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DINAJPUR

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PREFACE

The East India Company conceived the idea of writing District Gazetteers for the first time in India in 1807 and entrusted to Dr. Francis Buchanan with the task of writing the District Gazetteers of Rangpur, Dinajpur and other districts of the then Bengal. Buchanan could compile the Gazetteers of Rangpur and Dinajpur only before he left the country. Sir W.W. Hunter included the Gazetteers of all the districts of then Bengal in his book entitled *A Statistical Account of Bengal* (20 volumes), published between 1875 and 1877. During the 20th century, the District Gazetteer of the undivided district of Dinajpur was compiled by F.W. Strong of the Indian Civil Service and published in 1912. The Gazetteers of the districts now constituting Bangladesh were written more than half-a-century ago. The materials contained in them, though very useful, have become out-dated. The Government, therefore, felt the necessity of not only revising them with up-to-date information but also of re-writing them from the angle of satisfying the present day needs. There has also been persistent demand from the public and various other quarters for revising and re-writing the District Gazetteers.

"The Government of East Bengal ordered the revision of District Gazetteers in 1948 and entrusted the work to the Divisional Commissioners who found neither the time nor the aptitude for such an undertaking. Later the Government ordered its revision by a senior I.C.S. official by name but that decision also could not materialise." In December, 1961, Government set up a Committee to recommend, amongst other things, the principles on which the District Gazetteers should be revised and re-written. Agreeing with the recommendations of the Committee, the Government ordered in July 1963 that a separate organisation headed by a General Editor should be set up to undertake the work of revision and re-writing of the Gazetteers of all the districts. They further ordered that the final draft was to be approved by an Advisory Board, presided over by the Senior Member, Board of Revenue.

This Gazetteer of Dinajpur is coming out exactly 60 years after the publication of the last District Gazetteer. During the intervening period the district has undergone rapid changes in different spheres of life. It is needless to state that the present volume relates to the District of East Dinajpur only and not to the former undivided District of Dinajpur which existed prior to

the 14th August, 1947. The present volume has been written in conformity with the pattern set for revision of the District Gazetteers by the Government. Its aim is to present to the general reader an adequate and comprehensive picture of the district without going into details of a specialised nature. It will be for the reader to judge how far we have succeeded in achieving our object. The present volume was drafted and was placed before the Advisory Board. Seventeen meetings of the Advisory Board were held between 16th May 1968 and 7th May 1970 and all the chapters were approved.

In drafting the various chapters the standard works on the subject have freely been consulted. Name of such standard works have been given in the bibliography published at the end of this book. At some place the liberty of quoting certain passages verbatim from the District Gazetteer of F.W. Strong without the use of any quotation mark have been taken because the present volume purports to be the revised version of Strong's Gazetteer. The last Gazetteers had separate statistical volumes, but in the present version statistical data have been condensed and duly integrated with the descriptive portion so as to make it a self-contained and comprehensive volume.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. S. M. Hasan and Mr. A.Q. Ansari, both senior Members, Board of Revenue, and Chairman of the Advisory Board, District Gazetteers, who held office one after the other for their valuable help and guidance in preparing this volume. We place on record our heart-felt condolence at the sudden death of Mr. S. N. H. Rizvi (*ex*-General Editor) who died on the 31st March 1971. We are indebted to him for his sincere efforts for collecting many materials for this edition. Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, then General Editor in-Charge, actually, gave this Gezetteers the present final form.

We are thankful to the following gentlemen who attended the different meetings of the Advisory Board and extended their wholehearted co-operation in improving the drafts: Mr. S. M. Ali; Mr. A. M. Salimullah Fahmi; Principal Ebrahim Khan; Dr. A. Farouk, Head of the Department of Commerce, Dacca University; Mr. Zakir Hussain, Head of the Department of Zoology, Dacca University; Dr. A. K. M. Nurul Islam, then Reader in Botany, Dacca University; Mr. M. A. Chowdhury, then Director, Bureau of Statistics; Mr. A. N. Kalimullah, then Deputy Secretary, Home Department; Mr. K. A. Khabir, then

Deputy Secretary, Home Department; Mr. M. M. Anwar Ali, then A.D.P.I, Education Directorate; Mr. M. I. Chowdhury, then Officer-in-Charge, Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics; Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Hakim (Hydrology, WAPDA) and Mr. Abdus Salek, then Statistician, Bureau of Statistics.

Among the experts who extended their co-operation in this work, we place on record our deep appreciation for Dr. S. A. Momen of the then EPIDC, Mr. (now Dr.) M. Habibullah of the Department of Commerce, Dacca University and Mr. Quadrat-e-Ghani, then Chairman, Forest Industries and Development Corporation. In conclusion, we would like to express our hearty thanks to our colleagues who extended their active and whole-hearted co-operation in preparing this work. Since, most of the Chapters of this volume were compiled and waiting for final printing before liberation, very little scope remained for a thorough revision for the rapid changes that took place. It is hoped that all those shortcomings will be taken into consideration in the future editions of both Bengali and English.

ASHRAF SIDDIQUI

General Editor.

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2.	Mr. Halifax, I.C.S.	1918-1919
3.	Mr. R. Brom Field, I.C.S.	1919-1920
4.	Mr. Rai Nikhil Nath Bahadur, B.C.S.	1920-1923
5.	Mr. Jnanankur De, I.C.S.	8-11-1923—25-1-1925
6.	Mr. S. A. Salek, B.C.S.	1925-1927
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13.	Mr. Rai S. P. Ghose Bahadur, I.S.O.	15-1-1935—10-5-1935
14.	Mr. Rai Suresh Chandra Basu Bahadur, B.C.S.	11-5-1935—1-3-1936
15.	Mr. M. K. Kripalani, I.C.S.	2-3-1936—12-7-1937
16.	Mr. Rai Nepal Chandra Sen Bahadur, B.C.S.	13-7-1937—13-10-1937
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CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL ASPECTS

In the absence of any local tradition regarding the origin of the name 'Dinajpur', the theory generally advanced and accepted is that the name 'Dinajpur' is derived from the name of some local chieftain or king of the name of Dinaj or Danuj. There is a mention in history of one Danuj Roy of Sonargaon, who helped Ghiyas-ud-din Balban in defeating Sultan Mughis-ud-din, but, according to Sir Jadunath Sarkar, his kingdom of Sonargaon lay near about the districts of Comilla and Noakhali. Hence this Danuj Roy did not give Dinajpur its name. Raja Ganesh, the Chieftain of North Bengal, who became the King of Gaur in the early part of the 15th century A.D., assumed the title of Danujamardanadeva and it is probable that the name Dinajpur has been derived from his title.

Origin of the name.

The district of Dinajpur lies between 25°14' and 26°38' north latitude and between 88°05' and 89°18' east longitude and forms the north-western most district of Bangladesh. It is one of the five districts which constitute the Rajshahi Division.

Location.

The area covered by the district was formerly much greater than it was at the time of Partition (1947). It included the greater portion of the districts of Bogra and Maldah (India) and considerable tracts now included in Rajshahi, Rangpur and Purnea (India). When Dinajpur first came under British rule in 1765 it was known for the lawlessness of its inhabitants and the district's staff failed to cope successfully with the dacoits and the river pirates with which a large tract of land was infested. The area was, therefore, gradually reduced with the object of improving the administration. During the year 1800-01 a large number of estates, hitherto included in Dinajpur, were made over to Purnea (India), Rangpur and Rajshahi. From 1833 to 1870 a large portion of the district was transferred to Bogra and Maldah (India). Finally in 1897-98 the whole thana of Mahadebpur in the south of the district was transferred to Rajshahi.

Variation in Boundary from time to time.

The district got its present boundary and area at the time of Partition in 1947 in accordance with the Radcliff Award and subsequent realignments.

It is bounded on the north by the district of Jalpaiguri in West Bengal (India), on the west by Bihar (India) and the district of West Dinajpur (India), on the south by a portion

Present Boundary

of the district of West Dinajpur (India) and the district of Bogra, and on the east by the district of Rangpur. The south-western boundary which separates the district from West Dinajpur (India) was formed in accordance with the Award of Sir Cyril Radcliff which runs as follows:

“A line shall be drawn along the boundary between the Thana of Phansidewa in the district of Darjeeling and the Thana Tetulia in the district of Jalpaiguri from the point where that boundary meets the province of Bihar and then along the boundary between the Thana of Tetulia and Rajganj; the Thanas of Panchagar and Rajganj, and the Thana of Panchagar and Jalpaiguri, and shall then continue along the northern corner of the Thana Debiganj to the boundary of the state of Cooch-Bihar. The District of Darjeeling and so much of the District of Jalpaiguri as lies north of this line shall belong to West Bengal, but the Thana of Patgram and any other portion of Jalpaiguri District which lies to the east or south shall belong to East Bengal.

“A line shall then be drawn from the point where the boundary between the thanas of Haripur and Raiganj in the district of Dinajpur meets the border of the Province of Bihar to the point where the boundary between the districts of 24-Parganas and Khulna meets the Bay of Bengal. This line shall follow the course indicated in the following paragraphs.

“The line shall run along the boundary between the following thanas:

“Haripur and Raiganj; Haripur and Hemtabad; Ranisankhail and Hemtabad; Pirganj and Hemtabad, Pirganj and Kaliganj; Biral and Kaliganj; Biral and Kushmundi; Biral and Gangarampur, Dinajpur and Gangarampur, Dinajpur and Kumarganj, Chirirbandar and Kumarganj; Phulbari and Kumarganj; Phulbari and Balurghat. It shall terminate at the point where the boundary between Phulbari and Balurghat meets the north-south line of the Bengal Assam Railway in the eastern corner of the Thana of Balurghat. The line shall turn down the western edge of the railway lands belonging to that railway and follow that edge until it meets the boundary between the thanas of Balurghat and Panchbibi”.

The boundary of the district in the north that is south of the Raiganj (India) police-station has been formed under the same award separating the district of Purnea in Bihar (India) from Bangladesh though subsequently by the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act of 1956 a portion of the district of Purnea on the western border was merged into the district of West Dinajpur (India).

The district of Dinajpur was very much affected by the Partition of the former province of Bengal in 1947. Out of the 30 police-stations of the old undivided district of Dinajpur, nine police-stations in full and one in part went to West Bengal (India) under the Radcliff Award.

Out of the remaining 20 police-stations in full and part of one that came to Bangladesh three police-stations, namely, Porsha, Patnitala and Dhamoirhat were later transferred to the district of Rajshahi and four police-stations, namely, Debiganj, Boda, Tetulia and Panchagarh awarded to Bangladesh from the district of Jalpaiguri of undivided Bengal were included into this district. Hakimpur, a new police-station has been created after Partition. There are at present 22 police-stations in the district of Dinajpur.

The district as constituted and according to 1961 Census, has an area of 2,609 square miles. In area its position is 12th in Bangladesh. According to the Census of 1961 its total population was 17,09,917 persons with a density of 655 persons per square mile.

The general appearance of the country is flat, sloping gently southwards, as is shown by the trend of the rivers. In the south and a portion of the west of the district, there is the curious formation known as the Barind, geologically classed as old alluvium. This is an undulating region interspersed with ravines. The elevations are nowhere worthy of the name of hills, the highest ridge not exceeding 100 feet above mean sea level, but they make nevertheless a considerable alteration in the appearance of the country, which elsewhere consists of the flat alluvial plain a characteristic of the Gangetic delta. The ravines vary from shallow stretches of low land, suitable for growing rice, to deeper depressions bearing a resemblance to old river beds and sometimes containing water. These latter are locally called *Kharis*. The ridges are commonly covered with scrub jungle and stunted trees.

Area and population.

Topography.

Another marked feature of the district is its tanks, especially numerous in the south, where wells are comparatively little used. These vary in size from splendid stretches of water while justly be called lakes or marshes, to small and insignificant ponds. Most of the tanks have fallen into neglect and are overgrown with reeds, and other aquatic plants.

Old writers make mention of the large number of marshes or *beels* formed by the overflowing of the rivers, to be found in the district. It is possible that since those days the face of the country has gradually undergone a change as now-a-days it would be impossible to speak of such marshes as a feature of the scenery. They do indeed exist, and in the rains some of them are of considerable extent, but their number is small compared with the size of the district.

In the absence of hills, it is hard to trace natural divisions, but there are many points of difference between the north and south of the district. The former is broken up with patches of trees, jungle and clumps of bamboo, the cultivated areas are smaller in size, and the villages consist of scattered homesteads embowered in luxuriant vegetation. To the south, the country is more open; clumps of trees are comparatively scarce; the villages are often clusters of houses situated on bare ridges or on open river bank, and the prevailing toddy and date-plams give a peculiarly oriental character to the scenery.

River system.

All the rivers of the district flow from north to south and their ultimate destination is the Ganges. Their beds are as a rule well below the level of the surrounding country, and it is only in exceptionally wet years that they overflow their banks to any great extent. Widespread inundations, such as are of annual occurrence in the monsoon season in the eastern districts, are almost unknown in this district in modern times, though they appear to have been common enough a century or so ago. In the rainy season, the main rivers such as the Nagar, the Punarbhaba and the Atrai are navigable by good-sized country boats to about as far north as Dinajpur town, or a little above it, but in the dry season for some eight months, the points up to which they are navigable by large boats are very much lower down. Most of the rivers are fordable almost throughout their entire course through the district. The main rivers are gradually becoming shallower through silting up. The immediate cause of this is the sluggishness of their currents throughout the greater part of the year. The river channels are well marked and fairly constant, though there is evidence that in the past this was not always so, and that

changes of course occasionally took place. Many small streams or *khals* fall into the main rivers. These are navigable by small boats during the rains but throughout the greater part of the year they are either dry or dwindle to a succession of pools. Generally speaking the rivers and the streams are of little use for the purpose of communication, and even in the height of the rainy season travelling is done by bullock cart.

