

Administrative Setup and Academic Pursuits

I. The Principals, Academic Staff And standard of Education

When the University of Calcutta began to function and turn out graduates, Rajshahi people became desirous of having higher education and began to think of starting a college. In 1873, First Arts classes were added to the Rajshahi Zilla School and it was raised to a second grade college, which was named Bauleah High School. The F.A. classes were opened on the 1st April, 1873 with only six students on the rolls.¹

The Head Master of the Rajshahi Zilla School, Haragobinda Sen, was called upon to act as the Principal of the college when it was established. He was described in the despatch of Lord Hardinge, the Governor-General as “the most successful student for the year 1848.” With Haragobinda Sen, Some of teachers of he school were also required to teach in the college as well. The Head Master reported that the teachers were not inclined to undertake the charge because of small emoluments offered to them.²

The results were not very encouraging at first; all the five candidates for the University examination got plucked. In 1875 two out of seven candidates passed, named Nikunja Mohan Lahiri and Sree Narayan Munshi. They got second and third divisions respectively. It is noted that, Nikunja Mohan Lahiri securing a senior scholarship.

In 1877, efforts were made for starting a first grade college, and the Rajshahi Association began to earn subscriptions. The Government of Bengal sanctioned the scheme in their letter No.2878, dated 1st October, 1877. Raja Pramathanath Roy of the Dighapatia Raj family made an endowment of Rs. 1,50,000 through the Rajshahi Association.³ In 1878, B.A. classes were opened and the college (Bauleah High School) raised to a first grade college. The University affiliation was secured for teaching the “B” or science course B.A. The Bauleah High School was now named the Rajshahi College and the school portion was named the Collegiate School. In this year Haragobinda Sen was (the acting Principal) in charge of the college.⁴

In 1879, Mr. F.T Dowding was appointed Principal of Rajshahi College after it was approved as a first grade college. He was a hard working man. He did not hesitate to make any effort, whatsoever it might be, for the progress of the college. During his period Rajshahi College became a separate educational institution from the Zilla School and for the purpose of constructing respective building of the college, Rajshahi Association was trying to collect money. At that time Rani Mon Mohini Devi of Puthia, contributed Rs. 20,000 for opening B.L. course in Rajshahi College.⁵ A teacher's list during the period of Mr. Dowding is given below :

Principal	F.T. Dowding, B.A.
Professor	Babu Haragobinda Sen.
Assistant Professor of Mathematics	...			Bipinbihari Gupta, M.A.
Lecturer on Botany and Chemistry	...			Hiralal Mookerjee, M.A.
Assistant Professor of Sanskrit	...			Baikunthanath Tarkabhusan.
Head Master, Collegiate School	...			Kalikumar Das, B.A.
2nd Master, ditto	...			Sagarchandra Chakravarty., B.A.

And seven other Assistant Masters, two pandits, and a Persian Teacher.⁶

It appears from the above mentioned teacher's list that at the time of gaining recognition as a Degree College, there were basically four teachers excluding Principal one Professor, two Assistant Professors and one Lecturer. In the B.A class Botany was an alternative subject and Chemistry was a very popular subject. At that time, in Collegiate School, the attached institution of the Rajshahi College, there were seven Assistant teachers including the Head Master and the Second Master, two Pandits and one teacher of Persian language.⁷

The working period of Mr. F.T. Dowding as a Principal was very short. Mr. A.C. Edwards, the next Principal of Rajshahi College was appointed in 1880. He remained in the post of Principal for about seven years continuously. This period was very important for Rajshahi College. There was no limit of Mr. A.C. Edwards effort for the rapid progress of the college. Of course he got enough help much advice from Rajshahi Association. As a result of this combined effort, permission

for conducting B.L. course at Rajshahi College was obtained. It may be mentioned here that the Rani of Puthia already contributed Rs. 20,000 for conducting B.L. course. In the Calendar of 1882-83 of Calcutta University, the name of Babu Mahendranath Sanyal, B.A., B.L. as the only Lecturer of Law Department is seen. In the above mentioned Calendar there are sentences like these: *Lectures in Law also are delivered and students are prepared for B.L. Examination.*⁸ In 1883 two students obtain B.L. Degree from this college. They were Sureshchandra Maitra and Harishchandra Mukharjee.

Till 1883 Rajshahi College was situated in the campus of Collegiate School. But in 1884 under the supervision of Rajshahi Association and with the earnest effort of Principal A.C Edwards a two storied red building was constructed. After the construction of this building all the activities and central point of the college were shifted from the Collegiate School to the respective campus of the college.⁹

In 1884, another beautiful building was made in the college campus for Rajshahi Madrasa. It was known as Madrasa building. It was in the college campus that a religion based institution Rajshahi Madrasa was built in 1874. It had been an institution of Rajshahi College for a long time. It was this place where Rajshahi Madrasa functioned till 1930. There after when Rajshahi Madrasa was shifted to the eastern side of Rajshahi central Jail, the above mentioned Madrasa building came under the control of the college authority. This Madrasa building still stands at the western end of the Botanical garden of Rajshahi College.¹⁰

The teachers list of the Department of Madrasa, as found in the Calendar of 1890 of Calcutta University is as follows:

Head Maulavi Maulavi Abdul Quader

English Teacher Maulavi Abdur Rahman, B.A.

And three Assistant Maulavis.¹¹

Mr. A.C Edwards was the Principal of Rajshahi College till 1887. He was transferred to Dacca and his place was filled up by Mr. Tepper who died very soon in England. Mr. W.B. Livingstone was then appointed Principal. In that year (1887) Mr. Bruhl, then Lecturer in Physical Science, was transferred to the C.E. College and

his place was filled up Mr. Kumudini Kanta Banerjee, M.A., a young man who was destined to play a great part in the history of this noble institution and the history of higher education in North Bengal.

