistrates is

also a treasury officer. Besides there are three more officers of whom one is land acquisition officer, one is a compensation officer and the other is the Assistant director of local Government and rural development.

There are 30 circle officers (Dev.) in charge of general administration and development works posted in each police station. The circle officer (Dev.) conducts his works programme with the cooperation of the union chairman of each Union Parishad. The chairman conducts the semi-official administration in rural areas with the help of village dafadars and chowkidars. In 1465-66 there were 101 dafadars and 435 chowkidars at sadar subdivision.

Rajshahi district had four subdivision including Rajshahi sadar subdivision and the other three namely, Natore, Nawabganj and Naogaon. These subdivisions had almost similar administration. However, Rajshahi Metropolitan area is our present study area. So I should be more concerned with Rajshahi only.

But later on, British administrative structure had been changed in 1984. According to this new administrative change all the subdivisions were converted to the status of a district and all thanas were renamed as upazilas. Rajshahi sadar subdivision became a district and known as Rajshahi.

The population of Rajshahi had increased till 1911 by only 58, 722, when first census was taken in 1872. The following table represents the rate of population growth in ten years duration. Table 3.1 shows total population, persons per sq. mile, and percentage change in population in Rajshahi in different Census periods.

**Table 3.1 : Population Growth of Rajshahi (1872-1911)**

Year of Census	Population	Persons per sq. mile for the present	Increase or decrease (%)
1872	1421865		
1881	1449033	562	+1.9
1891	1437859	562	-08
1901	1460584		+1.6
For the present area	1902317	523	
1911	1480587		+1.4
For the present area	2000167	550	5.1

Source : Rajshahi District Gazetteer.

A section of people did not participate in the Census of 1921, the enumeration of 1921 was boycotted in some parts of the area due mainly to the non-cooperation movement, resulting in some under, enumeration. According to the Census of 1921 the district of Rajshahi had the following population.

**Table - 3.2 : The Population of Rajshahi (1921)**

Rajshahi	Population	Density per sq. mile	Valuation percent 1921
District total	1489675	569	+0.6
For the present area	2027591	557	+1.3
Sadar subdivision	558681	601	-1.0
Natore subdivision	380157	460	-4.7
Naogaon subdivision	550837	637	+6.5

Source : *Rajshahi District Gazetteer*.

The Census of 1931 disclosed a population of 1386519 or a 4.6 per cent decrease. The population of the present area is 1993280 or a decrease of 1.6 per cent. The density of population in the present area was 584 per square mile.

As these were communal excitement in Bengal the census of 1941 was not beyond doubt. The communal tension became so great that each community vied with the other to swell their respective numbers by fair or foul and by fictitious enumerations in the 1941 census. The census of 1941 disclosed a population of 1571750 or an increase of 185231 of persons or 10.2 per cent or a net variation of 171375 persons from the figure of 1891. Out of 1571750 persons, 821113 were males and 750637 females, the urban population was 61476 and the rural population was 1510274. The percentage of Muslim was 74.64 of Hindus 20.94 and the others 4.40. The population of 1941 for the present area of the district was 2198081 or an increase of 10.2 per cent, and the density of population was 604 per square mile.<sup>11</sup>

Due to partition (in 1947) 457 square miles of Dinajpur and 613 square miles of Maldah district were transferred to Rajshahi. The present area of the district is 3639 square miles. The pre-partition area was 2526 square miles. The figure was differed from the previous census due to inter district transfers, alluvion and diluvion and mainly due to partition of undivided Bengal on the Radcliff Award. According to the census of 1951 the population of Rajshahi was 2205057 or an increase of 0.3 per cent. There were so many reasons behind the growth of population in the decade of 1941-56, in more than one way. Firstly, as a result of Second World War people were detached from their families resulting in fewer births. Secondly, devastating famine

of 1943 and the epidemic of cholera and small pox, took a huge toll of lives. Thirdly, the high price of essentials, not only caused ill-nourishment, but also delay in marriages, hence again fewer births. Fourthly, there were communal movements of people during the decades. Many Muslims from India migrated to Rajshahi while many Hindus left the district for India. The census of 1951 disclosed the percentage of Muslims as 80.34, that of Hindus 19.40 and the others 26. The number of Muhajirs (refugees) who had moved into the district from India as result of partition or fear or disturbances there with was 75900, of them about 71 thousands came from West Bengal, about four thousand from Bihar, U.P. and other states, and the rest from Assam and elsewhere. The density of population per square mile was 608. The density in the rural areas of the district was 58714 per square mile and 710.37 per square mile of cultivable area. The total rural population of Rajshahi was 21,28,990. The urban population in different municipal areas was as follows:<sup>12</sup>