The following is a brief account of the principal rivers which flow through the district:—

The Nagar originated from the low-lying areas just north of the police-station, where the districts of Dinajpur, West Dinajpur (India) and Jalpaiguri (India) meet. It takes a south-westerly course, and forms the boundary between this district and the district of West Dinajpur (India) till it leaves the district at a place to the west of Haripur to meet the Mahananda. Its bed is gravelly in the upper reaches, but becomes sandy lower down. The lower portion of its channel is deeper than those of most of the other rivers in the district, and is hardly fordable even in the dry season. There is no place of any great importance on its banks, except the police outpost of Atwari. **The Nagar.**

The Kulik is the principal tributary of the Nagar river, which rises in a marsh about six miles west of the headquarters of the Thakurgaon subdivision, and runs through Rani-sankail police-station towards the south and falls into the Nagar in West Dinajpur (India). **The Kulik.**

The Tirnai is the another tributary of the Nagar. It passes close to the Baliadanga police-station and joins the Nagar about 26 miles from its sources. **The Tirnai.**

The Tangan rises in the high land of northern Piedmont, passes west of Panchagarh, south of Tetulia in Dinajpur and flows southward by the east of Ruhea. It then enters into Balurghat subdivision (India), just west of Biral and flowing further south enters into Bangladesh, to join the Punarhaba river. The combined water then flows through Bangladesh parallel to the International Boundary and meets the Mahananda river near Rohanpur (Rajshahi district). The channel of this river is rather narrow, with steep banks and is sandy in its upper reaches. During the rains fair-sized country boats can come up almost as far as the headquarters of the Thakurgaon subdivision, which is situated on its left bank. This river is connected about the centre of the Thakurgaon subdivision, with the Punar- **The Tangan.**

bhaba by a rather interesting canal called the Ram Dara said to have been constructed by Raja Ramnath of Dinajpur as a means of communication between two of his country seats Gobindanagar and Prannagar.

The principal tributaries of the Tangan are the Ghoramara, a small streamlet rising near Ruhea, and joining the Tangan at Mandalpara, a few miles below Thakurgaon, and the Tutai, which, rising in the jurisdiction of Pirganj, and passing through the small mart of Biral, joins the Tangan in Bansihari thana in West Dinajpur (India).

The Punarbhaba

The Punarbhaba originates from the low-lying areas near Deoli in Thakurgaon police station and follows a meandering course to the south up to Chak-Kanchan near Dinajpur town, where it joins the Dhepa river, an offshoot channel of Atrai (Boori Tista). Notwithstanding the fact that the Dhepa is the larger river the name of Punarbhaba is given to the combined streams from this point onwards. The river then flows south-west and enters into Indian territory near Soondara at north Lat. 25°-36' and east Long. 88°-34'. The Punarbhaba is navigable by country boats during the rain as far as its junction with the Dhepa and even higher. At other times of the year its upper reaches are shallow and easily fordable, but during its course through the Dhepa its channel narrows and deepens and is never fordable even in the height of the dry season. The town of Dinajpur is situated on its left bank. A considerable export trade in paddy and rice is carried by this river.

The Dhepa,

The Chhota Dhepa takes its rise in a marsh called Saseta-piyata in the Thakurgaon thana, a few miles north of the source of the Punarbhaba. Entering Birganj it is connected near the thana headquarters with the Atrai by a canal called the Malijol, presently called as the Dhepa. The canal was dug by a local chief named Saadat Ali. This canal used to carry a considerable volume of water before 1787-88 (the year in which the Tista, of which the Atrai is a branch, changed its course), but it now silted up, like Chhota Dhepa itself and is navigable for large boats only during the rains. The combined flow of Chhota Dhepa and the Dhepa which spills the Atrai flows in the south-easterly direction. Near Setabganj it takes a turn to the south and flows in a meandering course up to Pohce-chawk where it falls into the Punarbhaba. The only places worth mentioning on its banks are Birganj, the thana headquarters and Kantanagar where there is an old and interesting temple. The bed of the river is broad, sandy and shallow. When it is in flood large boats can sometimes get

up as high as Birganj. In the dry season it is easily fordable anywhere.

The Atrai enters the district in the north-east near the village of Joyganj and flowing southwards passes through the thanas of Debiganj, and Kotwali, from north to the south. It is said that the present Atrai was at one time the main channel of the Tista, but in 1787-88 this latter river changed its course and made its way to the Brahmaputra through the Rangpur district, thereby greatly diminishing the volume of water passing through the Atrai and its sister channels the Jamuna and the Karatoya. Under orders of the Governor-General in Council, an attempt was made in June 1889 to restore the Tista to its original channel, but was abandoned as impracticable six months later. Since those days the importance of the Atrai has suffered still further diminution from a tendency to silt up noticeable in many Bengal rivers, the action of which has been hastened by the raising of the level of the river-bed in the earthquake of 1897. Notwithstanding, it is still the most important river in the district, and during the rains carries a considerable export trade in grain. Its channel is wide, shallow and sandy, and its stream is sluggish. At the time of the revenue survey in 1863 it was described by Major Sherwill as constantly changing its course, but of recent years such changes, if any, have been slight. During the rainy season it is navigable for large boats throughout its course in the Dinajpur district. During the rest of the year it is fordable.

A short distance to the east of Kantanagar, the Atrai throws out from its western bank a branch called the Gabura or Garveswari which passing close to the town of Dinajpur rejoins the main stream near Kangaon or Kalgaon after a course of about 15 miles. About 5 miles below the offshoot of the Gabura the river throws off from its opposite or east bank another branch called the Kankra, which also rejoins the parent stream a little above Samjhia-ghat from where it enters India. The important mart of Chiribandar, which is also the headquarters of the police outpost of that name, stands on the left bank of the Kankra.

During its course through the district the Atrai is joined by several small streams, of which the old Atrai and the Ichhamati on its eastern bank are the most important. Both these rivers enter the district to the east of Khansama.

The Ichhamati river passes through Chiribandar thana and enters West Dinajpur (India) and meets the Atrai.

The Jamuna.

The Jamuna] is a small river said to have been, like the Atrai and Karatoya, one of the original channels of the Tista. It enters the district from Rangpur few miles north-east of Parbatipur, and flowing almost due south passes into Bogra near Hilli, and finally joins the Atrai in the Rajshahi district. Its course in Dinajpur is about 65 miles. The channel of this river, though narrow, has a fair depth, and is navigable for good sized country boats during the rainy season.

Parbatipur, Phulbari, and Birampur are situated on its banks; all are marts of some importance and the first and the second are thana headquarters.

The Karatoya.

The Karatoya is one of the old channels of the Tista and forms the eastern boundary of the district for about 50 miles, separating it from Rangpur and finally passing into the latter district at the extreme south-eastern corner of Dinajpur. The course of this river is tortuous in the extreme. So many modifications have taken place in its channel, and the name has changed so often that it is a matter of great difficulty to trace its exact course. It is, however, generally accepted under one name or another as forming the boundary of the two districts. Sir William Hunter rightly described this part of the country as a maze of old water-courses and stagnant marshes. An old branch of the river, sometimes called the *Kalana-di* or *Moranadi*, which was once the main stream, passes close to the village of Nawabganj, where the thana of that name is situated on its banks. The old channel spreads out into a large *beel*, a few miles north of Nawabganj, and is almost stagnant. It is deep and muddy in places, and elsewhere shallow and sandy. This channel as well as the main channel is navigable by medium sized country boats during the rains. The principal places on the banks of the Karatoya are Nawabganj, already described as on the old channel, and Ghoraghat, the centre of a police outpost and a considerable mart, a few miles below the junction of the old and new channels.

The Karatoya has no important tributary on the Dinajpur side, but east of Nawabganj it is joined by a considerable stream, the Khorubuja, from Rangpur.

There is some doubt as to whether the Atrai or the Karatoya was originally the main stream of the Tista, but there is evidence to show that the latter, shrunken as it now is, was at one time a very considerable river. According to Sir William Hunter, "It formed the boundary between the Bengal and Kamrup kingdoms at the time of the Mahabharata".

From the point of view of the geologist, the district of Geology. Dinajpur is rather uninteresting. Almost the whole area is covered by alluvial deposits of recent formation. In the southern half of the district, the soil consists of a clayey silt, ash-coloured in appearance, locally called *Khiar*. This, a soft sticky loam in the rainy season, hardens almost to the consistency of cement in the dry season, when it is unsuitable for vegetation. In the northern half of the district and on the banks of some of the principal rivers in the south, the soil consists of a sandy mixed, towards the north, with gravel. This goes by the local name of *pali*.

An interesting geological formation called the Barind occurs in this district in common with other parts of Bangladesh. This belongs to the old alluvium, and may be briefly described as composed of a bed of stiff reddish brown clay, yellowish on the surface. This clay gives rise to the *Khiar* soils. The nodular limestone deposits, a frequent source of material for road metal in some parts of the country, occur in this to a small extent. Pisolitic ferruginous concretions are also found.

Apart from the trees found in the forests which have been Flora. dealt with later in the chapter on that subject, one comes across trees of all sizes and varieties on both sides of the roads. Amongst these the most conspicuous are the banyan (*Ficus indica*), the peepul (*Ficus religiosa*), the pakar (*Ficus infectoria*), the simul or cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), the nim (*Azadirachta indica*), the mango (*Mangifera indica*), the jack (*Artocarpus integra*), the babla (*Acacia arabica*), *Jam*, guava, banana, *bel*, tamarind, (*Tamarindus indica*), *palas* and *hijal* trees are also seen in abundance everywhere in the district. The villages are embowered in greenery; clumps of wild bamboos are to be seen on all sides, and the banks of the rivers and old tanks are overgrown with thickets of shrubs and brambles. The southern portion of the district is more open, and palms such as the palmyra or *tal* trees, and the date-palm or *khejur*, are much in evidence and give a distinctive note to the scenery. In parts of the district, especially in the neighbourhood of some of the large *beels*, stretches of grass jungle are found. In the marshes some varieties of reeds grow which are used for various purposes, the *ikra* (*Saccharum arundinaceum*) which, when set upright and plastered with mud, makes an excellent house wall. The *nagormutha* a species of tall sedge with a triangular blade or stem is used for making sleeping mats; the *khaskhas* (*Andropogon muricatus*), a plant with an odorous root used for making screens, which, when moistened form a pleasant protection against the west winds of the hot season. The sunn-

grass, called in the vernacular *chhan* is used for thatching. The *Nal Khagra* (*Phragmites roxburghii*) a species of tall reed with a feathery top, and the *sola* (*Aschynomene paludosa*), from whose root a fine white pith, greatly used for making sun helmets (*sola hat*), floats for fishing nets, and for making toys, is obtained, are common in many of the old tanks and marshy places. The finest trees in the district are undoubtedly the figs.

An account of the flora of Dinajpur would be incomplete without some description of the bamboo, so common in the district and utilised for so many purposes. Of these *bara bans* is the largest, most valuable, and most generally planted. It is used for posts, rafters, beams and sometimes for firewood. Another valuable bamboo is the *Jati bans*, which provide valuable materials like battens, crosspieces etc. for building houses. The *makla bans* is chiefly employed in making mats and baskets; it is therefore said to be immune to the attack of white ants and is used for making ceilings. The *Kanthal bans* for thorny bamboo generally grows wild though it is also sometimes grown near tombs and monuments for ornaments and is utilised in making fence and spear shafts. Two species of cane, a thick and thin variety, probably *Calamus latifolias* and *Calamus gracilis*, are found in the district in woods, and in thickets near villages where the soil is sufficiently rich and moist. The thin variety is employed for baskets and wicker work. The thick variety is not much used.

In northern parts of the district wild species of *Mimosa* (looks like *lajjabati lata* with similar flower but bigger in size) and a member of *Malpighiaceae* family (both are shrubs) are abundantly found along road-sides. When flowering they make the most attractive sight with their pink, showy flowers.

The district is also rich in certain types of ferns, some of which are luxuriantly grown on other trees. Along the river banks an insectivorous or carnivorous plant, *Drosera sp.* (*Sundew*) is commonly found to grow in autumn and winter months more in the northern parts.

The district does not possess many low-lying areas, *beels*, or marshy places and thus the aquatic flora are not so rich compared to other Bangladesh districts. However, the water lilies (*Nymphaea* spp), lotus (*Nelumbo* sp.), *Vallisnaria*, *Elodea*, *Potamogeton* species, etc., are commonly met with in ponds, tanks and shallow stagnant rivers. Amongst the lower groups of plants, *Chara*, *Nitella*, *Oedogonium*, *Spirogyra*, *Cladophora*, *Rhizoclonium*, diatoms, desmids, etc. are also commonly found.

On walls of old buildings, stores and tree trunks various types of lichens, moss and liver worts (e.g. *Plagoichasma*) etc. are found to grow.