The working period of Mr. W.B. Livingstone as the Principal is ten years (1887-1897), during his period M.A. class in Rajshahi College was introduced in 1893. The mention of Rajshahi College was made in the Calcutta University Calendar, 1894: *Instruction is given up to the standard of the M.A. examination of the Calcutta University.*¹² As regards the introduction of M. A. class, it is written in the Calcutta University Calendar, 1931: *In 1893, M.A. classes were added in the Rajshahi College.*¹³

In the year 1894 is memorable, as in this year the college, for the first time in its history, sent up two candidates for the M.A. examination. Both of them passed. Mr. Chainuddin obtained a third class in English. He later on became a Khan Bahadur and a secretary to the Government of Bengal. Mr. Narendranath Lahiri obtained a second class in Chemistry. He became Rai Bahadur and retired as a District and Sessions Judge. The year 1894 was important another reason too. Because, till 1893 the college had no Hostel accommodation. A new Boarding-House called the Pramatha Hindu Boarding-house, has been built in connection with the college. It was opened in August 1894, It accommodates 40 boarders.¹⁴ It is used as a Hindu Hostel up to 1923. Later on Tutorial and Honours classes were being held on of this Boarding-House.

In spite of existing F.A., B.A. (Pass and Honours), B.L. and M.A. classes, the scarcity of teachers in proved according to the teachers list of Rajshahi College provided by the Calcutta University, 1895. The list in given below.¹⁵

Instructive Staff

General Department.

Principal and Professor of English Literature,

Political Economy and History W. B. Livingstone

Lecturer on English Literature Gopalchandra Ganguli, M.A.

Lecturer of Physical Science Kunaudiai Kanta Banerjee, M.A.

Lecturer on Chemistry and Physics	Brajaballab Datta, M.A.
Lecturer on Logic and Philosophy	Pramanatha Mukherjee, M.A.
Lecturer on Mathematics	Rajmohan Sen, M.A.
Assistant Professor of Sanskarit	Banikunthanath Tarkabhusan.
Lecturer on Arabic and Persian	Maulavi Khalilulla.
Head Master, Collegiate School	Shashibhushan Sen, B.A.
2nd Master, Collegiate School	Lokanth Chakravarty, B.A.

And ten other Assistant Masters, three Pandits, one Persian Teacher and a Gymnastic Master.

Madrasa Department

Head Maulavi	Maulavi Abdul Quader.
English Teacher	Maulavi Fazaruddin Ahmed, B.A.

And three Assistant Maulavis.

Law Department

Law Lecturer	Mahendranath Sanyal, B.L.
--------------------	---------------------------

On the departure of Mr. Livingstone in 1897, Babu Kumudini Kanta Banerjee, M.A was appointed Principal. Since then the golden age of Rajshahi College began. He carried out the responsibility as the Principal of Rajshahi College for a long period of more than twenty five years in two phases. He was an efficient officer of Indian Education Service and a sincere teacher and administrator. During his teachership he lost one of his eyes in an accident while he was working in the laboratory.¹⁶ But his Physical limitation of ability could not, at all fade his efficiency.

The all round development of the college, its large scale extension, the increase of the number of its students, the establishment of Physical and Chemical laboratories making the play ground of the college and above all the construction of the hostel for the students bear the bright testimony of his efficiency. During his working period, Hemanta Kumari Hindu Hostel was built at the cost of Rs. 18,000 donated by

Maharani Hemanta Kumari Devi of Puthia in 1902.¹⁷ Beside these, under the college authority Maharani Hemanta Kumari Sanskrit College was started in 1904. For the construction of Sanskrit College building, Maharani Hemanta Kumari donated Rs 17,000.¹⁸ Beside these she donated Company's paper yielding Rs 1780 per year for maintaining college expenditure. This Sanskrit College, conducted as a branch of Rajshahi College became a glorious institution in the field of the study of Sanskrit. Vedanta, Smriti, Kavya, Alankara, Grammar etc. were taught here.

The names of the teachers found serving during the establishment of the Sanskrit College were as follows:¹⁹

Professor of Nyaya and Vedanta	Pandit Guracharan Tarkadarshantirtha.
Professor of Smriti	Pandit Bamandas Vidyaratna.
Professor of Kavya and Vedanta	Pandit Girishchandra Kavyatirtha and Vedantabhushan.

In 1905, after the partition of Bengal, the Rajshahi College passed under the control of the Government of the newly created province of East Bengal and Assam, and began to receive its special attention. Thus began a period of progress and development, un dreamt of even by the most optimistic of its well-wishers.

With the passage of time, the Rajshahi College acquired the standard of a University College and it opened four departments in course of time viz. (i) the General Department teaching up to the M.A Standard of the Calcutta University, (ii) the Law Department prepared students for the B.L and Pleadership Examination, (iii) the Arabic Department taught Arabic and Persian along with English and Vernacular, (iv) the Sanskrit Department taught Higher Sanskrit subjects viz. Vedanta, Nyaya, Smriti, Kavya, Vyakarana etc.²⁰

As bad days come in the life of a person or a nation, so they may come in the life of an institution. The year 1909 was very miserable for Principal Kumudini Kanta Banerjee nay for the college itself. In that year Calcutta University authority, according to the new regulations, withdrew the affiliation of conducting M.A. and B.L. course from Rajshahi College.²¹ And from this began to a long lasting pen fight between Principal Banerjee and Calcutta University - this fight ended at the death of Principal Roy Kumudini Kanta Benarjee Bahadur in 1924.