Rajshahi Municipality	:	39,990
Natore Municipality	:	10,450
Nawabganj Municipality	:	23,450
Naogaon Town	:	11,290

Being the male-female ratio was 26 : 28. In 1961 there were 953 females per 1000 males. The total population enumerated in 1961 was 28,10,964, of which 14,39,459 were males and 13,71,505 females. The population enumerated in the 1951 census was 22,057 of which 11,34,701 were males and 10,70,356 females. The percentage increase during the 10 years between 1951 and 1961 worked out an increase of 27.4 per cent amongst the males.

According to the census of 1961 the population of Rajshahi district was as follows (sub-division-wise)

**Table - 3.3 : The Population of Subdivisions of Rajshahi District**

Sub-divisions	Males	Females	Both Sex	Increase over 1951	Persons per sq. mile
Naogaon	467962	442595	910557	22.96	804
Nawabganj	314930	311258	626188	25.10	724
Rajshahi sadar	375519	352853	728372	25.11	791
Natore	281048	264799	545847	42.94	742

Source : Rajshahi District Gazetteer

So it revealed from table 3.3 that according to the census of 1961 the population of Rajshahi district was 2810964 and density per square mile was 769. The number of Muslims was 2297732 (81.75%), caste Hindus 249797 (8.89%) scheduled castes 236695 (8.42%), Christians 8303 (0.30%), Buddhists 170, Parsis 102 and others 18165. (0.65%)

Rajshahi district is situated in the south-western part of Rajshahi division and lies between 24°06 and 25°13 north latitude and 88°02 and 89°21 longitude (Dist. Gazetteers, Rajshahi, p. 83). The district Rajshahi is bounded on the west, south and north by Indian territories and the mighty river Ganges flows along the western fringe with an area of 3653 square miles. It is the fifth largest district of Bangladesh.<sup>13</sup>

**Climate:** The climate of Rajshahi is bit different than other parts of the country. The typical monsoon climate of this district is characterised by high temperature and very scanty rainfall. The summer commences early in March and continues up to June. In the summer season mean temperature increases from 63°F in January to 85°F in April, May and June.<sup>14</sup> In April and May, the mean maximum temperature ranges from 88°F to 97°F. A maximum of 100° is not uncommon. During monsoon months (June-August), the mean maximum temperature is recorded. The coldest month is the January and the lowest average minimum is about 51°F. The amount of rainfall varies from 45 to 70 inches in the district of Rajshahi.<sup>15</sup>

The Ganges or the Padma, which forms the international boundary for about hundred mile is the most important river of Rajshahi district. It is the most sacred of all rivers to the Hindus. The river first touches Rajshahi at a place near Shibganj. The Mahananda, another important river in the Rajshahi district, is a major tribute of the Padma. The river crosses the boarder and enters into Rajshahi district near Bholahat and then flows through Nawabganj subdivision to meet the Padma just south of Nawabganj town. Atrai is another important river of North Bengal which flows through Rajshahi district. Karatoya is the principal source of the river. Karatoya it self is designated as Atrai when it reaches Khansama thana (block) at Dinajpur. Before 1787, the Atrai was one of the great rivers of North Bengal. Through this channel the Tista used to discharge its water into the Padma. A great flood took place in 1787 and changes occurred in the river system of this region. This also was due to earthquakes and earth movement. As a result the Tista broke away from its old channel and found a new and capacious channel south eastward and joined the

Brahmaputra (Jamuna) instead of joining the Padma. Since then the Atrai has lost its importance, but still navigable by large country boats during the rainy season.