Mahogany, jack-fruit trees, mangoes, *debdaru*, etc. are usually planted along road-sides and the common source of timber. Besides these *shorea robusta* (*sal*) trees are grown in patches in different parts of the district and kept as reserved forest areas.

It appears from old records that, till the end of the 19th century, the district of Dinajpur had a rich mammalian fauna. For instance, according to Major Sherwill (1863), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and leopard (*P. pardus*) were widely distributed, and other cats like, jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Leopard Cat (*P. bengalensis*) were also very common in the district. Even, around about 1881, "the Prannagar jungle in the Birganj thana was so notorious for tigers that no traveller would pass through it at night, or even in the daytime, if alone." There were so many tigers that, "special guns were issued to *shikaris* for the destruction of these animals, and hunts were organised by the officials and zemindars with the same object." Other mammals like, buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), *Barasingha* or Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvauceli*), Hog Deer (*C. porcinus*), Badger (*Arctonyx*), Civet Cat (*Viverra spp.*) wild boar (*Ursus spp.*), Rhesus Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*), etc., were also common in Dinajpur. Fauna: Mammals

But with the passing of time, and following the destruction of forests and jungles for cultivation, there was a rapid decline of the mammalian fauna especially from the beginning of the 20th century. For example even as early as in 1911, Strong described the status of tiger, buffalo, and Swamp Deer of Dinajpur as "only a memory". But other mammals, though rarer, were still present at that time in some parts of the district. Leopards were still common in many parts of the district as they could get cover in the neighbourhood of villages, in old graveyards, ruined remains of temples, mosques and dwelling houses. According to Strong's account, Fishing Cats, Jungle Cat, Marbled Cat, Badgers, Civets, etc., could be found in the marshes, swamps and along the banks of the rivers, in the beginning of this century. Boars became rarer except in the western and north-eastern thanas near Purnea border. But Otter (*Lutra spp.*), which was common in the rivers in the 19th century, became 'a almost extinct' subsequently.

During the last 50 to 60 years no case of tiger or buffalo whether shot or seen, was recorded. Leopards still occur though in diminished number. Wild Boars show a slight incre-

ase in number, especially since 1947, presumably due to decline in the number of those non-muslims who used to eat wild boars. Other mammals, still occurring in the district, include badger, civet, mongoose, jungle cat, fishing cat, rabbits jackals, foxes, bats, rats, mice, Gangetic dolphin, etc.

Birds.

Although the bird population, like that of mammals, has also been affected by the disappearance of its natural habitats, there are still a large number of birds in Dinajpur. About 46 families of birds are represented in the district by one or more species, some being resident and others migratory. A brief list of important families and common species are as follows:

Podicipitidae : Little Greve or Dabchick.

Phalacrocoracidae : Cormorant, Shag, Darter or Snakebird.

Ardeidae : About 12 species including Pond Heron or Paddybird, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Night Heron, Cattle Egret, Large Egret, Little Egret, Chestnut, Bittern, Yellow Bittern.

Ciconiidae : Painted Stork, White-necked Stork, Openbill.

Anatidae : Many species including Greater Whistling Teal, Lesser Whistling Teal, Brahminy Duck, Barheaded Goose, Greyleg Goose, Pintail, Common Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Garganey, Cotton Teal, Pochard.

Accipitridae : Several species including King Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Longbilled Vulture, Blackwinged Kite, Pariah or Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Shikra, Honey Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Eagle, Spotted Eagle, Palla's Fishing Eagle, Crested Serpant Eagle, Hen Harrier, Pale Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Lagger Falcon, Shaheen Falcon, Marlin, Kestral, etc.

Phasiabidae : Assam Black Partridge, Kyah or Swamp Partridge, Common or Grey quail, Bluebreasted quail.

Turnicidae : Button Quail.

Rallidae : Bluebreasted Banded Quail, Banded Crake, Ruddy Crake, Whitebreasted Waterhen, Purple Moorhen, Kora, Coot, Moorhen.

Jacaniidae : Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Bronze winged Jacana.

Charadriidae : Many species including Redwattled Lapwing, Ringed Plover, Sandpiper, Pintail Snipe, Fantail Snipe, Jack Snipe, Painted Snipe, etc.

Columbidae : Common Green Pigeon, Grey-fronted Green Pigeon, Imperial Pigeon, Blue Rock-Pigeon, Rufous Turtle Dove, Ring Dove, Red Turtle Dove, Spotted Dove, Emerald Dove.

Psittacidae : Large Parakeet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet.

Cuculidae : Indian Cuckoo, Common Hawk-Cuckoo, Plaintive Cuckoo, Koel, Sirker Cuckoo, Crow Pheasant.

Strigidae : Barb Owl, Colleard Scops Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Jungle Owlet, Spotted Owlet, Short-eared Owl.

Caprimulgidae : Jungle Nightjar, Common Indian Nightjar, Franklin Nightjar.

Apodidae : House Swift, Palm Swift, Crested Swift.

Alcedinidae : Pied Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Whitebreasted Kingfisher.

Meropidae : Green Bee-eater, Blue-tailed Bee-eater.

Coraciidae : Blue-Jay or Indian Roller.

Upopidae : Hoopoe.

Capitonidae : Creamsonbreasted Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet.

Picidae : Rufouse Woodpecker, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Pied Woodpecker.

Pittidae : Indian Pitta.

Alaudidae : Assam Bush-Lark, Ashycrowned Finch Lark, Sandlark, Eastern Skylark.

Hirundinidae : Plain Sand Martin, Wire-tailed Swallow.

Laniidae : Black-headed Shrike, Brown Shrike.

Oriolidae : Black-headed Oriole, Golden Oriole.

Dicruridae : Black Drongo.

Artamidae : Ashy Swallow Shrike.

Sturnidae : Common Myna, Brahminy Myna, Grey-headed Myna, Pied Myna, Bank Myna, Jungle Myna, Rosy Pastur.

Irenidae : Common Iora.

Pycnonotidae : Redvented Bulbul, Redwhiskered Bulbul.

Paridae : Grey Tit.

Campephagidae : Pied Flycatcher Shrike, Common Woodshrike, Large Cuckoo Shrike, Black-headed Cuckoo Shirke, Grey Cuckoo Shrike, Small Minivet.

Corvidae : Rufous Tree-pie, House Crow, Jungle Crow.

Muscicapidae : Several species including Rufous-bellied Babbler, Yellow-breasted Babbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Jungle Babbler, Striated Babbler, Brown Flycatcher, Fantail Flycatcher, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Paradise Flycatcher, Blacknapped Flycatcher, Streaked Fantail Warbler, Streaked Longtail Warbler, Ashy Longtail Warbler, Grass Warbler, Tailorbird, Striated Marsh Warbler, Reed Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Leaf Warbler, Ruby-throat, Blue-throat, Magpie Robin, Black Redstart, Stone Chat, Bush Chat, Blue Rock Thrush, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, etc.

Motacillidae : Tree Pipit, Paddyfield Pipit, Dark Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Pied White Wagtail, White Wagtail.

Dicaeidae : Thickbilled Flower pecker, Tickell's Flower pecker.

Nectarinidae : Purple rumped Sunbird, Yellowbacked Sunbird,

Zosteropidae : White-eye.

Ploceidae : House Sparrow, Baya, Red Munia, White-throated Munia, Spotted Munia, White-backed Munia, Chestnut Munia.

Fringillidae : Rosefinch.

Emberizidae : Whitebreasted Bunting, Greyheaded Bunting, etc.

Reptiles.

A number of snakes occur in the district. The King Cobra (*Naja naja*) is the commonest and most poisonous of all the snakes. Other common snakes include the Rat Snake or *Dhaman*, the common Karait, and some species of grass snakes as well as water snakes. The King Cobra and Banded Karait can grow to a length of 7 or 8 feet. Python is also occasionally found some of which grow to 12 feet in length, but individuals can attain 20 feet even. The lizards include the Gecko which is more common in the north-western part of the district, the wall lizards, and the skinks. The Monitor Lizard or *Guisanp* is met with along the edges of the beels, while the common river turtle is found in most of the rivers.

Dinajpur was at one time famous for its fish and was known in the Mahabharata as Matsya Desh, or the fish country. This is no longer the case and the principal fish supply is now obtained by train from other places on the Ganges. During the rainy season, when the rivers are swollen, the local fish supply is especially scanty, owing to the inadequacy of the methods of the fishermen in coping with the deep and rapid waters.

The most common fish in the district is probably the carp, of which the best known species are the *rohu* (*Labeo rohita*), and the *katla* (*Catla buehanani*). Both of these are commonly reared in tanks and sometimes attain a large size. They are a favourite table fish, and are popular and acceptable gift amongst the higher classes. There are also found the following : the *boal*, a fresh water shark (*Wallago attu*) popularly supposed in the historic tank of Tapandighi to attain the incredible length of 20ft; the *magur*, a cat fish, which is much esteemed as diet for invalids and convalescents, notwithstanding its repulsive appearance; the *pasia* (*callichrus pubda*), a small but palatable table fish; the *shol* (*Ophicephalus striatus*), a snake-headed fish, whose fry are not only well flavoured but of a pretty gold colour and are sometimes kept for their beauty in glass bowl; other snake-headed fishes such as the *gajal*, *gorai* and *cheng*; the *kai* (*Anabas scandens*) or the climbing perch, which is distinguished by its ability to get from one piece of water to another; the *Khoksa* (*Trichogaster fasciatus*); the *bheda*, (*Ornandus marmoratus*), the *baim* (*Mastercembelus armatus*) an eel-shaped fish found in tanks, muddy rivers and sluggish streams; the *tepa* (*Tetradon patoka*), a small fish.

Almost all the fresh water varieties of fishes are available in the district, the more important among which are (1) CARPS : *Katla* (*Catla catla*), *ruhu* (*Labeo rohita*), *Kalbas* (*labeo calbasu*), *goni* (*Labeo gonius*), *bata* (*labeo bata*), *mrigel* (*Cirrhina mrigala*), *reba* (*Cirrhins reba*), (2) CAT FISHES : *boal* (*wallagonia attu*), *air* (*Mystus aor*), *tengra* (*Mystus gulio*), *rita* (*Rita rita*), *pungash* (*Pangasius pungasius*), *silon* (*Silonia silondia*), *Pabda* (*Callichrous pabda*), *Bacha* (*Eutropiichthys vacha*), *garua* (*Pseudeutropiys garus*), (3) FEATHER BACKS : *foloi* (*Natopterus notopterus*), *chital* (*Natopterus chitala*), MURRELS : *tala* (*Ophicephalus punctatus*), *sole* (*Ophicephalus striatus*), *sal* (*Opaicephalus marulius marulius*), *cheng* (*Ophicephalus gachua*), (5) JEOL FISHES : *singhi* (*Heteropneustes fossilis*), *magur* (*Clarius batrachus*), *Koi* (*Anabas testudineus*), *Kholisha*, (*Colisa lalius*), *Trichogaster* spp, (6) PUNTI : *punti* (*Barbus puntius*), *saral puni* (*Barbus sarana*), *titpunti* (*Barbus ticto*),

List of fishes.

(7) OTHER MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES : *darke* (*Esomu danricus*), *rashora* (*Rashora* spp.), *techokhoi* (*Panchax panchax*) *darke* (*Rashora daniconius*), *banshpati* (*Aila colia*), *chanda* (*Ambassis* spp), *morula* (*Ambluhparyangoden mola*), (8) MULLET : *liza* (*Mugi*), *kharsula* (*Carsulland*). (9) CLUPEIDS : *ilish* (*Hilsa ilisha*), *chapila* (*Gadusia chapra*).

Climate.

The district of Dinajpur lies north of the Tropic of Cancer, and its climate approximates more to that of Bihar (India) than to that of the eastern districts of Bangladesh. The winter season may be said to set in early in November and to continue until the end of February. Although in a normal year the days begin to be hot towards the later part of February, the nights remain cool until well into April. The summer season begins with strong westerly winds around the beginning of March and continues upto early June. The west is the prevailing wind till about the middle of April. By April the nor'wester thunderstorms begin to occur which bring heavy showers fairly frequently until May. The climate during the summer season is by no means unbearable. With the break of the monsoon, which generally occurs around the beginning of June, the rainy season commences and continues till the end of September or beginning of October. The heaviest rain usually falls in June, July, August and September. With the setting in of the rains the climate changes and becomes excessively moist. The higher relative humidity from August to the middle of October makes the weather depressing. From the middle of October, the nights become appreciably cooler, though the days remain hot for some time longer. During the winter season days are bright and sunny and the atmosphere crisp and clear. Dinajpur is the coldest district in Bangladesh and so sometimes in January fires are necessary. Little rainfalls during the winter with the exception of some light showers towards the end of December, and a thunderstorm or two in February. In December easterly and northerly winds are common.

Temperature.

January with its mean 62.0°F is the coldest month of the winter season which lasts from about the end of November to the middle of February. The mean minimum temperature of this month is 49.6° F which is also the lowest record of the country. But the lowest temperature ever recorded in Bangladesh was 34°F at Dinajpur on February 3, 1905.¹

The January average maximum is 75.4°F. The mean minimum temperature varies from 49.6°F in January to 78.9 F in July giving a range of 29.3°F. July is the hottest month in

¹Dr. F. Karim Khan "An Economic Geography of East Pakistan."