Although the affiliation of conducting B.L and M.A course was withdrawn in 1909, B.Sc. (pass and Honours) and I.Sc. courses were introduced in Rajshahi College from that year. The papers of this affiliation are no more found today but evidences of these are found in various publications of Calcutta University Calendar. For example, it was written about the standard of Rajshahi College in the Calcutta University Calendar of 1931. *The college now teaches upto B.A. and B.Sc Honours Standards.*²² Besides this under the heading of 'Affiliated Institution up to the Intermediate in Science standard' it has been said about Rajshahi College in serial no 18 of the Calendar of 1910: *Affiliation restricted uner section 24(5) of Act VII of 1904 to the following subjects with effect from, June, 1909. English, Vernacular Composition, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.*²³

Later on in 1909 the students hostel known as 'Fuller Hostel' made for the students of Madrasha came under the supervision of Rajshahi College. With the efforts of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, this students hostel was built with the money granted by Sir Bamfylde Fuller, the then Governor of East Bengal and Assam and so this hostel was named Fuller Hostel after his name. He granted Rs. 75,000 for building of this hostel.²⁴ It is mentioned that in 1953, after the starting of Rajshahi University, this Fuller Hostel was temporarily used as the first students hostel of Rajshahi University. Later on, the rooms of this Fuller Hostel were being used as office and seminar rooms of various departments of Arts and Commerce faculties.

The custom of transfer of teachers and employees from Rajshahi College to various other colleges and vice-versa was in practice. This information is obtained from the yearly reports of the Principals of Rajshahi College of different years. For example, in the report of 1912-13, it is found:

Mr. A.C. Datta, B.A. (cantab) was transferred to the Murari Chand College, Sylhet, as Principal and Babu Raicharan Biswas, M.A., Professor of Mathematics was appointed in his place. Babus Heramba Chandra Banerjee, M.A., and Mrittunjoy Bairagi were transferred here from the Gauhati College, in April 1912, as Demonstrator in the Physical Laboratory and additional clerk, respectively.²⁵

In the Principals Report of 1916-17 and 1917-18 another large transfer list was found: The following changes in the staff have taken place since january, 1917.²⁶

- (1) Babu Nripendrachandra Banerjee, M.A., Class 1, 1915, Professor of English, deputed to the Presidency College, made over charge on the 4th January, 1917.
- (2) Babu Shashimohan Chakrabarti, M.A., class II, 1915 B.A. (with second class Honours in English, 1913), Joined on the 12 the July in the consequent vacancy due to the deputation of Professor Nripendrachandra Banerjee.
- (3) Babu Rampada Majumdar, M.A., Class II transferred to the Krishnanagar College, made over charge on 11th August, 1917.
- (4) Babu Debendrakumar Sen, M.A., class II, 1914 Lecturer Chittagong College, assumed charge from Babu Rampada Majumdar on that day.
- (5) Babu Asutosh Maitra, M.A., class I. 1908, Professor of Chemistry, transferred to the Presidency College, made over charge on the 2nd July, 1917.
- (6) Babu Haridas Mukherjee, M.Sc. class I. 1911, officiating Professor of Chemistry, Dacca College, has been appointed in the place of Babu Asutosh Maitra, but has not yet joined.
- (7) Babu Panchanan Niyogi, M.A., class II 1904, is on privilege leave from 13th August, for 2 months and Babu Kumadbihary Sen, M.Sc. in Chemistry, class II, 1913, (B.Sc., second class Honours, 1911) has been officiating since the 20th August.

The Academic year 1922-23 was a specially important period for the development activities of Rajshahi College. During this period the number of students increased and reached near about one thousand. Hemanta Kumari Hostel and P.N. Hostel were allotted for the Hindu students at the college. But a few seats were reserved for the Muslim students in the Fuller Hostel only. This could not, at all, solve the accommodation problem. So the Government of Bengal and Rajshahi Association took an extensive plan in this matter. As a result five blocks were made at the cost of Rs. 3,53,863 in 1922 for the Hindu students and one block was made at the cost of Rs. 78,000 for the Muslims students in 1923. It was named New Hostel.²⁷

Principal Rai Kumudini Kanta Banerjee Bahadur was died in November, 1924. He was a teacher of Rajshahi College from its Primary stage. Later on became

Principal of this college. He had wide experience as a teacher and administrator of the College. He was possessed of the qualities of quickness in decision and boldness in execution. So he was able to cope with the new responsibilities and problems successfully.²⁸

After the death of Principal Rai Kumudini Kanta Banerjee Bahadur, Mr. Surendra Nath Maitreya was appointed Principal in 1925. He was a man of Brahma Society. He was a pure European in dress. He was proud of calling himself 'Amphibian' or half European and half Indian. Professor S.N. Maitra was an officer of Indian Education Service and in this matter he was too much conscious. During his period Babu Aswini Kumar Mukherjee was the Vice-Principal. The role of Babu Aswini Kumar was main in the daily routine work of the college.

The working period of Mr. S.N. Maitra as the Principal of Rajshahi College was short. After his departure in 1926, Mr. T.T. Williams came as the Principal of the college.²⁹ It may be said that Mr. Williams was in the chair of the Principal till 1930 provided that a few months of 1928 while Mr. A.K. Mukherjee worked as the Principal in-charge may be deducted from this period. His time period was a remarkable chapter in the history of Rajshahi College. Owing to the death of Principal Rai Bahadur Kumudini Kanta Banerjee and some mismanagement during the period of Mr. S.N. Maitreya, the environment of education in the college was damaged to a great extent. But Mr. T.T. Williams was able to bring back good environment by removing all irregularities and mismanagement drastically.

In the year 1926, during the period of Mr. T.T. Williams the two storied new Arts Building was constructed to the north of the play ground of the college. Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy, the Zamindar of Dighapatia made a remarkable gift for the construction of this building.³⁰ With a laboratory, different departments including the departments of Botany, Zoology and Geography found place in this building from time to time. Mr. Williams remarkable contribution is the construction of residential Government quarter for the Principal of the College. During his period in 1927, a beautiful two-storied building was constructed on the northern bank of the turbulent Padma as the residential quarter of the Principal. Besides these, he had a remarkable contribution to the extension of area of the college. It was during his

period in 1930 that Rajshahi Madrasa was shifted from Rajshahi College campus to the eastern side of the Central Jail.³¹ As a result of this, the Madrasa building in the college campus came under the control of Rajshahi College authority.