The river Jamuna originates in Jalpaiguri district of India and runs more or less southward through the eastern part of Dinajpur district and western part of Bogra district and then enters into Rajshahi district. It passes by the town of Naogaon and joins the Atrai at Suktigachha. Western Jamuna is joined by another moribund river called Tulshiganga near the village Etakata. Tulshiganga which enters Rajshahi district from Bogra, flows almost parallel to the western Jamuna. The Baral is the important distillatory of the Padma of Rajshahi. Learning the parent stream near the chargh thana it flowed eastward through the southern part of the district till it passes into the Padma after joining the Atrai Gumani system. The Baral throws out two off shoots to the north the Musakhan and the Nandakuja. These two off-shoots take the water of Baral northward into different *beels* (big tanks). The Musakhan which is also known as the Gadai, branches off from the Baral and passed flowing along the Natore Rajshahi road while crossing Natore subdivision, it seems the name of Gadai, and then falls into the Gur at saonail. There was many other small streams flow through the Rajshahi district, which is not possible to discuss within so short span of discussion.

Actually there is no deep forest in Rajshahi. Usually, the higher grounds are covered with bamboos and grass. The banyan, pipal and semul may be seen in different parts of the district. In some parts of the district the mango crop is almost as important as in Malda (west Bengal, India). Mango of Rajshahi and Nawabganj is distributed through the Bangladesh market.

In the villages the growth of bamboo and tree is fast. In the Barind, palms are grown widely and Khejur (Date) palm trees are grown generally in the southern parts. Besides these numerous species of the babul (*Aica arabica*) or gum tree are found in the southern part. The char areas of Rajshahi are covered with thick reeds, bushes, tamarisk bushes, and heavy jungles where wild buffaloes used to be seen. In the Barind, tigers, leopards used to follow the deer, and hog to the valley. Black partridges, hog-deer swarmed in the thatching grass. Kyah partridges, hog-deer swarmed in the thatching grass. Kyah partridges (*chikor*) abounded in the rose bushes, while snipe and every kind of wild duck are not uncommon. Peafowl and spotted deer are rarely found. Besides these, the other animals like rain guail, wild

pig, hares, lesser florican and geese flocked in the Barind. Wild cats, jackals, foxes are seen in the jungles both in the Chars (island in the river bed, high land) and the Barind.

The main resources of Rajshahi district, and in fact the rest of Bangladesh, are agriculture. Rajshahi has often ascribed as a surplus area of the country dominated by rice fields. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of this area and, as mentioned earlier, about 79% of its population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their sustenance.<sup>16</sup>

Almost absolute dependence on nature is the main characteristics of the agriculture of Rajshahi. Since irrigation is carried to a very limited extent and only 171769 acres during 1974-75 out of 1645400 acres of net cropped areas were irrigated, the farmers depended on rainfall. But at present deep tubewell for irrigation purpose is widely used. Irrigation is essential in Rajshahi district in the areas where rainfall is below 60 inches. The most important crops under cultivation are rice, jute, wheat, sugarcane and gram, pulses, oil seed, tobacco barley bajra etc.

Rajshahi is more developed in agriculture than industry. There are only three or four large-scale industries, the rest are cottage industries. However, the silk industry of Rajshahi has a long heritage. Still Rajshahi is famous for her silk industry.

Most of the large-scale industries are concerned with processing the agricultural products like sugarcane, jute, cotton etc. In addition to this, there are also one match factory, one pharmaceutical industry and one P.V.C. factory in Sopura industrial area. The most important industry of Rajshahi is the silk. Silk weaving factory and silk dyeing and printing factory at Rajshahi town is the only one of its kind in Bangladesh. Except these there are so many small and medium industries like automatic flour mill, rice mill, cold storage, news paper and food and allied.

Education city Rajshahi (as we call today) started its journey with the creation of a small private English school in 1828. The school was provincialised and converted into a Government Zila school in 1836. The status of an Intermediate college competent to teach F.A courses came in 1873. The first grade rank with B.A standard affiliation to the Calcutta University came with the name "Rajshahi College" in 1878<sup>17</sup>. Later on that school was renamed as Rajshahi collegiate school. It is regarded

as the first Government school in Bengal. After that gradually different institutions began to establish in Rajshahi.