Dinajpur with the mean monthly temperature of 84°F. while the mean maximum is 94.3°F in April. The distribution of average temperature from May to September is almost uniform, the variation being 0.9°F. The temperature during this period is expected to be higher, but it is tempered by heavy down-pours. The chart in the next page gives the detailed temperature condition and humidity of the Dinajpur town, Dinajpur.

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA, DINAJPUR

Station.	District.	Month.	Temperature, °F.					Mean for Month.		
			Maximum.	Mean daily maximum.	Mean.	Mean daily minimum.	Minimum.	Relative humidity %.	Wind velocity m.p.h.	Day light per day hours.
Dinajpur	Dinajpur	January	84	76.8	64.1	51.3	39	76.4	1.08	10.7
		February	94	81.1	66.8	52.5	40	66.1	1.38	11.3
		March	104	89.4	76.4	61.4	49	56.8	2.08	12.0
		April	111	97.4	83.4	69.4	56	53.8	2.74	12.8
		May	110	95.5	83.3	75.1	63	72.8	3.68	13.4
		June	107	91.3	83.7	76.2	66	84.0	3.62	13.8
		July	96	89.6	83.8	78.0	71	85.9	3.18	13.6
		August	100	89.1	83.4	77.7	70	85.8	2.29	13.1
		September	100	90.4	83.8	77.2	70	84.9	1.67	12.3
		October	97	88.5	80.0	71.5	54	83.9	1.35	11.6
		November	93	84.3	72.6	61.0	49	78.0	.84	10.9
		December	85	79.2	66.7	53.4	40	75.9	.58	10.5
		Annual	111	87.7	77.5	67.1	39	75.4	2.04	..

Source:— Master Plan, B. WAPDA, Hydrology Data, Vol. I of VII (Year 1964).

Dinajpur receives an annual precipitation of 72.26". There is a considerable variation in the rainfall in different parts of the district. The northern part, which is nearest to the foot hills of the Himalayas having heavier rainfall than the southern part. At Dinajpur town the average annual rainfall is 70" while a rainfall of 100" is recorded at Atwari further north.

The rainfall in the cold season is exceptionally light. The month of December records the lowest amount, that is 0.06". March is generally dry with occasional thunder-showers. The spring rains are chiefly from nor'wester thunderstorm. Most of the rainfall takes place in April and May.

The weather is not usually very moist till the onset of the monsoon which occurs about the beginning of June. The rainy season commences with the break of monsoon and continue till the end of September. This period is the wettest period with about 80 per cent. of the annual total rainfall. The month of July receives the maximum rainfall of this season that is 15.47 inches.

The chart in the next page gives a detailed picture of the rainfall conditions of Dinajpur and Thakurgaon.

Mean and Extreme Monthly and Annual Rainfall, in Inches, for Long Term Stations, 1902-61.

Stations.	Records.	Janu- ary.	Febru- ary.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Septem- ber.	Octo- ber.	Novem- ber.	Decem- ber.	Annual.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	14	15
Lakurgaon	Mean	0.27	.60	.93	2.47	8.29	17.78	18.82	15.79	14.49	4.87	.26	0.7	82.70
	Maximum	2.08	2.65	14.08	19.03	29.30	36.80	39.28	41.30	33.05	24.25	4.02	1.17	118.06
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	.25	4.69	5.15	1.48	2.16	0	0	0	43.31
Dinaipur	Mean	0.37	.57	.63	2.10	6.83	13.85	15.25	13.19	12.04	5.36	.34	.03	70.48
	Maximum	3.67	2.22	3.86	7.01	17.89	30.31	28.14	40.69	35.12	22.97	4.62	.31	106.23
	Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	3.41	4.49	1.84	3.98	0	0	0	36.86

Source: Master Plan, B. WAPDA, Hydrology Data, Vol. I of VII (Year 1964).

The humidity of the atmosphere is generally high throughout the year, never falling below 60 per cent. Humidity is lowest in March. With the break of monsoon in June, there is a marked increase in humidity that is 87-88 per cent. and an even distribution of humidity is found from June to September. The highest percentage of humidity that is 88 is recorded in July and August. In October, there is a slight fall, and from then to the end of January there is a little change. From the commencement of February, the decrease in humidity is rapid till the lowest percentage of 63 is reached in March even 46 per cent. was recorded in 1966 in the same month. The variation in humidity during the whole monsoon period is little over 1 per cent, while the annual range is 25 per cent. The chart in the next page gives the picture of the extent of humidity at Dinajpur.

Mean Humidity of Dinajpur Town during 1963-68 i.e., for 6 years.

Year.	Janu- ary.	Febru- ary.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Septem- ber.	Octo- ber.	Novem- ber.	Decem- ber.	Annual Average.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1963	...	66	54	54	61	76	81	86	84	79	78	72	74	72
1964	...	69	67	58	...	73	85	89	83	82	79	70	66	75
1965	...	69	59	50	68	69	85	85	89	80	74	62	70	72
1966	...	77	60	46	54	64	82	85	89	81	76	78	73	72
1967	...	70	59	62	58	79	81	85	85	83	74	63	77	73
1968	..	76	56	55	66	71	86	87	83	...	...	...	...	...

(..)—Not available.

Source: A compendium of Meteorological Statistics of Bangladesh, Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dacca (Year 1970).

During January and February the air movement is from the west forming part of the general drift of air from the Gangetic plain. Towards the close of February the westerly air weakens materially and in April the winds are exceedingly variable in direction though considerably stronger than in the first two months. Damp easterly wind appear in April and blow intermittently. With the setting in of the monsoon in the beginning of June the portion of the Bay branch of the southwest monsoon enters into Bangladesh, is deflected westward by the pull exerted by the low pressure centre developed in the Thar Desert (India). The direction of the prevailing wind in Dinajpur during the monsoon period, which lasts roughly until the middle of October is from slightly to the south of east. With the termination of the rains, dry northerly and northeasterly winds set in and hold until the end of the year.

Wind.

The pressure is normally high during the winter season. The highest pressure recorded in December is 1,013.0 mb. It may be mentioned here that this reading is the lowest for the country. After the month of February the pressure tends to decrease. The month of July records the lowest figure, that is 994.6 mb. After this the pressure gradually rises.

Pressure.

The district is fortunate enough to have suffered only a few natural visitations like cyclones, floods and earthquakes. There was a severe cyclone in 1787 but full details of the damage brought by it are lacking. Large areas of the district were inundated in 1787 when the Tista changed its course but the damage was felt mainly in the district of Rangpur. There are annual floods in parts of the district due to over-flowing of the banks of some of the rivers along portions of their courses. Particular mention might be made of the lands situated between the Tangan and the Purnabhaha. The damage to crops has never been very severe. An account of a serious flood that has come down to us took place in 1892 but its ravages were felt more in that portion of the undivided district of Dinajpur which falls within Bangladesh that is the area which constitute the present district. In the flood of 1892 the town of Dinajpur itself suffered, the river responsible having been the Atrai. Large numbers of the inhabitants of the northern and the eastern quarters of the town of Dinajpur became homeless as a result of the flood. The railway line was breached and mails had to be transported for some distance by boat. The big North Bengal flood of September and October, 1922, did not cause any appreciable damage in the district.

Natural Calamities: Floods.

Floods of 1892.

Floods in August 1966. In August 1966, floods followed incessant rainfall for a few days. It rained so heavily that the silted and dried up rivers in the district simply could not contain all the water.

Half of Dinajpur district was affected by the flood. The rivers Atrai and Kanchan overflowed. Marooned people were evacuated from different areas of the district. Some 50 thousand people were affected by the floods, extensive crop damage was also reported.

Several roads and bridges went under water. At Chirirbandar, Kaogaon and Ramnagar, several schools and market places were submerged. Floodwater entered the Railway staff quarters at Chirirbandar.

Ramnagar Union was one of the worst-hit areas in the district. Water from the Kanchan submerged some parts of the Dinajpur municipal area too. Other affected areas included Rajpara, Madadanga, Manjhar, Kanibari, Ramnagar, and Gobrapara. An area of 60 square miles and a population of 34,260 was affected. By this flood, 1,700 houses were fully and 1,500 partly damaged, 7,730 acres of *aus*, 6,780 acres of *aman* and 540 acres of jute land were affected.

Cyclone of 1966. On 31st May, 1966, there was a cyclone at Panchagarh and in the neighbouring villages which caused damage to houses and trees. In Birampur bazar and Dangapara, Lochara, Bizuli villages the cyclone continued for 23 minutes.

Floods of 1968 In October, 1968 fifteen police-stations of Dinajpur district were hit by flood following heavy rain and certain onrush of water from northern side of Indian territory. This flood caused a heavy loss of lives and property. Area of about 715·20 square miles were over-flooded and 20 persons including five women died. About 80 per cent. of the *rabi* crops and 50 per cent. of *aman* perished and about 1,40,773 acres of cropped land affected. More than 32,000 houses were completely and 37,395 houses partially damaged and the estimated money value of loss was Rs.77,64,900. More than 7 lakhs of people were severely effected in the 74 unions of the district. There were also reports of loss of 12,174 livestocks. Embankments of 4 miles and five bridges dismantled. The estimated loss of fruits and trees rose to Rs.75,811 and the detailed damage to roads went upto 568½ miles. The total amount of relief and grants provided to meet the situation was as follows. Government sources: Rice—7,700 maunds, Wheat—1,25,495 maunds, Maize—26,505 maunds, H.B. grants—Rs.3,50,000, Test relief money—Rs.1,00,000 and Test Relief money under Works Programme—Rs. 2,00,000. Private Source:—Rs. 13,098·25 also

received clothes, rice and relief materials from various sources and Red Cross Society. Foreign Sources—20 cases of milk powder, 200 cases Segu liquid, 35 metric tons of dried milk, and 17 metric tons of butter oil.

Loans: H.B. loan—Rs.1,00,000, Fertilizer loan—Rs.1,50,000' Wheat seed loan—Rs.2,50,000, Seed loan (other than wheat)—Rs.75,000 and Hand sprayers set loan—Rs.20,000.

An earthquake which requires to be noticed is the one which took place in 1897. This earthquake caused considerable damage to buildings. The other earth tremors recorded within the district do not qualify for the term 'earthquake'.

Earthquake of 1897.

Famines have occurred in the district as a result of drought. The lack of rainfall stands in the way of agriculture and results in a scarcity of foodgrains. The earliest famine of which any record is available is the one of 1769-70. This district, along with the other districts of Bengal, suffered great hardships during that famine. The next record of a scarcity of foodgrains relates to the year 1865-66 when the price of rice showed almost one hundred per cent. rise in the year. The scarcity of 1865-66 was, however, not considered to be serious and no special measures had to be adopted for restoring normal price levels.

Droughts: The consequent famines and scarcities. Relief operations.

Famine of 1769-70 and 1865-66.

There was a very severe famine in 1873-74 in the whole of Northern Bengal. The district of West Dinajpur naturally suffered from this famine. The circumstances which brought about the famine were thus described by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, the then Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

Famine of 1873-74.

'In Bengal and Bihar, after a season of extraordinary heat during May and June of 1873, the rain did not begin till late, that is in July, and even then was scanty. It lasted more or less, but never abundantly, till the end of August, when it, for the most part, ceased prematurely. Enough had, however, fallen to secure a fair yield of the crops which are reaped in August and September. Little or none fell during the whole autumnal season. The heavy showers are indispensable for ensuring the maturity of the rice crops of December (the most important of all the crops), and for sowing the crops which are to be reaped in the following spring. As experience showed that the consequences of drought are sometimes averted by rain even at the last moment, hope was not abandoned till the end of October. Not till then could it be seen whether the apprehension of failure of the crops would be realised or not. By that time, however, it became certain that widespread and heavy loss must occur in the December crops; that the sowing

of the spring crop must be short; and that the germinating and growing of what had been sown must be jeopardised. The injury to the young spring crops might yet be repaired, if rain should fall between the end of December and the beginning of February. Fear was chiefly felt for Bihar and for the north part of Bengal, but largely also for all the rest of Bengal save the eastern part in the basin of the Brahmaputra, and the deltaic region in the south, which depends on inundation rather than on rainfall. By March even the reserved stock of foodgrains kept from the preceding year had become exhausted. The stock of rice in the market was quite insufficient to meet the demand and the price of rice rose to unprecedented levels. The Police-stations which were severely affected were the police-stations of Kaliganj, Raiganj and Hemtabad (all in India) Relief works were opened in those areas in April, 1874, and gratuitous relief was also distributed on an extensive scale. The relief works consisted chiefly of the construction of new roads and the repair of old ones. A large number of tanks were also excavated or re-excavated”.

Famine of 1908-09.

In the year 1891 and 1897 partial failures of crops occurred and the price of essential commodities increased. The scarcity in these years could be tackled comparatively easily but something like a famine again made its appearance in the district in 1908-1909. The cause of this famine was again continued. Drought throughout the months of June, July and August as a result of which there was a total loss of winter rice, *i.e.* *aman* rice, in the police-stations of Hemtabad, Raiganj, Itahar (all in India) and almost all over the then Balurghat subdivision. The *rabi* crop was also a failure for want of moisture except in Kaliganj and Gangarampur (both in India) where a small crop of chillies was obtained. According to the Collector of the district, the real distress was due not so much to a shortage of stocks in the market, which were ample, nor to high prices, but rather to the inability of the people to buy food and the contraction of credit. According to him the shortage of money was due to the fact that in the previous year when the price of rice suddenly went up with surprising rapidity to the almost unprecedented figure of Rs.3-12-0 per maund, the cultivators promptly sold their entire stock and in some cases, even seed grain. Relief works were started in Raiganj, Itahar and Hemtabad. Gratuitous relief was also given on an extensive scale. The famine passed off next year when there was again normal rainfall.