During the period of Mr. Williams who had a great thirst for beauty, the magnificence of furniture of the college, the beauty of the Botanical garden and the number of books of the Library increased. It may be said in a word that Mr. Williams decorated Rajshahi College as like as a pre-festive house. It is from this college that Mr. Williams returned to England after his retirement. Mr. Williams made regular correspondence with Basanta Babu, the superintendent of the garden about the information of his favourite garden from far away England for more than a year.³²

Mr. Bhupati Mohan Sen was appointed Principal of Rajshahi College after Mr. T.T. Williams. He was the son of Mr. Ram Mohan Sen, the wrangler and professor of Mathematics. Mr. Ram Mohan Sen served for many days as a professor of Mathematics in Rajshahi College. A stream of joy flowed in the college and in the town on account of the appointment of Mr. B.M. Sen as the Principal. The reason of it was that Principal Sen was born in Rajshahi and he passed a pretty long time of his education in Rajshahi.

As a Principal, Mr. B.M. Sen's existence was a very short period of time. But in this short period of time, he occupied the heart of all by dint of his good qualities and beauty of his character. No file could stay for ever ten minutes on the table of this modest and humble Principal. He did not like to do any official work of the college at his house. But he mixed with teachers and students without any hesitation and he would play Tennis, too. In fact, Mr. B.M. Sen was extraordinary in consideration of his personality.

Among his contributions to Rajshahi College, the establishment of the Botanical Laboratory, the Scholarship Fund and the Geeta Society for the Hindu students are specially remarkable.³³ He was the first man among the Principals of Rajshahi College who stated admission of the students in to Rajshahi College through admission test. But he could not introduce the system of co-education. He was sent to Calcutta Presidency College as the Principal with a notice of only twelve hours.

In the March of 1932, Dr. W.A. Jenkins took over the charge of the Principal, Rajshahi College. Rajshahi College was lucky enough to have a scholar like him as a Principal. Though his existence in the college was for one year only, he could take a few important for the progress of Rajshahi College in this one year.

The tutorial system had been prevailing in the college from before. He introduced another different tutorial system. In this system 20 students were placed under each teacher and their tutorial classes were taken in the house of the teacher. The classes were held once per week and reports were to be submitted to the Principal after 15 days consecutively. This system was called 'super tutorial system'.³⁴ The specialty of the super tutorial of the super class was that student was brought to the personal contact of a teacher who became friend, philosopher and guide of the student when necessary. When the students were asked to tell about the utility of this system, all the students admitted unanimously that they were sufficiently benefited by this system. In fact, the main object of this system was to make each student an ideal man.

It is ill luck of Rajshahi College that after only one year i.e in 1933, this ^{renowned} Principal Dr. Jenkins was transferred from Rajshahi College to other place. Dr. Jenkins remained in the Government service till 1947. He returned to England after retirement. But during Pakistan period, he returned back to East Pakistan and in the year 1953 he took over the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University for three years in a contract.³⁵

After Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Prabhu Datta Shastri was appointed principal of Rajshahi College Dr. P.D. Shastri was the Professor of Philosophy in Presidency College, Calcutta. Dr. Sastri, an inhabitant of the Punjab could speak Urdu fluently. A Shikh driver wearing a large turban on head would carry Dr. Shastri in a car to the college and back to his house.

The time period of Dr. Shastri (1933-35) at the Principal of Rajshahi College was glorious for various reasons. It was during his time that co-education in the college was introduced. Though during the period of Principal B.M. Sen in 1931, eight Hindu and Muslim girl students had been admitted into the college at the request of their guardians and arrangements for holding separate classes had been made, the next year the admission of the girl students was stopped as the Government did not

permit to hold separate classes for the girl students. Thereafter with the efforts of Rajshahi Association and Principal P.D. Shastri, co-education was introduced in Rajshahi College in the year 1933. After getting the permission of co-education, the time of admission of the girl students was extended up to the 10th November of that year.³⁶

In 1933, five girl students were first admitted into the 1st year class of Rajshahi College. Among them four students brought transfer certificate from Calcutta.³⁷ Beside this, during the Period of Dr. P.D Shastri, Rajshahi College Passed its glorious sixty years. From the 13th December to the 19th December 1933, the weekly celebration of 'Diamond Jubilee' was held in Rajshahi College. The celebration of this festival was inaugurated by Khawaja Nazimuddin, the then Educational Minister of Bengal.³⁸

The another achievement of Dr. P.D. Shastri is the final sanction that he has obtained for the Agricultural Institute which is going to be opened in the next few months.

After Dr. P.D. Shastri, Mr. Jibhan Mohan Bose took over the charge of Principal on the 15th December 1935. A scholar of Mathematics and a Barister of Lincoln's Inns, Mr. J.M Bose worked as a Professor of Shibpur Engineering College and Presidency College of Calcutta. In his book entitled 'Reaction and Reconcilements' Professor Abu Hena wrote: "As soon as his arrival, the disturbed and agitated environment of the college become peaceful with his invisible magic touch in a few days".³⁹ It was possible mainly for generous mentality, excellent personality and malice's principle. Under his perfect leadership the yearly sports of 1936 were held with proper dignity and pomp. It was from Rajshahi College that Mr. J.M. Bose took retirement in 1940.