The Government High Madrassa was established in 1857 and Lokenath High school in 1847. B. B. Hindu academy was established in 1898. At present there are four Government High Schools for boys and two for girls. And good number of private schools in the Metropolitan area. There are four Government colleges and six private colleges in the Rajshahi Metropolitan area. There is a big University established in 1953 and a medical college was established in Rajshahi. The Engineering College rose to the status of as Rajshahi University Engineering and Technology (RUET). Established in 1962. Except all these Teachers Training colleges, Polytechnic college, Physical education college, Para medical institute, Nursing training institute, College of fine arts postal training academy and some private universities are working in full swing in Rajshahi to meet up the academic need of the country, there are two stadiums and a indoor stadium in Rajshahi for games and sports. There is a high town tennis complex in Rajshahi and a beautiful swimming pool in the Rajshahi University campus. There are good numbers of libraries like Varendro Research Museum, Public Library, Govt. Divisional Library, Rajshahi University Library, Rajshahi College Library in the metropolitan areas of Rajshahi.

All the public and the prominent private commercial banks of Bangladesh have their branches in the Rajshahi Metropolis. Specialised banks like Industrial Bank, Rajshahi Agricultural Bank, Cooperative Bank are pulling on their activity in the city. There is a zonal office of House Building Finance Corporation of Bangladesh in the metropolis. Good numbers of insurance companies are working in the city.

Rajshahi has got the beautiful to communication with the rest of the country, specially the capital city Dhaka. Road communication is excellent. Good number of private buses and some B.R.T.C. buses have been plying on the road to different destinations. There are three railway stations in the Rajshahi Metropolis, e.g. university railway station, main Rajshahi rail Station and Rajshahi court station is also airport in Rajshahi for domestic flights. Rajshahi district with an area of 2407.01 sq.km., is bounded by Noagoan district on the north, West Bengal of India, Kushtia district and the Ganges on the south, Natore district on the east and Nawabganj district on the west. The region consists of Barind Tract, Diara and Char lands. Main

rivers are Padma (Ganges), Mahananda, Baral and Barnai. Annual average temperature: maximum 37.8°C, minimum 11.2°C; annual rainfall 1862 mm.

### 3.2 Rajshahi at a Glance

Rajshahi Metropolitan City stands on the bank of the river Padma. The area of the Rajshahi City is 96.69 sq. kms. It consists of four thanas, 39 wards and 169 mahallas. The city has a population of 383655; male 52.91%, female 47.09%. Density of population is 3968 per sq km<sup>18</sup>. Rajshahi, which is both a district and a divisional city, was flourished, in the seventeenth century. The district head quarters were transferred to Rajshahi city from Natore in 1825. Its ancient name was Rampur Boalia. The tomb of Hazrat Shah Makhdum (established in 1634) is located at Dargahpara of the town. Many European traders were attracted to this city because of its being a centre of silk production and location by the side of the river Padma; subsequently the Dutch, the French and the English East India Company established business houses in the city in phases. The silk factory building established by the Dutch is now known as Barakuthi. Later the East India Company purchased the Kuthibhaban from the Dutch. The head quarters of the European Voluntary Regiment was established in the Barakuthi during the Sepahi Mutiny in 1857. At the end of the nineteenth century the Zaminder of Medinipur purchased the building from the British. After 1947 it was being used as the godown of the civil supply department. When the Rajshahi University was established in 1953, the Barakuthibhaban was turned into the residence of the Vice Chancellor with other office establishments. There are 14 graves of European persons in a cemetery in front of the Kuthibhaban. A flood protection embankment was established in 1855 to save the city. Shahib Bazar is the main business centre of the city. The old areas of the city are Shahib Bazar, Rani Bazar, Reshampatti, Boalia, Ghoramara, Hatemkhan, Dargahpara and Kumarpara. Because of flourishing silk industry Rajshahi is also called the City of Silk. Rajshahi municipality was established in 1876 and it was turned into a City Corporation in 1991.<sup>19</sup>

**Administration :** Rajshahi district was established in 1772. Maldaha, Bogra, Pabna, Natore and Nawabganj districts were established in phases dividing this district. It has one City Corporation, 4 thanas, 7 municipalities, 93 wards, 297 mahallas, 9 upazilas, 70 union parishads, 1678 mouzas and 1858 villages. The upazilas are bagha,

Bagmara, Charghat, Durgapur, Godagari, Mohanpur, Pabna, Putia and Tanore; thanas are Boalia, Rajpara, Matihar, Shamakh dum.