Scarcity of 1929 and 1938.

In 1929 there was again a scarcity in the then Balurghat subdivision and as much as Rs.5,59,975 had to be advanced as agricultural loans for the alleviation of distress. In 1938 also there was a failure of *aman* crop in the same areas for which Rs.97,000 had to be given as agricultural loans.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

(a) Ancient Period

In ancient times, the present district of Dinajpur formed part of the Kingdom of Pundravardhana. The *Vishayas* (district) of Kotivarsha and Panchanagari then covered the present district of Dinajpur. The Pundras of Pundranagara were mentioned for the first time in Aitareya Brahmana as *Dasyus*-people outside Aryan stock. Bodhayana Dharmasutra spoke of the Pundras inhabiting the belt as outside the pale of Vedic culture.

Legendary History.

Some Chinese pilgrims noticed Asokan pillars in many parts of Pundravardhana and the discovery of an old Brahmi inscription at Mahastanagarh confirms Mauryan authority over this region. According to *Brihatkathakosha* of Harishena, Bhadrabahu, the Jaina guru of Chandragupta Maurya, was a son of a Brahmin of Kotivarsha in Pundravardhana. Bhadrabahu was the author of *Kalpasutra*.

4th century B.C. (Mauryan period).

The discovery of a number of inscriptions of the Gupta and later Gupta periods within the district of Dinajpur bears ample testimony to the sway of the Guptas over Pundravardhana. Five copper plates were discovered in the village of Damodarpur in Phulbari P.S. and one at Baigram in Hili P.S., now in India. Of the five copper-plate inscriptions found at Damodarpur, two relate to the reign of Kumara-gupta I, two to the reign of Budha-gupta, and the fifth to the reign of a later Gupta emperor whose name could not be deciphered, but who reigned in the year 224 of the Gupta era corresponding to 544 A.D. The Baigram copper-plate inscription is of the year 128 of the Gupta era corresponding to 448 A.D. and thus refers to the reign of Kumara-gupta I. The Gupta power disappeared from North Bengal towards the end of the 6th century A.D.

3rd century A.D. to 544 A.D. (Gupta period).

Gopala, who founded the Pala dynasty, was elected by the people sometime towards the middle of the 8th century A. D. to rule over Bengal. He (c 750 A.D.) established Pala authority in the district. His son, Dharmapala (c 770—c 810 A.D.), was engaged in warfare with the Pratiharas for the hegemony of North India. He was succeeded by his son Devapala, who was equally powerful as a king. But the glory of the Pala Empire declined rapidly after the death of Devapala as his five successors (Vigrapala I, Narayanpala, Rajyapala, Gopala II and Vigrapala II) were

Middle of the 8th century A.D.—Middle of the 12th century A.D. (Pala period).

all weak and there is nothing of interest to record about them. Next, Mahipala I, who succeeded to the throne in about 980 A.D., could recover the fort-nes of the Palas to some extent. He was succeeded by Nayapala and his successor was Vighrapala III. Next, Mahipala II ascended the throne of the Palas in about 1080 A.D. There was a popular uprising led by one Divya, a fisherman by caste, during the reign of Mahipala II. Divya deposed Mahipala II. The Pala power was thus temporarily eclipsed in North Bengal. Surapala was succeeded by Ramapala who recovered Varendri after defeating and killing Bhima, the successor of Divya. The last king of the dynasty, who ruled over North Bengal, was probably Madanapala. The rule of the Palas over, at least, North Bengal can be said to have lasted four hundred years.

Middle of 12th
century A.D.—
1201 A.D. (Sena
period).

Madanapala was defeated by Vijaya Sena of the Sena dynasty. The progenitor of the dynasty was one Virasena but detailed genealogy is forthcoming only from Samantasena. The Senas probably came to Bengal from Karnata in South India. They settled in Radha now in West Bengal and became local chieftains under the Palas and gradually ousted them taking advantage of the decline of the Pala power. Samantasena's son was Hemantasena. It was Hemantasena's son Vijayasena who defeated the last Pala king. The rule of the Senas over North Bengal, however, was rather shortlived as the Sena kingdom was replaced by the Muslim power established by Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji in approximately 1204 A.D. Vijayasena, Vallalasena and Lakshmanasena were the Sena kings who ruled over North Bengal between the first half of the 12th century A.D. and the beginning of the 13th century A.D.

(b) Medieval Period.

Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji defeated Lakshmanasena by a surprise attack in 1204 A.D. Lakshmanasena appears to have retreated into East Bengal after his defeat. Bakhtiyar did not send any troops in pursuit of the fugitive king. Between 1204 and 1205 he fairly completed his conquest of the Varendra tract with the historic city of Gaur. Devkot (Bangarh), about ten miles south of modern Dinajpur which is now in West Dinajpur (India) appears to have been the seat of Government of the Khalji Maliks for about two decades, after which the seat of Government was removed from Devkot to Gaur. Bakhtiyar then devoted himself to the peaceful administration of his newly conquered land. He started his famous expedition to Tibet from the town of Devkot in 1206 A.D. He left Ali Mardan Khalji in Sarkar

Ghoraghat to watch the eastern frontier from his headquarters at Barsul. The Tibet expedition ended disastrously and Bakhtiyar Khalji was assassinated by 'Ali Mardan Khalji while he was lying ill at Devkot on his return from the Tibet expedition (1206). Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji had the *Khutbah* read and coins struck in his own name. Mosques, madrasas and *Khanqahs* arose in the new abode of Islam through Bakhtiyar's beneficence, and his example was worthily imitated by his Amirs. Dr. K.R. Qanungo observed: "Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Muhammad Bakhtiyar was indeed the maker of the medieval history of Bengal".

Muhammad Shiran Khalji, one of the officers of Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji, having heard the news of the tragic end of his master, hurriedly marched with his army from Lakhnor or Nagar in the Birbhum district, and reached Devkot to punish Ali Mardan. Ali Mardan was captured and imprisoned, and the interregnum terminated with the election of Muhammad Shiran by the Khalji Amirs as the ruler of Lakhnawati (c 1207 A.D.). Shiran was an independent ruler with the title of Sultan Alauddin, having the *Khutba* read in his name and also perhaps issuing coins in his own name. Ali Mardan succeeded in escaping from that place and fleeing to Delhi, where he instigated Sultan Qutb-uddin Aibak to send an army against Malik Izz-uddin Muhammad Shiran Khalji. Qae-maz-Rumi, the Governor of the province of Oudh, was ordered by Sultan Qutb-uddin to proceed to Lakhnawati to settle the dispute among the Khalji Amirs. Malik Izz-uddin Muhammad Shiran evacuated Devkot in the face of the advancing army and retreated eastward beyond the Punarbhava river. Qae-maz-Rumi occupied Devkot and it was at his suggestion that Husam-uddin Iwaz was appointed as the chief-holder of Devkot. The power of the Delhi Sultanate over Lakhnawati was thus re-established. Husam-uddin Iwaz ruled over the greater part of the principality of Lakhnawati as a vassal of the Delhi Sultanate till Ali Mardan again appeared on the scene. In 1208 A.D., Ali Mardan obtained the vice-royalty of Lakhnawati from Qutb-uddin Aibak. But after Qutb-uddin's death in 1210 he became independent and openly assumed the title of Sultan. His reign was, however, shortlived and he was killed in 1213 A.D. by the Khalji nobles who elected Husamuddin Iwaz as ruler. He took the title of Sultan Ghiyasuddin Iwaz Khalji and ruled the kingdom of Lakhnawati for about fourteen years (1213-27 A.D.) He transferred the seat of Government from Devkot to the historic city of Gaur-Lakhnawati. In 1227 A.D. he was defeated at the hands of Nasiruddin, the eldest son of Sultan Iltutmish.

During 1227-81 A.D., fourteen governors were in power at Lakhnawati. Some of them declared themselves as independent sultans. Sultan Balban personally invaded Bengal and succeeded in defeating and killing Sultan Mughisuddin Tughril. He left his youngest son, Bughra Khan, as the Governor of Bengal in 1282 A.D. But Bughra Khan declared his independence of Delhi and took the title of Sultan Nasiruddin. Under him Bengal was divided into four governorships of Bihar, Saptagram, Bang and Devkot. It was during the reign of Sultan Rukn-ud-din Kaikaus, the son of Sultan Nasiruddin that a mosque was constructed at Devkot. The Kingdom of Lakhnawati continued to enjoy independence till Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughluq reduced it again to a province of his empire (1324 A.D.).

1342 A.D.—1487
A.D.

A new chapter was opened in the history of Bengal when one Haji Ilyas succeeded in establishing himself as the master of the whole of Bengal under the title of Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah in 1342 A.D. The Ilyas Shahi dynasty ruled over Bengal till 1487 A.D. There was a short interregnum of a few years during which the Ilyas Shahi dynasty was supplanted by one Raja Ganesh, who was one of the nobles in the court of the then Ilyas Shahi king. His son, Jadu, was converted to Islam and ruled as Jalaluddin. Next king was Shamsuddin Ahmad, son of Jalaluddin. According to Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Ganesh was a baron of Dinajpur who had an independent and hereditary source of strength in his large ancestral estate and personal contingent of troops not in the Sultan's pay. In the end Ganesh usurped the throne. The Ilyas Shahi dynasty was again reinstated after the assassination of Shamsuddin Ahmad Shah, in the person of Nasiruddin Mahmud (1442—1459 A.D). The Ilyas Shahi Sultans reigned for a pretty long time (till 1487 A.D.) and during this period the Sultans came to regard Bengal as their native land, and people accepted them as their Sultan. Relations between the Hindus and Muslims attained some stability and we find Hindus accepted as nobles in the court of the Ilyas Shahi Sultans. One of the Sultans, Rukn-uddin Barkbak Shah, showed great interest in Bengali literature.

1487 A.D.—1576
A.D.

The six years intervening between 1487 and 1493 were years of turmoil. Rukn-uddin Barbak Shah had brought into Bengal about eight thousand Abyssinian slaves whom he employed in most of the key positions of the State. The Abyssinians virtually ruled Bengal during these six years, until the last of them Shamsuddin Muzaffar (Sidi Badr Diwana) was put to death by Sayyid Husain who was the *wazir*. Sayyid Husain put himself at the head of the people who had risen against Shamsuddin Muzaffar. Sayyid Husain ascended the throne of Bengal in

1493 A.D. under the title of Alauddin Husain Shah and he founded the famous Husain Shahi dynasty (1493—1538). He was a great patron of Bengali literature. His name is even now a household word symbolising good government. Hindus were also employed in high offices during the reign of Alauddin Husain Shah. Alauddin Husain Shah reigned till 1519 A.D. He was succeeded by his son Nusrat Shah who reigned till 1532 A.D. The dynasty came to an end in 1538 when Bengal passed into the hands of Sher Shah, the Afgan. Sher Shah's successor on the throne of Delhi was Islam Shah. It was during the reign of Islam Shah that the governor of Bengal declared his independence and took the title of Shamsuddin Muhammad Shah Gazi (1553—55.). He was defeated and slain by a force sent by Islam Shah under a Hindu; but his son ultimately established himself in Bengal under the title of Ghiyasuddin Bahadur Shah (1556—60). His rule and the rule of his three successors were shortlived and ultimately the throne of Bengal was occupied by Taj Khan Karrani in 1564 A.D. The house of Karrani ruled Bengal until Daud Khan Karrani, the last of the line, was defeated by Akbar's generals, Munim Khan, in 1574 A.D. and Khan-i-Jahan in 1576 A.D.

Munim Khan sent a detachment from Tanda (the then capital of Bengal) to Ghoraghat. The Afghan Jagirdar was defeated and slain and his followers were driven into Cooch Behar. The Mughal power could not, however, be established in Bengal immediately, as the local Afghan and Hindu Chiefs fought the Mughal forces whenever opportunity offered. In fact, Munim Khan had to recover Ghoraghat afresh after his victory over Daud in Orissa, as the Mughal representative at Ghoraghat had been driven out by Kalapahar, Babu Mankali and other Afghan chiefs who had come back from Kooch Behar during the Viceroy's absence in Orissa.

Mughal period
1576 A.D.—1757
A.D.