In the period of Principal J.M. Bose an Institute known as Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute was established at Rajshahi in 1936 through the munificence of the late kumar Basanta kumar Roy of Dighapatia for the purpose of training students in Agriculture and its allied industries. It is under the direct administrative control of the Principal, Rajshahi College, and a Board of Management appointed by Government.⁴⁰

After the departure of Mr. J. M. Bose Dr. Sreekumar Banerjee took the responsibility of the Principal. He was a distinguished scholar of English literature. He began teachership in Presidency College, Calcutta in 1916 and gradually became known as a famous teacher. He was promoted to the senior service in August 1935 and was transferred to Rajshahi College as a Professor of English. In this connection he was appointed Vice-Principal of the College.⁴¹

In the month of January 1941, Dr. Snehamoy Dutta came as the Principal. He was a famous scholar of Physics. Reticent Dr. Dutta was hospitable and he liked to attend the feast at the house of his colleagues with his wife. His wife was the sister of Jyoti Basu, the former Chief Minister of West Bengal. She had a fame as an elegant lady in the society of Rajshahi.⁴²

Till the August of 1945, peace and tranquility prevailed in the college to the fullest measure under the guidance of Dr. Dutta. But after this the environment of the college became agitated to some extent. A demand of political field parallel to 'Pakistan'- 'Muslim Principal is wanted'- began to granulate. As a result a Muslim Principal was appointed in Rajshahi College.

In 1945, Dr. Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed was appointed Principal of Rajshahi College. He was a famous scholar of Philosophy. Prior to his joining at Rajshahi College, he was the Principal of Dacca Intermediate College. Though at the primary stage, there were some difficulties in the management of the College, Dr. Ahmed was able to remove those difficulties in a few days. During this period Dr. A. R. Mallick, the distinguished Professor of History, sufficiently helped in his daily work.⁴³

As a result peace and environment of education were restored in a few days. Though he was not a man of strict principle, he could show credit in the management of the college by dint of his simplicity and sincerity. In the mean time the political back ground of the Sub-Continent changed. In 1947, the British departed from this Sub-Continent and the Sub-Continent was divided into two independent countries- India and Pakistan. After the Partition of 1947, there was an exodus of teachers from the Rajshahi College to India. An irreparable loss of tremendous magnitude was caused to this college, as a large number of its distinguished teachers left to join jobs in India.⁴⁴

After Dr. Mumtaz Uddin, Dr. I. H. Zubery another scholar of English literature became the Principal of Rajshahi College on the 10th April, 1950. Though his existence in the college was of a short period, he introduced some new rules in the college. He introduced uniform for the boy students and a special kind of shari for the girl students.⁴⁵ During his period, Geography was introduced in the syllabus of I. A and I.Sc.

The establishment of University in Rajshahi was a great achievement of Dr. Zubery. In 1917, The Sadler Commission noticed the location, beautiful scenery, the presence of efficient teachers, a large number of students and first class facilities given to them, and strongly recommended that Rajshahi College should gradually be upgraded to a University.⁴⁶ Dr. Zubery and Advocate Madar Bakxsh, the worthy son of Rajshahi made the dream of that day into reality by establishing Rajshahi University in 1953. Though the University was built up centering Matihar, it may be said without any hesitation that it was Rajshahi College which was the breeding place of Rajshahi University. It was Dr. Zubery who was the first Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University. The 'Zubery House' of the University bears his memory till today. It is noted in this connection that Dr. Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, the second Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University was a former Principal of Rajshahi College. The 'Mumtaz Uddin Arts Building' has still kept his memory unfaded.⁴⁷

After the departure of Principal Dr. Zubery in 1951, Mr. Taher Jamil, Mr. Abdul Karim Mandal and Mr. A. Munem became the Principal of Rajshahi College in the same year one after another. Principal Munem introduced the night class of I.Com. It was the year of 1951 that Mr. Salman Chowdhury was appointed Principal of Rajshahi College after Mr. Munem. During his time, according to the rules of Dacca University, three years, honours course was introduced and Geography was added to B.A. and B.Sc. classes as a subject. On the 1st July, 1953, when Rajshahi University act came into force, Rajshahi College came under Rajshahi University. During his tenure, the walls on the western and southern sides of the college were constructed. As a result, Rajshahi College became an educational institution surrounded by walls. Besides this, he closed the night class of I.Com and introduced day class.⁴⁸

In the year 1954, Mr. Shamsul Haq, a famous educationist, took the responsibility of the Principal, Rajshahi College. During his time beyond the routine period of

work of the college, M.A and Law classes of the University were started in Rajshahi College. Beside this he introduced B.Com. class in the college and thus gave perfection of the college. Owing to his earnest effort a two-storied building was constructed to the northern side of the Fuller Hostel in 1955 and it was named New Arts Building. Besides this, his another remarkable credit was the construction of a huge two-storied building to the eastern side of the Hemanta Kumari Hindu Hostel. The up stairs of this building was being used as the Auditorium and the down stairs as the Central Library of the college. As a result the problem of the library was permanently solved. Having arrangements of reading rooms for the teachers and the students, the library decorated with about 1,00,000 books have been quenching the thirst of the knowledge seekers.⁴⁹

In January, 1956, Mr. Shamsul Haq was appointed Education Attaché in the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington and left Rajshahi College. Later on he became the Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University. After Dr. Shamsul Haq, Dr. Abdul Haque took the responsibility of the Principal. Dr. Haque, the professor of Physics made effort to maintain the tradition of education and law and order in the college. It was with the effort of Dr. Haque that a two-storied building was constructed to the south of the New Arts Building in 1958.⁵⁰ On the up stairs of this building, the departmental office of Political Science department and class rooms were established and the canteen and the common room of the students were established in the down stairs.