**Archaeological heritage and relics :** Two domed Kismat Madia Mosque (eighteenth century), one domed Ruipara (Durgapur) Jami Mosque (sixteenth century), Bagdhani Mosque at Poba upazila, three domed Bhagna jami Mosque at Tanore upazila (1223 AH), tomb of Hazrat Shah Makhdum (R), tomb of Hazrat Shah Sultan at Godagari upazila (fourteenth century), Bara Kuthi (eighteenth century), Talando Shiva Mandir (1860), Rajbari, Govinda Mandir, Shiva Mandir, Gopal Mandir, and Dolmancha (Putia).

**Historical events :** Rajshahi district was a part of Pundrubardhana of the ancient Vanga. The capital of Bijoy Sen was located 9 miles on the west of Rajshahi City, Indigo Resistance Movement spread over Rajshahi during 1859-60. Seven communist activists were killed at the Khapra Ward of Rajshahi Jail when police fired indiscriminately on 24 April 1950. During the mass upsurge in 1969 Dr. Shamsuzzoha of Rajshahi University was killed.

**Marks of War of Liberation :** Mass grave 6, mass killing site 1, memorial monument 4.

**Noted personalities :** Zamindars Sharat Sundari and Hemanta Kumari (awarded Maharani titles), AHM Kamruzzaman (Relief and Rehabilitation Minister of the Mujibnagar Government and martyr of the Jail Killing), Madar Bashk (one of the founders of Rajshahi University), Jadunath Sarkar (historian), Narendrakrishna Singha and Ashkaya Maitreya.

**Population :** (Population census 2001, Preliminary Report) 22,62,483; male 51.20%, female 48.807%; Muslim 93%; Hindu 5%; Christian 1.5% and others 0.5%; ethnic nationals: Santal 2.34% of the total population; they have their own language.

**Religious institutions :** Mosque 3,727, temple 164, church 38 tomb 13 and sacred place 6.

**Literacy and educational institutions :** Average literacy 30.61%; contributing male 37.6% and female 23.2%. Educational institutions : University 1, Medical College 1, Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) 1, Polytechnic College 2, College 110, Teacher's Training College 2, Law College 1, Agriculture College 1,

Physical Training College 1, Survey Institute 1, Para Medical Institute 1, Silk Research Institute 1, Homeopath College 1, Primary Teacher's Training Institute 1, Nursing Institute 1, Police Academy (sardah) 1, Cadet College 1, Madrasa 267, High School 393, Junior High School 10, Government Primary School 559, Non Government Primary School 430, Community School 4, KG School 8. Noted educational institutions : Rajshahi College (1873), Rajshahi BB Academy (1989), Rajshahi Medical College (1949), Rajshahi Collegiate School (1928), PN Girl's High School (1886), Rajshahi Government Madrasa (1874), Diamond Jubilee Industrial School (1898), Sardaha Police Academy (1912), Putia PN Technical High School (1865), Birkudsha Abinash High School (1917, Bagmara upazila), Sreedhar Government Primary School (1857, Durgapur upazila), Godagari High School (1948), Mohanpur Pilot High School (1948), Shitlai, Kharkhari and Naohata Primary School (1885, Paba upazila), Talonda ananda Mohan High School (1882, Tanore upazila).