There were twenty-nine Mughal governors between 1574 A.D. and 1727 A.D. of whom Mansingh (1598—1606), Islam Khan (1608—13), Prince Muhammad Shuja (1639—60), Mir Jumla (1660—63), Shaista Khan (1663—78, 79—88) and Murshid Quli Khan (1713—27) were very famous. The last viceroy, Murshid Quli Khan became virtually independent on account of the weakness of the Emperor of Delhi. His four successors, Shujauddin Md. Hadi (1727—39), Sarfaraz Khan (1739—40), Alivardi Khan (1740—56) and Sirajuddaulah (1756—57), practically ruled as independent Nawabs. The district of Dinajpur during this long period of about two hundred years, saw a new era of peace and progress. Sir Jadunath Sarkar says: "Mughal conquest opened for Bengal a new era of

peace and progress. It re-established that contact with upper India and through upper India by the land-route with the countries of Central Asia and Western Asia, which Bengal had lost first when Buddhism became dead in the land of its birth and next when its Muslim Viceroy threw off the overlordship of Delhi..... Officials, scholars, preachers, traders, artisans and soldiers continued to flock by the land-route from the heart of the Mughal empire into what had now become a regular well-administered province of that empire. The renaissance which we owe to English rule early in the 19th century had a precursor, a faint glimmer of dawn, no doubt, two hundred and fifty years earlier. These were the fruits, the truly glorious fruits, of Mughal peace."

(c) Modern Period.

1767 A.D.—1947
A.D.

The district of Dinajpur came under the control of the East India Company in 1765, the year in which the East India Company obtained the *Diwani* of Bengal. The acquisition of the *Diwani* by the East India Company did not bring about any major change in the administrative machinery as they wanted to remain content with the surplus revenue of Bengal, after meeting their obligations to the Nawab and the Emperor Shah Alam. We find the court of Directors, in 1768, laying the blame for short collection of the revenue of Dinajpur on the Nawab and Muhammad Reza Khan (*Naib* or deputy). In July, 1768, an *Amil*—one Braja Mohan Mitra—was appointed for collection of revenue of the Dinajpur district. A change in this system was brought about during the Governorship of Verelst. Mr. H. Cottrell was appointed supervisor to supervise the collection of revenue and to gather detailed information on every aspect of the district with particular stress on the revenue system. Under Warren Hastings, it was decided that a *Committee of Circuit* was to be appointed to visit the principal districts and to form the revenue settlement for five years. The committee of Circuit visited Dinajpur in January, 1773. Five Provincial Councils were set up. There was to be a Provincial Council at Dinajpur having charge of the district of Dinajpur, Silbarries, Purnea, Rangpur, Edrackpur, Baharbund, Cooch Behar, and Rangamati. In 1780, a *Mufassal Diwani Adalat* was established at Tajpur having jurisdiction over Haveli Pinjerah or Dinajpur, part of Purnea, the district of Malda and part of Rajshahi, east of the Ganges.

The Dinajpur
Raj family.

In 1780 A.D., Raja Baidyanath of Dinajpur died without an heir and his widow, Rani Saraswati, adopted a young boy named Radhanath and acted as the guardian of the minor. On

payment of a succession fee of 730 *mohurs*, the Rani obtained from the East India Company a *Sanad* declaring Radhanath successor of Baidyanath. Taking advantage of the tender age of the new Maharaja, the East India Company farmed out the *Zamindari* to one Devi Singh to ensure collection of revenue. Devi Singh by his exactions and oppressions drove the peasantry into rebellion. The rebellion assumed such magnitude that troop had to be called in and many persons were severely punished or executed before order could be re-established. In 1792 A.D., Raja Radhanath was placed in charge of the estate, a year or so after the conclusion of the Decennial Settlement. The *Jama* at which the Settlement was made was fixed at *Sicca* Rs.14,02,082 or equal to 72.5 per cent. of the gross produce. It is, therefore, no wonder that the Raja could not fulfil his engagements. In 1794 his seal was seized and was locked up in the collectorate treasury, and Ramkanta Roy was again appointed Manager. The Raja appears to have been reinstated in about 1796 A.D., but in 1797 A.D., arrears of revenue accrued to the extent of some 70,000 rupees, and by the order of the Board of Revenue, part of the estate was sold. In the years that followed, the revenue continued to be in arrears as a result of which further sales were effected, and the condition of the estate went from bad to worse. The Raja struggled to save his estate by raising money on mortgages (one of the principal creditors being Ram Kanta Ray), and buying back parts of the estate under assumed names. His wife, Rani Tripura Sundari, and the Old Rani Saraswati also purchased lands to a considerable extent. By the end of 1800 A.D., almost the whole estate had been alienated, and the Raja was virtually a prisoner in his own house as his creditors were threatening to seize his person and to have him imprisoned. Raja Radhanath died in 1801 A.D. at the early age of twenty-four. The estate of the Maharaja of Dinajpur practically disintegrated after Radhanath. The ruination of this ancient family records the most significant change that occurred in the district of Dinajpur after the East India Company took over its management. Either out of greed or out of a set policy the demand for the land revenue was kept at a very high figure making it well-nigh impossible for any one to meet it for a sufficient length of time. The representatives of the East India Company probably did not think it wise to allow a powerful local magnate like the Maharaja of Dinajpur to possess such a vast tract of land. They perhaps thought that with the weakening of the power and prestige of the Maharaja of Dinajpur it would become easier for them to strengthen their hold over the region.

**Raids of
Sannyasis
and Fakirs.**

During the later half of the eighteenth century, the district was subjected to the plundering raids of the *sannyasis* and *fakirs*. The *sannyasis* traced their origin to some of the *dash-nami* sects established by the disciples of *Shankaracharyya*. With the passage of time, members of these sects took to the profession of arms, and local chieftains began to use them in their warfare. Warren Hastings recorded in 1773 about these *sannyasis*: "They neither marry nor have families, but recruit their members by the stoutest of the children which they steal from the countries which they pass,.....some subsist by gratuitous alms and the others the far greater by plunder." Some of these *sannyasis* settled down and acquired large properties in many places including Dinajpur district. So far as the *fakirs* are concerned it may be recalled that the custom of giving presents to the *fakirs* (the holy men of Islam) and supplying them with provisions and travel facilities, such as, boats free of any charges, was in vogue among the Muslim conquerors. The *fakir* was also allowed to go anywhere he pleased with his retinue and to go in a procession with banners, standards, etc. The weakening of the ruling power emboldened these *fakirs* to take large scale oppression of the peasantry. The *sannyasis* and *fakirs* used to enter the district from places in Western India ostensibly for pilgrimage, but, in reality, to amass riches by plundering the people. Warren Hastings succeeded in curbing the activities of the *sannyasis* but the *fakirs* continued to oppress the people of the district even as late as 1799. The East India Company took vigorous measures, employing detachments of the Army to bring these marauders to book and finally, by the beginning of the nineteenth century succeeded in ultimately stamping out these bandits. The British rule thus brought peace to the country side.

The Provincial Councils which had been established in 1773 were abolished in 1781, in which year the Collectors were reposed in districts. Mr George Hatch was appointed Collector of Dinajpur in 1786. Prior to his appointment as Collector of the district, Mr. Hatch was the Collector of the *Zamindari* of Dinajpur. He was also appointed the Judge of the *Diwani Adalat* which was, from that time onward, to exercise jurisdiction only over the district of Dinajpur. In April, 1787, the boundary of the district was readjusted in accordance with the plan of the Governor-General-in-Council to form a new arrangement of the country into Collectorships, and Mr. Hatch was again appointed Judge, Magistrate and Collector.

**Changes in the
Boundary of the
district.**

The area of the district was formerly much bigger than it was at the time of Independence (1947), including as it did

the greater portion of the districts of Bogra and Maldah (India) and considerable tracts now included in Rajshahi, Rangpur and Purnea (India). When Dinajpur first came under British rule in 1765, it was known for the lawlessness of its inhabitants, and the ordinary district staff failed to cope successfully with the dacoits and the river pirates with which this large tract of country was infested. The area was, therefore, gradually reduced with the objects of improving the administration. During the year 1800-01, a large number of estates, hitherto included in Dinajpur, were made over to Purnea (India), Rangpur and Rajshahi. From 1833-1870, a large portion of the district was transferred to Bogra and Maldah (India). Finally, in 1897-98, the whole thana of Mahadebpur in the south of the district was transferred to Rajshahi.

In the early part of the nineteenth century there were many indigo factories in the district, but the business does not seem to have ever been a very paying one, and the factories have long since disappeared, though the remains of old vats may still be seen here and there buried in jungle. The planters did not usually grow their own indigo, but got the *raiya*s to grow it for them in consideration of advances made to them for the purpose. The growing of indigo never became popular with the cultivators, as the landlords were against it and put an end to all chances of profit by exacting an extra heavy rent for land on which indigo was grown. The indigo-planters were unpopular with both landlords and *raiya*s, the former alleging that they were quarrelsome and over bearing in their manners and fond of interfering with themselves and their *raiya*s, and the latter accused them of compelling them to grow indigo against their will and complained that the factory *amlas* cheated when measuring land and weighing the crop. The planters then retorted by saying that the reason for their unpopularity with the *Zamindars* was that the presence of members of the dominant race on their estates affected the prestige of the latter with the cultivators and that prevented them from resorting freely to the illegal extortions of which they were so fond. It seems probable that the presence in the district of a body of Europeans who were not amenable by virtue of their nationality, to the laws of the country, must have hampered the district authorities considerably.

At the time of *Jehad* movement against the Sikhs on the North West Frontier, Maulana Karam Ali Shah was the local leader of the movement in Dinajpur. *Mushti* saving, collections from sale of *Qurbani* hide, *fitra* and *zakat* were mobilised to finance the movement.

The War of Independence of 1857.

The War of Independence of the Sepoys and others of 1857 left the district undisturbed. The most important result was that the administration of the Indo-Pakistan Sub-continent was taken over by the British Government and the East India Company ceased to exist.

First Partition of Bengal in 1905 and the agitation against the Partition.

On the 8th July, 1905 A.D., the Reuter published a report that the Secretary of State had given his assent to the Government of India's new scheme of partition of Bengal into two parts and to form a new province of East Bengal and Assam. This proposal to divide Bengal was made ostensibly for administrative convenience and for ensuring advancement of East Bengal and Assam in the fields of education, etc. This move of creating a new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, where the Muslims formed a majority, was strongly opposed by the Hindus of the district in meetings held on the 21st July, 1905. Lal Mohan Ghosh suggested that all Honorary Magistrates and all Members of District Boards, Municipal Commissioners and *Panchayets* should resign in a body and national mourning should be observed for twelve months during which the people should not participate in any public rejoicing. This meeting was presided over by the Maharaja of Dinajpur. In the early part of 1904, the *Musalman Sava*, a social and political organization of the Muslims of Dinajpur, the first of its kind in East Bengal, had been established under the leadership of Maulvi Yaquuddin, B.L. and Maulvi Wahid Husain, B.L. When the Hindus opposed the partition of Bengal the Muslims of Dinajpur called several meetings in its support. The partition was, however, proclaimed in September, 1905. Maharaja Girija Nath Roy took the leading part in the agitation against the partition. People were urged to boycott English goods by way of protest against the partition of Bengal. A National School was opened at Dinajpur for boycotting the education which was then being imparted under the control of the Government. Mr. Fuller, the Lieutenant-Governor of the newly created province visited Dinajpur in 1905. The Hindus refused to accord him a reception. But the Maharaja of Dinajpur in co-operation with the Muslims gave him a reception. No Congress leader attended the meeting. Societies were formed by the Hindus to direct and control the agitation against the Government and branches of the *Bratee Samiti* and of the *Anusilan Samiti* were formed in Dinajpur town by 1908.

The struggle for swaraj and the Khilafat movement.

By the time of the First World War (1914-18), revolutionary movement spread in the district of Dinajpur. When the movement for Swaraj began in 1919 local Congress leaders

preached the ideals of the Congress and some Primary Congress Committees were organised even in villages in the interior. A spirit of resistance was roused amongst the masses, and a non-violent peasant movement was launched against oppression by the Zamindar in various forms. The Muslims and Hindus of the district jointly took part in the *Khilafat* movement of 1920. The *Musalman Sava* was turned into *Khilafat* party in action. Maulvi Yaquinuddin, B.L., Maulvi Wahid Husain, B.L., Maulvi Quadir Bakhas, B.L., Maulana Abdullahel Baqui, Maulana Maniruddin Anwari, Maulana Abdullahel Kafi, Maulana Abdur Rahman Sadi and Maulana Abdullah were among the leaders of the *Khilafat* movement in the district. The speech delivered by the Maulanas excited the people against the British Government and the *Khilafat* movement reached the remote villages. The Baqui and Kafi brothers suffered imprisonment several times. When Maulana Maniruddin Anwari was arrested from a meeting, large number of people gathered before the gate of the Jail. In 1920, there was a big gathering of the Muslims which continued for five days. The evening sessions of the first two days (20th and 21st Chaitra) were organised by the Muslim *Shikhya Shamiti* and presided over by Maulvi Abdul Karim, B.A. (retired Inspector of Schools). The meetings of the 3rd day in the morning and evening were organised by the Provincial Muslim League and were presided over by Maulvi Majibur Rahman (Editor of the *Musalman* of Calcutta) and by Maulvi Wahid Husain, B.L. The meetings of the 4th and 5th day were organised by the *Ahale Hadith* where Maulana Md. Akram Khan and a Maulana from Egypt delivered speeches. The speech delivered by the Maulana from Egypt in Arabic was translated into Bengali by Maulana Abdullahel Baqui.