After Mr. Abdul Haque, Mr. Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury became the Principal of Rajshahi College. Mr. Chowdhury, a professor of Philosophy, joined the Educational Service of Assam and began his career of teachership in Gauhati College. Later on he became a professor of Philosophy in Sylhet M.C College and carried on the responsibility of the Principal, Dacca College. As an individual of first class personality, Mr. Chowdhury was a man of strong Principle and he was always above complication and hostility. In the year 1961 he served as the D.D.PI. of Rajshahi Division and there after as the Chairman of Rajshahi Education Board.⁵¹

Mr. Abdul Hye took the responsibility of the Principal of Rajshahi College on the 17th October 1961. He also began his career as an officer of Assam Educational Service. Later on he served as a Professor of Philosophy in Sylhet, Dacca and

Rajshahi College. As a Principal Professor Hye worked about eight years at Rajshahi College. With his effort, a two-storied hostel for the girl students was built in 1964.⁵² As a result, a long felt problem of the college was solved.

After Professor Hye, Mr. Elias Ahmed became the Principal of Rajshahi College. He was one of the former students of Rajshahi College. He served as a famous Professor of English Literature in different colleges. Prior to his taking responsibility as the Principal of Rajshahi College, he served as the Principal of Rangpur Carmichael College.

After this Dr. Shamsulddin Miah became the Principal of the college. He was also one of the former students of Rajshahi College. A vast scholar Dr. Miah, acquired much fame at different colleges and universities as a Professor of Islamic History and Culture. Hard working and dutiful Dr. Miah was of uncompromising attitude in respect of principle and he was very conscious about his worth. It was during his period that two, three-storied residential buildings where twelve families can live, were constructed in 1970 for the teachers.⁵³ These two buildings stand face to face to the south east corner of the play ground.

In the mean time, the political back ground changed once again. The eastern part of Pakistan emerged as independent Bangladesh after a blood shedding war of liberation. During the former half of the year 1972, Dr. Nurur Rahman Khan came as the Principal of the college. Dr. Khan, a Professor of Chemistry, gained the post of the Principal without any previous experience of conducting a big institution. But by dint of his sincerity, honesty and devotion, he firmly secured himself in the post of the Principal in a few days. During his Period in 1972, honours courses were opened extensively at Rajshahi College. In this year honours courses were opened in, Psychology, Zoology, Political science, Management and Geography. Beside these, Sociology and Social Work was introduced in the syllabuses as a subject in 1972 and in 1974 respectively.⁵⁴ During the period of Dr. Nurur Rahaman Khan, the college passed its glorious hundred years (1873-1973). But owing to various reasons, the festival of hundred years could not be celebrated during his time. It was celebrated long after the college had passed its hundred years on the 7th and 8th January 1989,⁵⁵ during the period of devoted Principal Dr. Abul Kashem, (1884-1890), a former student of Rajshahi College.

II. The College Governing Body

Although the college was declared as an institution of degree comes in 1878, we do not have any dependable records its Governing Body. For unquotable sources, it may be noted from 1912-13. Then in the said year the Governing Body consisted of the following members:⁵⁶

J. G. Dunlop, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Magistrate, President.

Rai Kumudini Kanta Banerjee Bahadur, M.A., Principal, Secretary and Vice-President.

Babu Raj Mohan Sen, M.A., Senior Professor, Member.

According to Principal's 'Report on the Rajshahi College and the Attached Institution for the year 1912-13' Governing Body met five times during the year. Mr. Dunlop took interest in the college affairs. But the Governing Body have little power, they are merely and advisory body if more power be given to them with funds, the improvements, that are urgently needed, may be expedited.

During the academic years 1916-17 and 1917-18 Raja Pramadanath Roy Bahadur of Dighapatia, was a new member of the Governing Body. The Governing Body held seven meetings in 1915-16 and the same number in 1916-17.⁵⁷

In the academic session 1927-28 the Governing Body of the Rajshahi College consisted of the following members:⁵⁸

The District Magistrate of Rajshahi— President (ex officio).

The Principal, Rajshahi College— Vice-President and Secretary (ex officio).

Babu Kishori Mohan Chowdhury, M.A., B.L.

Babu Akshay Kumar Maitreya, B.L., C.I.E.

Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy, M.A.

The Secretary, Rajshahi Association.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed, B.L.

Maulvi Md. Mabrak Ali Khan, B.L.

Maulvi Syed Md. Shafi.

Rev. D.J. Ewart, M.A.

Babu Rampada Mazumdar, M.A. (representative of the teaching staff- Arts section)

Babu Bamacharan Bhattacharyya, M.A. (representative of the teaching staff- Science section)

The Personnel remained almost the same during the quinquennium (1927-1932) with the following exceptions :⁵⁹

In the academic year 1928-29 Dr. R. Morrison was appointed member in place of Rev. D.J. Ewart, and in the year 1929-30 Dr. Morrison was relieved by Mr. M.D. Gray who was succeeded by Rev. D.J. Ewart in November 1929.

In 1930-1931 Babu Jitendra Kumar Chakravorty, M. A., was appointed member to represent the teaching staff-Arts section- in place of Babu Rampada Mazumdar, transferred, and Rai Surendra Nath Rai Bahadur, B.L., was appointed to be a member of the Governing Body with effect from April 1930 vice Babu Akshay Kamar Maitreya, B.L., C.I.E., deceased.

Babu Hemchandra Ganguli, M.A., Professor of Physics, was appointed member to represent the teaching staff- Science section- in place of Babu Bamacharan Bhattacharyya, M.A., retired from Government service in January, 1931.

In the academic year 1935-36 Kumar Pratiba Nath Roy of Dighapatia and Maulvi Muhammad Azizul Alam, B.L., were appointed to be additional members of the Governing Body. Dr. Sri Kumar Banerjee, M.A., B.L., Ph.D, officiating senior Professor of English, was appointed member to represent the teaching staff-Arts side- in place of Babu Jitendra Kumar Chakravorty, M.A., transferred in January 1936 and Mr. Ashraf Ali Khan Choudhury, Bar-at-law, was appointed member of the Governing Body vice Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin Ahmed, B.L., deceased.⁶⁰

During the academic session 1941-42 the members of the Governing Body of the Rajshahi College were as follows :

- 1) A.Z. Khan, E.Sq., I.C.S., District Magistrate, Rajshahi- President (ex-officio).