**Locally published newspapers and periodicals :** Dailies : Dainik Barta, Dainik Sonali Sangbad, Dainik Sonar Desh, Dainik Prothom Prothom Probhat, Dainik Lal Golap, Dainik Upachar, Dainik Padmar Bani, Daily Sun-Shin; Weeklies: Dunia, Rajshahi Barta, Ganakhabar, Dharani; Monthly Uttar Janapath; extinct: Hindu Ranjik (1865), Rajshahi Sangbad (1870), Gayanangkur and Pratimva (1872), Rajshahi Samachar, Udbhaban (1872), Chikitsha (1889), Utsaha (1897), Ayetihasi Chitra (1898), Noor-al Iman (1900), Banga Mohila (1915), Palli Bahak (1925), Markab Al Islam (1933), Palli Sakti (1934), Sammilayan (1934), Ektara (1943), Nayajaman (1946); Monthly Shikshka Parichaya.

**Cultural organizations :** Club 386, Library 27, Museum 2, Literary Society 7, Theatre Group 18, Cinema Hall 20, Theatre Stage 2, Women's Organization 210, Community Centre 35, Cooperative Society 309, Shilpakala Academy 1 and Playground 224. Extinct Cultural Organizations : Rajshahi Mohamedan Association (1884), Anjuman-3 Hemayet Islam (1891), Noor-al-Islam Samaj (1893), Rajshahi District Muslim Education Society (1918), Rajshahi Anjumane Mofidul Islam (1907), Rajshahi Muslim Club (1929).

**Main occupations :** Agriculture 38.73%, Agricultural Labourer 23.64%, Wage Labourer 3.50%, Commerce 12.44%, Service 8.81%, Transport 2.36% and others 10.52%.

**Land use :** Total cultivable land 157728.05 hectares; fallow land 73554.03 hectares; single crop 22%, double crop 68% and treble crop land 10%. Cultivable land under irrigation is 56%.

**Land control :** Among the peasants, 31% are landless, 47% small, 19% intermediate and rich peasant 3%. Cultivable land is 0.07 hectare per head.

**Value of land :** The market value of the land of the first grade is approximately Tk. 7000 per 0.01 hectare.

**Main crops :** Paddy, wheat, jute, sugarcane, turmeric, oil seed, onion, garlic, potato, betel leaf and mulberry plant.

**Extinct or nearly extinct crops :** Linseed, sesame, indigo, mustard seed, sweet potato, kaon, bajra, arahar and aus paddy.

**Main fruits :** Mango, jackfruit, banana, litchi, black berry, coconut, palm and papaya.

**Fisheries, dairies, poultries :** Dairy 156, poultry 177, fishery 1977, hatchery 28 and nursery 12.

**Communication facilities :** Roads: pucca 896 km, semi pucca 686 km and mud road 4726 km; railways 70 km; rail station 13; waterways 91 nautical mile; airport 1.

**Traditional transport :** Palanquin, horse carriage and bullock cart. Most of these means of transport are either extinct or nearly extinct.

**Manufactories :** Silk mill, textile mill, flour and rice mill, cold storage, ice factory, pharmaceuticals, press, aluminum factory, iron mil, match factory, jarda (scented tobacco) factory, plastic industry, metal industries, ice factory, cold storage and welding.

**Cottage industries :** Rajshahi district is famous for the production of cocoon and silk fabrics. Silk Board has been established in Rajshahi in 1977. Other Cottage industries include weaving, bamboo work, cane work, goldsmith, blacksmith, potteries, brass work, wood work, tailoring, etc.

**Hats, bazaars and fairs :** Total hats and bazaars are 217, most noted of which are Saheb Bazar, Shal Bagan, New Market, Kaliganj, Baneshwar, Taherpur, Narayanpur,

Bhabaniganj, Charghat, Durgapur, Godagari, Naohata; fairs 20, most noted of which Rath Mela, Bhaga Eid Mela, Baruni Mela, Mundumala Mela, Kakan Hat Mela, Sultanganj Mela.