In 1924, Purna Chandra Das, a noted revolutionary, was arrested at Dinajpur. In 1928, there was a *hartal* in Dinajpur in protest against the Simon Commission. In 1930, *hartals* and picketings were resorted to by the people of Dinajpur in protest against Ghandhi's arrest. The Government replied by extending the provisions of the Prevention of Intimidation and Unlawful Instigation Ordinance to Dinajpur. Dinajpur continued to figure in the reports of the Government as a troubled district. On the 28th October, 1933, the railway station of Hili was raided by a group of youngmen dressed in military uniform. The station staff offered strong resistance, and there was an exchange of fire as a result of which the night guard of the railway station sustained serious injury and died in the hospital. The raiders who belonged to the *Anusilan Samiti*, hoisted the Congress flag on the station building and decamped

with a large amount of money. Subsequently, all the youngmen who had raided the railway station were arrested and brought to trial, and most of them were sentenced to undergo imprisonment for various terms including transportation for life.

The Muslim League and the Pakistan movement.

We have already seen that a big gathering of the Muslim League was held in Dinajpur in 1920. But the Muslim League movement was started in the district from 1935. When Qaid-i-Azam came to Bengal in 1937, the wave of political awakening reached Dinajpur where Muslim League was organised and many youngmen started work for the League. Thereafter other prominent Muslim League leaders visited the district to strengthen the Muslim League there and intensify the Pakistan movement.

In 1946 Moulana Abdullahel Baqui joined the Muslim League. Due to the untiring effort of the local leaders, the Muslims of Dinajpur rallied with the Muslim League banners to achieve Pakistan and in the 1946 election to the Provincial Legislature the Muslim League captured all the Muslim seats. In August, 1947, when Pakistan came into being, a fair portion of the district constituting several thanas was transferred to India under the Radcliff Award in spite of the fact that the district as a whole had a Muslim majority.

Circumstances leading to the birth of independent Bangladesh.

Former Pakistan was a novel experiment in the history of nation-building. It was neither a geographical nor an economic unit. It had no common language nor uniform culture. The two-nation theory mainly based on religion was the basis for its creation. The ideas and ideals which inspired the Muslims of East Bengal (now Bangladesh) to make supreme sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan could not be implemented during the last twenty-four years (1947-71) of its existence due to the conspiracy of the self-seeking leaders and bureaucracy of West Pakistan (now Pakistan).

During all these years the people of Bangladesh struggled to achieve their rights and privileges, but all were trampled down by sheer force and repressive measures. They found a leader in the person of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a great disciple of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. As a trusted lieutenant of this great leader, he always fought for the genuine causes of Bangladesh and for its people. Gradually, he became the symbol of hopes and aspirations of the oppressed and exploited people of Bangladesh. His party—the Awami League—won the general election of December-January, 1970-71, capturing 167 seats out of 313, in the National Assembly of former Pakistan.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman thus got the mandate of the people to frame a Constitution of the country on the basis of his party's *6 points* formula and the students' *11 points* formula. The people of Bangladesh at last got a chance to realise their demands through constitutional means. But the ruling *coterie* and bureaucracy were never willing to meet the grievances of the people of Bangladesh. So conspiracies went on to nullify the results of the election and at last, on the 1st of March, 1971 the meeting of the National Assembly was postponed for an indefinite period by the then self-styled President of Pakistan, General Yahya Khan.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman then gave a call for *non-violent-non-co-operation* movement on the 2nd March, 1971, against the undemocratic action of General Yahya Khan. On the 7th March, 1971, he declared at a meeting at Race Course ground in Dacca, "This time, it is the struggle for emancipation—it is the struggle for independence". The movement continued peacefully. People from all walks of life wholeheartedly co-operated with the leader and participated in the movement. Then came the dreadful night of the 25th March, 1971. The army came out of the barracks. They fell upon the students and the unarmed citizens of Dacca and other places like hungry wolves. The rule of Nero began. Murder, plunder, burning and rape went on throughout Bangladesh. The students, the police, the *Jawans* of Bengal Regiment and the public, enlisting themselves in the *Mukti Bahini*, fought bravely and resolutely in every nook and corner of Bangladesh against the brute army of General Yahya Khan. During the War, India and Russia gave them material help and moral support. The *Mukti Bahini* and the Indian army jointly fought against Pakistan from 3rd to 16th December, 1971 on the soil of Bangladesh. The Pakistan Army surrendered on the 16th December.

During the long nine months, the occupation army of Pakistan killed about 30 lacs of people, compelled about one crore to take refuge in India, about 3 crores of people were rendered homeless, thousands of women were raped and caused irreparable loss to our economy.

However, with the surrender of the Pakistan Army on the 16th December, 1971, the Eastern Wing of former Pakistan, emerged as an independent State. The new State is called the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Father of this new Nation is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



General view of Mound from north-east (Birgram), Dinajpur.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

According to the Census Report of 1961, the district of Dinajpur has a population of 17,09,917, of which 9,02,389 are males and 8,07,528 females, the sex ratio being 895 females for every 1,000 males. The total population of Thakurgaon subdivision is 6,99,882 of which 3,73,340 are males and 3,26,542 females, while that of Dinajpur Sadar subdivision is 10,10,035, of which 5,29,049 are males and 4,80,986 females.

Population and
sex ratio.

The table below gives thana-wise population of the district with sex ratio:

Name of thana.	Population.			Females per 1,000 males.	
	Both sexes	Males.	Females.		
Tetulia ...	35,185	18,643	16,542	887	Thakurgaon Subdivision.
Panchagarh ...	49,298	26,351	22,947	871	
Boda ...	90,856	48,652	42,204	867	
Debiganj ...	65,154	34,536	30,618	887	
Thakurgaon ...	1,60,874	87,364	73,507	841	
Atwari ...	47,204	24,911	22,293	895	
Baliadangi ...	63,700	33,743	29,957	888	
Ranisankail ...	57,906	30,602	27,304	892	
Haripur ...	38,170	19,876	18,294	920	
Pirganj ...	91,560	48,679	42,881	881	
Bochaganj ...	58,460	31,502	26,958	856	
Biral ...	89,220	46,787	42,433	907	
Kotwali ...	1,37,044	73,018	64,026	877	
Kaharole ...	49,356	25,861	23,495	909	
Birganj ...	92,217	48,764	43,553	895	Dinajpur Sadar Subdivision.
Chirirbandar ...	1,09,339	57,287	52,052	909	
Khansama ...	57,920	30,214	27,706	917	
Parbatipur ...	1,56,406	81,595	74,811	917	
Fulbari ...	75,514	38,835	36,579	939	
Hakimpur ...	52,311	26,984	25,327	939	
Nawabganj ...	94,332	48,668	45,664	938	
Ghoraghat ...	37,916	16,534	18,382	941	

A look at the following table will give an idea about the growth of population in the district from 1901-1961.

2. Growth of population.

Year	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961
Population ..	11,25,597	11,67,706	12,19,613	12,34,224	13,35,588	13,78,810	17,09,917
Increase of population over preceding Census.	..	42,109	51,907	14,907	1,01,364	43,228	3,31,101
Percentage of increase over preceding Census.	..	4.7	4.4	1.1	8.2	3.2	24

The following chart will show the percentage of increase of population in each thana during the period 1951-61:

Name of thana.	Percentage of increase.
Thakurgaon Subdivision.	1. Tetulia 39.31
	2. Panchagarh 49.26
	3. Boda 40.38
	4. Debiganj 32.23
	5. Thakurgaon 24.15
	6. Atwari 20.64
	7. Baliadangi 23.36
	8. Ranisankail 25.86
	9. Haripur 27.03
	10. Pirganj 23.83
Sadar Subdivision.	11. Bochaganj 33.14
	12. Biral 25.56
	13. Kotwali 20.91
	14. Kaharole 27.88
	15. Birganj 37.87
	16. Chirirbandar 17.93
	17. Khansama 26.19
	18. Parbatipur 12.35
	19. Fulbari 23.89
	20. Hakimpur 33.89
	21. Nawabganj 33.89
	22. Ghoraghat 36.32

It may be noted that though the boundary of the district has undergone considerable change after Partition in 1947, the population figures shown in the above table have been adjusted to the present boundaries wherever necessary.

These figures reveal that the rate of increase in the population of the district is the lowest in Bangladesh. During the 1931-41 period, however, the increase in the population was more than double the average decennial increase of the earlier three decennial periods. This is possibly owing to the inflated figures, which the two main rival communities, the Hindus and the Muslims, manipulated to swell their respective population figures for political advantage. No other reason can be attributed to this increase of 8.2 per cent. when the increase according to the earlier Census was only 1.1 per cent. The increase of population only by 3.2 per cent. during 1941-51 period, in spite of heavy influx of Muslims from the neighbouring Indian districts like Jalpaiguri, Purnea and West Dinajpur after Partition and their settlement in this districts, proves that the population figures in the earlier Census was inflated.

The phenomenal rise in the population of the district, *i.e.*, 24 per cent. during 1951-61 period was the culmination of the process of immigration into the district, following Partition. It is true that a good number of Hindus have emigrated from the district after Partition, but their number must be much less than the combined strength of Muslim immigrants, who rushed from so many neighbouring Indian districts. Besides, the Census Report of 1961 reveals that out of the population of 17,09,917, 15,37,596 were born in Dinajpur district. Of the rest of the population born in other districts of Bangladesh, we find 19,022 in Rangpur, 6,258 in Bogra, 7,146 in Rajshahi, 3,407 in Pabna, 828 in Kushtia, 658 in Jessore, 612 in Khulna, 929 in Bakarganj (including Patuakhali), 31,292 in Mymensingh (including Tangail), 8,642 in Dacca, 2,014 in Faridpur, 197 in Sylhet, 7,284 in Comilla, 5,798 in Noakhali, 446 in Chittagong and 13 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Besides, there are 426 persons whose places of birth are in various places of West Pakistan (now Pakistan). The number of those whose birth-places were mentioned as lying in other parts of Bangladesh-Bharat sub-continent is 77,210.

These figures show that the district of Dinajpur not only drew the bulk of the Muslim refugees from the several Indian districts, but its sparsely populated countryside and the fertile paddy fields attracted a large number of immigrants from all the districts of Bangladesh also, especially from the districts where the pressure of population on land is heavy. On the other hand, the district is notable for the very small number of its inhabitants who leave it compared with the vast number of those whom it receives. Of those who came to this district from other districts of Bangladesh, only a small number have settled down as cultivators or domestic servants and the great majority of these outsiders are of periodic type. They come in the

cold weather in search of employment as agricultural labourers or earth diggers and return home in the spring.

The density.

The district of Dinajpur is one of the sparsely populated districts in Bangladesh with an average density of 655 persons per square mile. The position of the district in order of population is 14th in Bangladesh. In respect of density of population also the position of the district is quite the same as with population in Bangladesh. As one might naturally expect the population in the more settled portions of the district is denser than in the more jungly tracts. The southern part of the district is more thickly populated than the northern part, while Thakurgaon subdivision has an average density of 564 persons per square mile, the corresponding figure for the Dinajpur Sadar subdivision is 738.

The thana-wise figures of the density of population as recorded in the Census Report of 1961 are given in the following table:

Name of thana.	Persons per square mile.
Thakurgaon subdivision	564
Tetulia	475
Panchagarh	479
Boda	547
Debiganj	548
Thakurgaon	646
Atwari	583
Baliadangi	574
Ranisankail	526
Haripur	496
Pirganj	602
Dinajpur Sadar subdivsion	738
Bochaganj	672
Biral	647
Kotwali	986
Kaharole	617
Birganj	587
Chirirbandar	904
Khansama	839
Parbatipur	948
Fulbari	614
Hakimpur	671
Nawabganj	621
Ghoraghat	665

The areas classified as urban in the district in the Census Report of 1961 are Dinajpur Municipality, Parbatipur town and Thakurgaon town. The population of these areas which only can be called urban, is 71,938. It is only 4.50 per cent. of the total population of the district. In respect of urbanisation the district has registered a decrease of 8 per cent. during 1951-61 decennial period over the preceding one. This shows the extent of mobility of population from the urban areas of the district to towns and cities in other districts which afforded greater industrial facilities to a good number of migrants from India who first came to Dinajpur town between 1947 and 1951.

The Urban and Rural population.

The population of Dinajpur is thus almost entirely rural, because out of the total population of 17,09,917, 16,37,979, i.e., 95.5 per cent. live in villages. There are 3,089 villages in the district, of which 1,049 are in Thakurgaon subdivision and 2,040 in Sadar subdivision. The average size of a village is more than one square mile in Thakurgaon subdivision, while it is less than one square mile in Sadar subdivision. For census purposes the village has been taken to mean a residential area, i.e., collection of houses bearing a separate name with its dependent hamlets or *baris*. It is, as a rule, small and untidy consisting of a few huts lying in scattered condition.

Rural population.

The following chart, taken from the Census Report of 1961 will show the number and percentage of people speaking different languages in the district:

Distribution of population on the basis of mother tongue.

Mother tongue.	Number.			Percentage.	
	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Bengali	16,23,129	8,56,643	7,66,486	50.10	44.83
Santhali and Khasi	41,242	21,244	19,998	1.24	4.17
Urdu	34,114	18,162	15,982	1.06	.93
Hindi	7,692	4,265	3,427	.25	.20
Oriya	1,117	578	539	.03	.03
Sindhi	274	155	119	.01	.09
Punjabi	224	182	42	.01	..
Persian	202	107	95	.01	.01
Poshtu	186	142	44	.01	..
Gujrati	37	29	8	..	..
Brahui	24	11	13	..	..
Baluchi	20	18	2	..	..
Assamese	17	14	3	..	..
English	11	8	3	..	..
Arabic	5	4	1	..	..
Other languages not stated	1,593	827	766	.05	.05

Dialects.