- 2) Dr. S. Datta, M.Sc. (Cal.) D.Sc. (Lond.), F.N.I. (Premchand Roychand Scholar), Principal, Rajshahi College- Vice President and Secretary (ex-officio).
- 3) Mr. Sarat Kumar Ghosh, M.A., B.L., Secretary, Rajshahi Association (ex-officio)
- 4) Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy of Dighapatia Raj, Junior Branch.
- 5) Raja Prativa Nath Roy of Dighapatia.
- 6) Mr. Benoy Krishna Sinha, M.Sc., B.L.
- 7) Mr. Asraf Ali Khan Choudhary, Bar-at-law, M.I.A.
- 8) Rai Sahib Kunja Lal Saha, M.A., B.L.
- 9) Mr. D.J. Ewart, Warden, Westminster Hostel , Rajshahi.
- 10) Khan Sahib Maulvi Mobark Ali Khan, B.L.
- 11) Mr. Azizul Alam, B.L.
- 12) Mr. Muhammad Hamiduzzaman Chowdhary, B.L.
- 13) Mr. Abu Hena, M.A., Elected Representative of the Teaching Staff, Rajshahi College (Arts Side).
- 14) Mr. Hemchandra Ganguli, M.A, Elected Representative of the Teaching Staff, Rajshahi College (Science Side).⁶¹

III. Student Pattern and Numerical Strength

When Rajshahi College had started her F.A classes on the 1st April, 1873 then only six students on the rolls. By the 31st December of that year the number had increased to 27, and both the first and second year classes had been formed. There was only one Muslim boy in the college. In 1878 B.A classes were opened and in 1880 the Rajshahi College had 66 students on the rolls, of whom only one was a Muslim. In 1881 B.L. classes were opened in Rajshahi College and in 1882 the numerical strength of the college rose up to 110. In 1893 M.A classes were opened in Rajshahi College and in 1900, the number of students on the college rolls was 138.⁶²

After the partition of Bengal, in 1905, the college passed under the control of the Government of the newly created province of East Bengal and Assam, and began to receive its special attention. thus began a period of progress and development, undreamed of even by the most optimistic of its well-wishers. In 1905-06 the number rose to 219. In 1909 affiliation for M.A and B.L teaching was withdrawn by the University of Calcutta under the new regulations. The College then continued to teach upto the B.A and B.Sc. Honours standard. The number on the rolls rose upto 292 in 1909-10. The number began to rise steadily. It rose to 394 in 1910-11.⁶³

The number of students on the 31st March, 1913 was 656 against 522 on the corresponding date of the previous year. Of these 550 were Hindus and 106 Muslims against 453 Hindus and 69 Muslims in the year before. It is gratifying to note that the number of Muslims students increased very considerably. The average monthly number and the average daily attendance in the year 1912-13 was 619 and 519, respectively, against 483 and 396.4 in 1911-12. Owing to want of accommodation both in the class rooms as well as in the Boarding Houses a large number of students, not less than 150 had to be refused admission.

Table - I

The following table shows the numerical strength of the college during the session 1911-12 and 1912-13.⁶⁴

Year	Number of the students on the 31 st March		Hindu	Muslim
1911-12	1912	522	453	69
1912-13	1913	656	550	106

Source : Report on the Rajshahi College and the Attached Institutions for the year 1912-13, P. 3.

On the 31st July, 1916 there were 794 students on the rolls of the college (636 in the Arts course + 126 in the Science course) and 545 (419 in the Arts course + 126 in the Science course) on the same date in 1917.⁶⁵ The later does not include the First-year, which has not yet been formed on account of the delay in holding the Matriculation Examination.

The role strength was accordingly 800 in 1920 and no less than 1,000 in 1924. There was only 1 Muslim student at the college in 1873, 1 yet in 1878, but the figure rose to 156 in 1916 and recorded a splendid climex with 215 in 1924. Muslim students have always found the place particularly congenial to them; as a centre of Muslim education it was supreme in Bengali up to 1920, and yields precedence only to the

Islamia College, Calcutta and Islamia College, Dacca. There was a reason behind the above statistics of Muslim students. After talking over Bengal by the British, Muslims went Back in all spheres. Even they did not accept English language even. However, Muslims were no where, they became poor economically and academically. After one hundred year after they realised it and started afresh with the consistent effort of Sir Syed Ahmed, Sayed Ameer Ali and Nawab Abdul Latif. In my humble opinion Muslim students choose Rajshahi College for their education as it was a cheapest place in comparison to Calcutta. At that time Muslims were very poor and Jaigir was available in Rajshahi.

Table - II

The numerical strength of the college was as follows during the quinquennium, 1927-1932:

Year	Number of students on the 31 st March	Hindu	Muslim
1927-28	805	642	163
1928-29	775	625	150
1929-30	759	598	161
1930-31	606	441	165
1931-32	617	459	158

Source : Quinquennial Report on Rajshahi College for the years 1927-1932, P. 11.

Table - III

The numerical strength of the college was as follows during the Quinquennium, 1932-1937 :

Year	Total Number of students on the 31 st March	Female Students	Hindu	Mahammadan
1932-33	505	7	376	129
1933-34	556	5	412	144
1934-35	616	16	453	163
1935-36	673	16	476	197
1936-37	746	17	541	205

Source : Quinquennial Report on Rajshahi College for the years 1932-1937, P. 38.