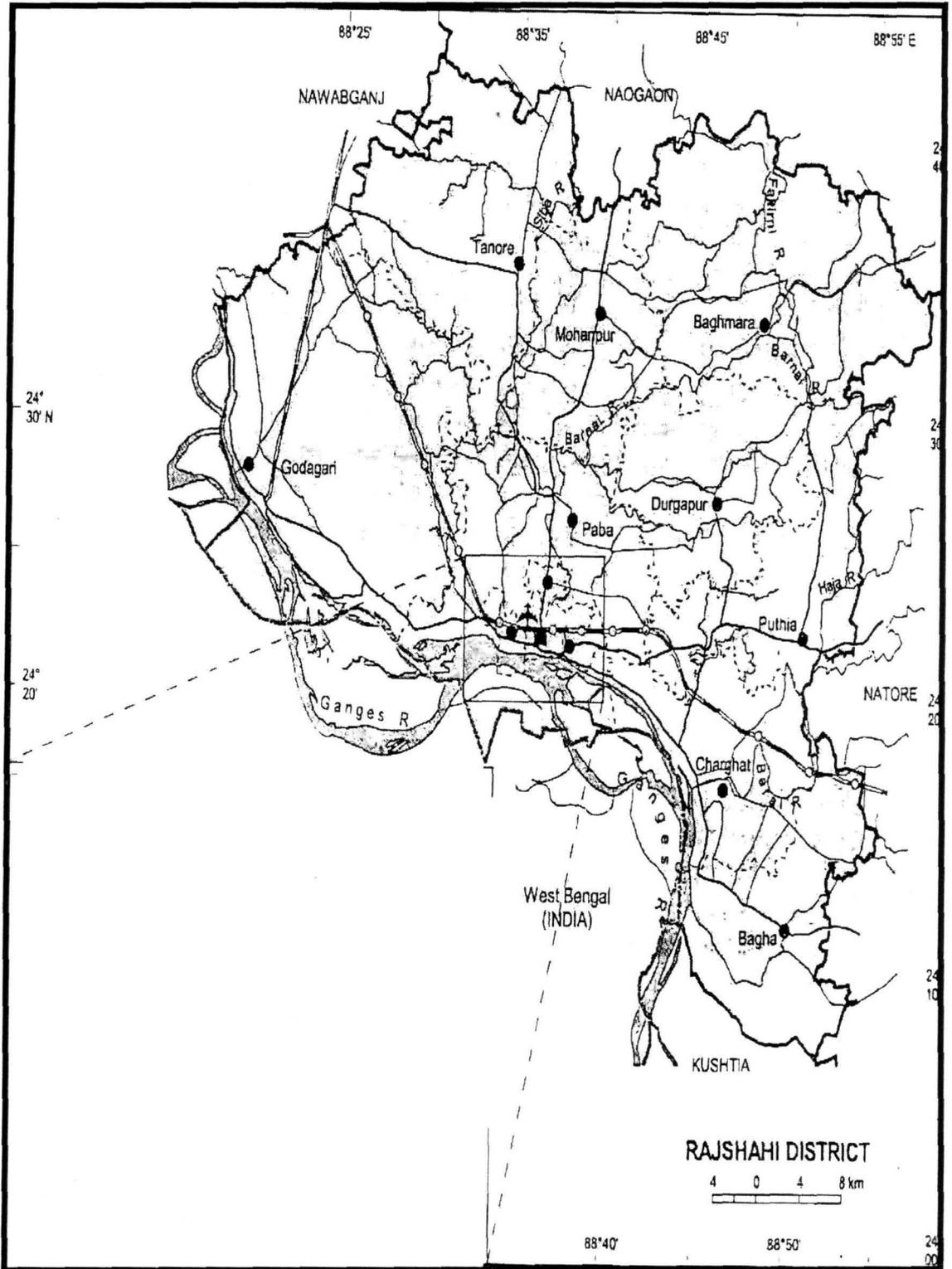
**Main exports :** Jute, sugarcane, date molasses, betel leaf, mango, litchi, catechu, silk sari, silk fabrics and various industrial products.

**NGO activities :** Operationally important NGOs are BRAC, CARE, ASA, GRAMEEN BANK, PROSHIKA, CARITAS, THENGAMARA MOHILA SABUJ SANGHA.

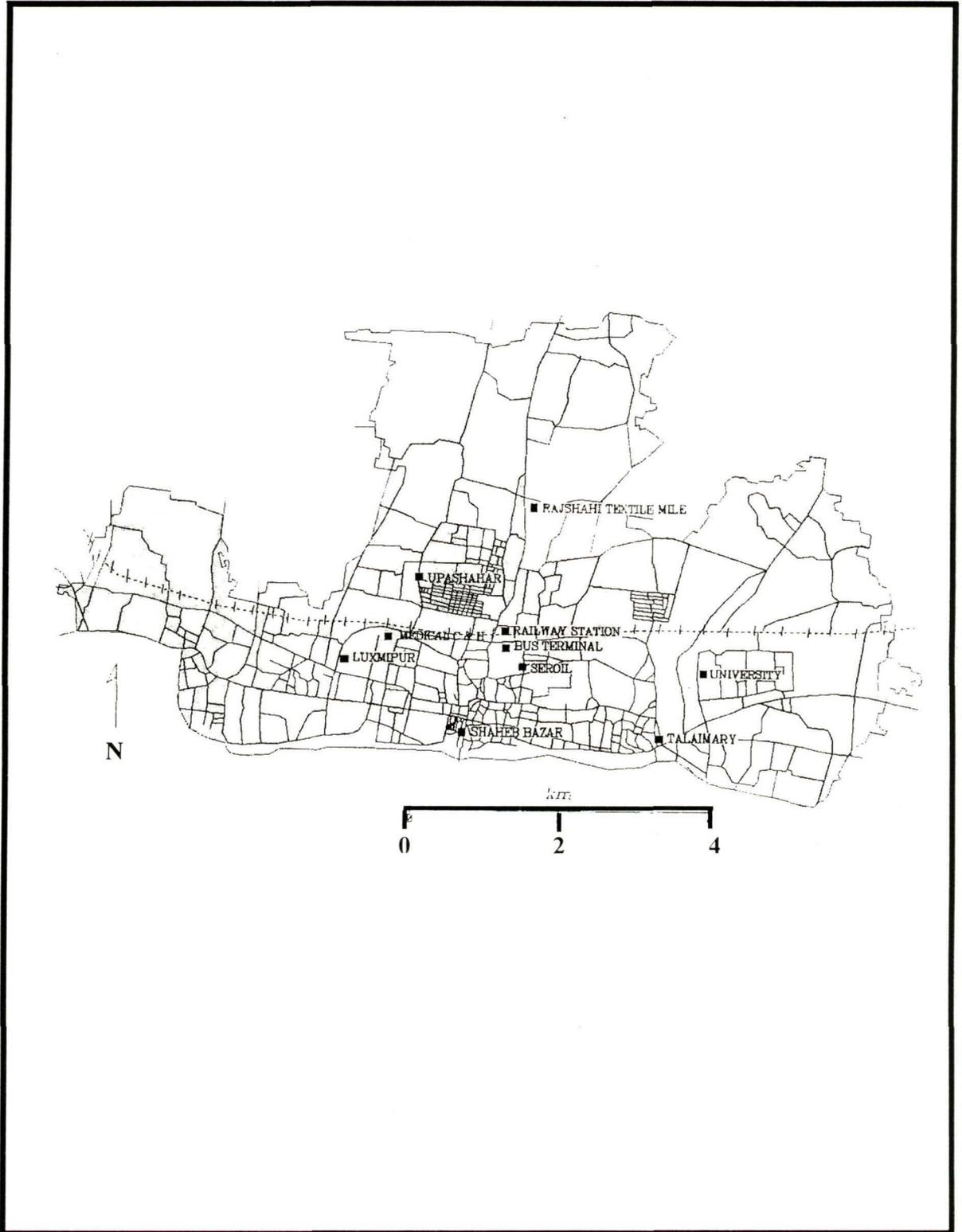
**Health centres :** Medical College Hospital 1, Zila Sadar Hospital, Diabetic Hospital, 1, Heart Foundation Hospital 1, Police Hospital 1, Railway Hospital 1, Leprosy Hospital 1, Prison Hospital 1, TB Hospital 1, TB Clinic 1, Triteness Hospital 1, Eye Hospital 1, Upazila Health Complex 9, Health & Family Welfare Centre 77, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre 1, Veterinary Hospital 1, and Satellite Clinic 88.



### Map of Rajshahi District



Map of Rajshahi Metropolitan Area



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