Table - IV

The numerical strength of the College from the sessions 1950-51 to 1973-74 were as follows :

Sessions	Classes	No. of Male Students	No. of Female Students	Total No. of Students
1950-51	Intermediate & Degree (Pass & Hons.)	653	7	66
1951-52	Do	669	16	685
1952-53	Do	983	25	1008
1953-54	Do	967	18	985
1954-55	Do	1206	43	1249
1955-56	Do	1126	71	1197
1956-57	Do	1214	83	1297
1957-58	Do	1293	72	1365
1958-59	Do	1347	85	1432
1959-60	Do	1353	104	1457
1960-61	Do	1451	134	1585
1961-62	Do	1110	133	1243
1962-63	Do	1401	138	1539
1963-64	Do	1304	95	1399
1964-65	Do	1394	170	1564
1965-66	Do	1230	129	1359
1966-67	Do	1277	153	1430
1967-68	Do	1561	195	1756
1968-69	Do	1499	209	1706
1969-70	Do	1465	225	1690
1970-71	Do	1546	294	1840
1971-72	Do	1586	265	1851
1972-73	Do	2442	391	2833
1973-74	Do	2292	417	2711

Source : *Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, (1873-1973), 1988, P. 22.*

Notes and references

1. Sree Kalinath Chowdhury, Rajshahir Sangkhipta Itihash, Calcutta, 1901, P. 232.
2. D.P.I. Report for the year 1875 -76, P. 73.
3. Sree Kalinath Chowdhury, Op.cit., P. 341.
4. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 33.
5. Loc. cit.
6. Calcutta University Calendar, 1880-81, P. 143.
7. Loc. cit.
4. Calcutta University Calendar, 1880-81, P. 143.
8. Calcutta University Calendar, 1882-83, P. 161.
9. Rajshahi College Prospectus 1933-34, P. 14.

In the Calcutta University Calendar of 1931 the cost of the building was mentioned Rs. 60,703.

10. Calcutta University Calendar, 1891, P. 258.

Some irregularities about the construction cost and the year of construction of this building are noticed. In the Rajshahi College Prospectus of 1933-34 the construction cost of Madrasha Building was mentioned as Rs. 47000. on the other hand in the Calendar of Calcutta University of 1891 its construction period was mentioned as 1883 and its construction cost was mentioned as Rs. 38000.

11. Calcutta University Calendar, 1890, P. 254.
12. Calcutta University Calendar, 1894, P. 254.
13. Calcutta University Calendar, 1931, P. 541.
14. Calcutta University Calendar, 1895, P. 270.
15. Loc. cit.
16. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 64.
17. Saifuddin Chowdhury and Tasiqul Islam (ed.), Rajshahi Pratibha, Rajshahi, 2000, P. 234.

18. Rajshahi College prospectus for the Academic Year 1933-34, PP. 34-35
 19. Calcutta University Calendar, 1905, P. 351.
 20. Rajshahi Association Literary Magazine, vol. I, 1987, P. 136.
 21. Calcutta University Calendar, 1913, Part II, P. 333.
 22. Calcutta University Calendar, 1931, P. 541.
 23. Calcutta University Calendar, 1910, Part II PP. 872-73.
 24. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 31.
 25. Report on the Rajshahi College and the Attached Institutions for the year 1912-13, P. 2.
 26. Report on the Rajshahi College for 1916-17 and 1917-18, PP. 4-5.
 27. Calcutta University Calendar, 1924 & 1925, P. 502.
 28. Abu Hena, Reactions and Reconciliation, Chittagong, 1969, P. 17.
 29. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 65.
 30. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 17.
 31. Loc. cit.,
 32. Abu Hena, op.cit., P. 66.
 33. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 66.
 34. Abu Hena, op.cit., P. 80.
 35. M.A. Rahim, History of the University of Dacca, 1981, P. 78.
- Dr. Jenkins took over as Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University on 9 November, 1953. He worked three years as Vice-Chancellor for the Development of the University of Dacca.
36. Rajshahi College Prospectus, 1934-34, PP. 30-31.
 37. Rajshahi College Annual Report, 1933, PP. 30-31.
 38. Rajshahi College Magazine, 1933, Dimond Jubilee Prize Distribution, P. 63.
 39. Abu Hena, op.cit., P. 102.
 40. Quinquennial Report on Rajshahi College for the years 1932-33 to 1936-37, P. 28.
 41. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 33.
 42. Abu Hena, op.cit., P. 190.

43. Rajshahi University Calendar, 1956, P. 201.
44. Muhhamad Abdus Samad, Subarna Diner Bibarna Smriti, Rajshahi, 1987, P. 86.
45. 'Itrat Hussain Lubery' an article by Akhtar Banu in Rajshahi Pratibha, ed. by Saifuddin Chowdhury and Tasimul Islam, Rajshahi, 200, P. 468.
46. Note of the Calcutta University Commission on the academic life of Rajshahi College which is preserved in the File of the year 1919, Rajshahi College.
47. 'Shatabdir Sangkhiptha Itihas Rajshahi College' an article by Md. Muzibur Rahman in Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 68.
48. Loc. cit.
49. Loc. cit.
50. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 68.
51. Loc. cit.
52. Rajshahi College Magazine, 1967-68, P. 5.
53. Shafisudin Miah, Shiskkher Dairy, Rajshahi, 2003, P. 68.
54. Rajshahi College Centenary Magazine, 1988, P. 16.
55. Loc. cit.
56. Report on the Rajshahi College and the Attached Institutions for the year 1912-13, PP. 1-2.
57. Report on the Rajshahi College for the year 1917-18, P. 2.
58. Quinquennial Report on Rajshahi College for the years 1927-32, P. 13.
59. Loc. cit.
60. Quinquennial Report on Rajshahi College for the years 1932-32 to 1936-37, PP. 11-12.
61. Government of Bengal : Information concerning Rajshahi College, Rajshahi, (1941-1942), P. 25.
62. A short History of Rajshahi College' an article by A.C. Chowdhury in Rajshahi College Magazine, 1933, P. 83.
63. Loc. cit.
64. Report on the Rajshahi College and the Attached Institutions for the year 1912-13, P. 3.
65. Report on the Rajshahi College for 1916-17 and 1917-18, P. 10.