Bengali, the mother tongue of 95 per cent. of the population of the district, is not spoken in the same form by all. In case of the more respectable classes, it differs little from that spoken in other parts of Bangladesh. The lower orders, especially those of Paliya origin, speak a rather unintelligible Bengali patois, which is characterised by contraction of words, and by the use of a large number of Urdu and Hindi words, and some words of Dravidian origin. There is also a marked difference between Bengali spoken by the Muslims and that spoken by the Hindus and others. As in other districts of Bangladesh many words of Arabic and Persian origin have also crept into the Bengali language in this district especially in that used by the Muslims of the district.

Bilingualism.

The aboriginals of the district, namely, the Santhals, the Oraons and the Mundas are bilingualists, speaking Bengali besides their own language which they use while talking among themselves. The language, and some typical words which were used in medieval Bengali literature are still found and used in their original form in the dialects of the district. The words 'Hami' for 'Ami' and 'Hamara' for 'Amara' are still in use in the district.

After Partition in 1947 some of the refugees have come from Bihar (India) and its adjacent places and settled in the district, especially in urban areas, mostly in Parbatipur. These people speak Urdu.

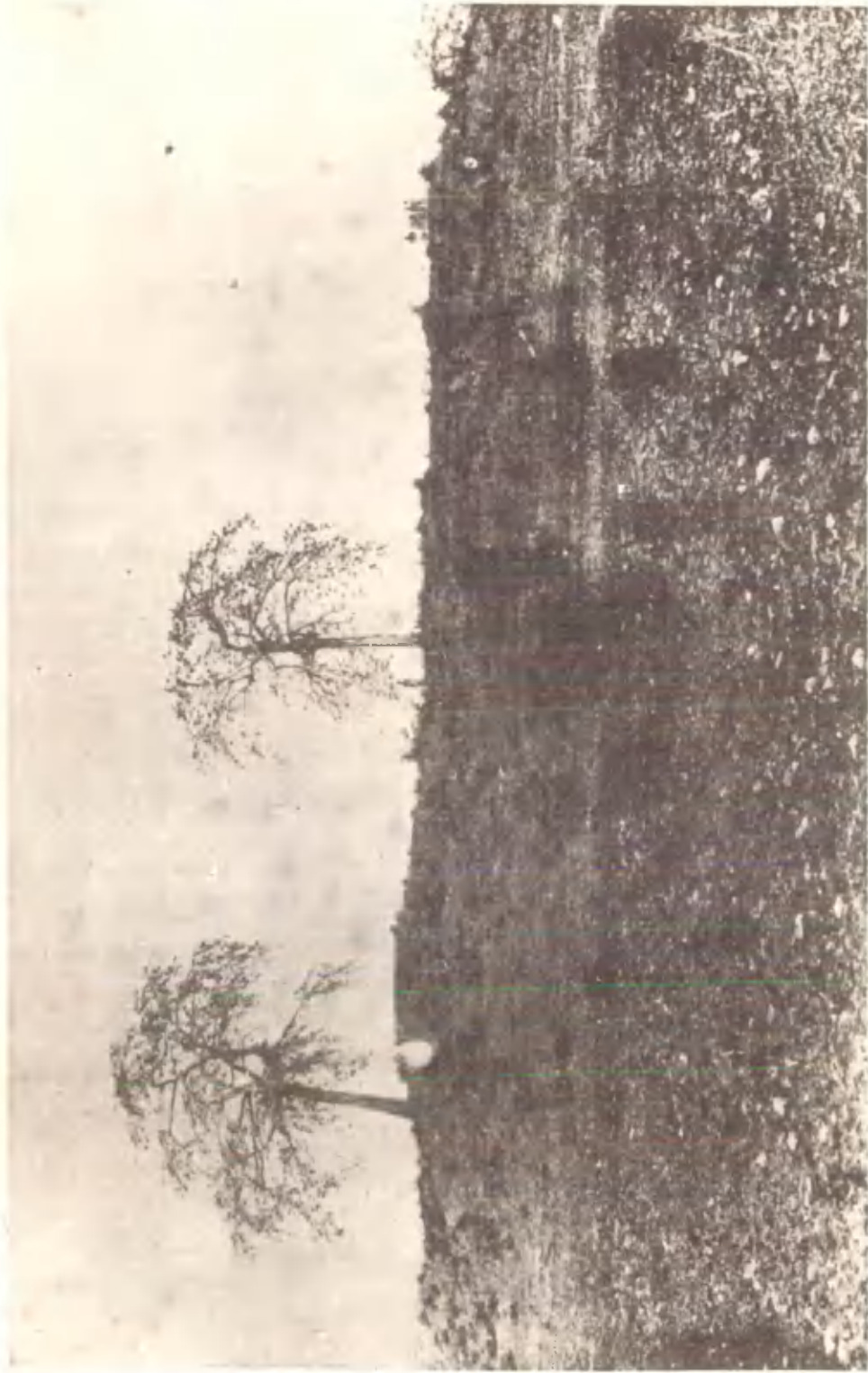
As the district has a common border with Purnea, a bilingual district of Bihar (India), a large section of the people of the district, especially those in the north-western part, understand Hindi and Urdu and can, to some extent, speak the same in addition to their mother tongue.

Ethnography.

Dinajpur is a multi-racial district, but no race except aboriginals, among whom the intermixing of blood is almost an impossibility, can claim to have been able to preserve the purity of blood. The Rajbansis and the Paliyas who are the original inhabitants of the district are, no doubt, of Mongolian descent. They are of short stature and have small eyes, flat nose with protruded cheek bones, scanty beard and a dusty yellowish complexion, the distinctive characteristics of the Mongolian race. Attempts have been made to class these people as Dravidians in common with the Koch, another Mongoloid tribe inhabiting the neighbouring districts of Rangpur and Cooch Behar (India), but there appears to be no justification for such assumption in the face of the strong evidence of their physical features.

Religion in ancient period.

The Pala kings were Buddhists and Nalanda Vihara attained fame as a seat of learning during their time. According to Taranatha, a Tibetan historian, Dharmapala established fifty



General view of the Monastery Mound from south, Jagaddal, Dinajpur. (p.47)

religious institutions throughout his kingdom. Though the Pala emperors were themselves ardent Buddhists, persons professing other religions were not deprived of their support and bounty. In the inscriptions, the Pala emperors have recorded gifts of villages to Brahmins or to a deity. The Khalimpur inscription of Dharmapala mentions the temple of Saraswati, the goddess of learning, at Kadambari. This is of interest, as the present custom is to worship the goddess only once a year. The emperors did not hesitate to appoint devout Brahmins as their Prime Ministers. They also did not think it inconsistent with their belief in Buddhism to attend *jagyas* performed by Brahmins. They were great patrons of learning and it was during their reign that the Vikramshila Vihara and Jagaddala Vihara attained fame as centres of Buddhistic learning.

The village of Belahisti was given in honour of the god Narayana by Lakshmansena who described himself as a Vaisnab. It is evident that the Vedic Hindu religion received a new lease of life during the reign of the Senas. Buddhism, however, had not entirely disappeared from the district at that time, as the inscription itself records the existence of a Buddhist monastery on the boundary of the land donated to Narayana.

Religions during
Sena period.

Aniruddha Bhatta, one of the Dharmadhykshas of Lakshmansena was born in Champathatti in Varendra. He is said to have been a teacher of Vallalsena. Vallalsena wrote the *Danasagara* at the request of Aniruddha Bhatta. Aniruddha Bhatta's own works: *Haralata* and *Pitridayita*, relate to the ritualistic side of Hindu religion. This pre-occupation with the ritualistic side of religion testifies to the decadence of Hinduism as practised at that time.

Nearly 68 per cent. of the population of the district are Muslims. Caste Hindus and Scheduled Caste Hindus form about 30 per cent., the total number of the former, according to the Census Report of 1961 being 82,786 and that of the latter being 4,42,573. These figures show an increase of 17,469 and 31,993 respectively over the corresponding census figures of 1951. The Christians who are converts from the aboriginals number 8,819, i.e., 0.5 per cent. of the total population. The rest of the aboriginals whose number is 2,107 are animists. The Christians have their separate churches managed and controlled by the foreign missionary organizations. The majority of the Hindus are Vaisnabs, who are averse to killing animals, seldom practise animal sacrifices as offerings to their gods and goddesses. The Rajbansis and Paliyas who are all Vaisnabs were Buddhists in ancient times, but with Brahminical ascendancy they were forced to change their religion.

Religious groups

Muslims and
Hindus.

It has been mentioned in the old Gazetteer that the Muslims of Dinajpur are chiefly the descendants of Rajbansis, converted by force to Islam or who adopted that religion during the days of Muslim rule from motives of policy. In this connection the writer also mentions of one tradition according to which Jalaluddin, ruler of Gour (about 1420 A.D.), who was himself a converted Hindu, forcibly proselytised all the inhabitants of the district. Such views are not correct. If force were ever applied to convert Hindus to Islam anywhere in this sub-continent, the present day picture of this part of the world would have been different and there would not have been so many Hindus in the district enjoying privileged position for such a long time. The fact is that being persecuted by the Brahmins and attracted by the message of equality and brotherhood as preached by the Muslim *Pirs*, a large number of Hindus embraced Islam of their own accord. But this is not the whole story. While the bulk of the Muslims of the district are converts from Hinduism, others trace their origin to Pathan and Mughal ancestors, who came in different capacities when the district was under the Muslim rule or who migrated to it from India after the partition of 1947. The Muslims of the district were formerly divided into four classes, namely, the Sheikhs, Syeds, Mughals and Pathans. It was the common view that all Mullahs were Syeds, the police and peons were Pathans, woollen cloth dealers were Mughals and the cultivators were Sheikhs. But now-a-days such distinction does not exist.

The Muslims are all *Sunnis* with a sprinkling of *Shias* among the refugees from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh of India. The followers of Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadian, popularly known as Qadianis or Ahmadis, of late made their presence felt by organising themselves into a compact community now inhabiting the Ahmad Nagar colony near Panchagarh.

Religious
practices.

The different religious groups observe their religious rites and rituals in the manner prescribed by their respective religions. Besides saying their prayers five times daily, the Muslims of the district congregate in the mosques every Friday to offer their *Jumma* prayer. They also assemble in the *Idgahs* on the occasion of *Idul-Fitr* and *Idul-Azha* to offer their *Id*-prayer. On the other hand, the Hindus and the Christians through the temples and churches respectively for the observance of their religious ceremonies. Religion plays an important role in moulding the social life of the people and restrains its adherents from indulging in immoral activities. The acceptance of interest is prohibited in Islam, so the devout Muslims refrain from it. The influence of *Pirs* and *Murshids* among

the Muslims and that of *Sannyasis* and *Sadhus* among the Hindus and aboriginals is still very great. Many superstitions have their origin in religion. These are encouraged by the half-literate *Pirs* and *Sannyasis* and are still deep-rooted among the people.

The birth of a baby is generally regarded as an auspicious event among the people of the district. The Hindus greet it with blowing of conch-shells and beating of drums. When a baby is born among the Muslims, it is first bathed and then *azan* (call to prayer) is uttered into its ears. Afterwards *aqiqa* ceremony is held when a formal Muslim name is given to the child. Two goats or sheep are sacrificed in case of a male child and one in case of a female child. Meat is distributed among friends and neighbours and feasts are held for the entertainment of relations and friends.

Birth and deaths.

The funeral ceremony among the Muslims is a sombre affair. The dead-body is washed, covered with new white clothes and perfumed. A special prayer called *namaj-e-janaja* is offered to invoke blessings of Allah on the departed soul. Then the dead-body is carried on a wooden *khatia* (bier) by the relations. The dead-body followed by a procession of mourners is finally taken to the graveyard where it is laid to rest decently and reverentially. Verses from the Holy Quran are recited at the time of the funeral. After the burial *fateha khawani* is offered, when people gather in the house of the deceased and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

The Hindus generally burn their dead, but there are some castes among them who follow the custom of burial. The Santhals follow the latter custom. The Hindus' funeral processions are accompanied with shouting of *haribol* and sometimes with music as they march to the burning-ghat.

The aboriginals include the Santhal, the Oraon and the Munda tribes. Of these the Santhals far exceed the other two in number. The numerical superiority of the Santhals can be attributed to the encouragement given by the late Maharaja Girijanath Ray of Dinajpur for their large scale importation from the Santhal Parganas for the cultivation of the extensive fallow lands in the district. The aboriginals are of ebony colour with little growth of beard, and are stockily built, capable of undertaking hard labour.

The Santhals,
the Oraons and
the Mundas.

The rest of the people who form the bulk of the population of the district are of mixed Aryan blood. There are as many variations in them as is permissible by nature, and very few of the inhabitants possess pure Aryan characteristics. Among the

Caste Hindus as well as the Muslims, there are many whose physical features are almost identical with the Rajbansis. There are others who are just on the border line of the Aryan group. The better class of Muslim families claim to be descended from Afghan or Mughal soldiers or officials who came to the district during the Muslim rule and subsequently settled there and got their blood mixed with that of some native people. After Partition a good number of Muslims from India also settled in the district. Some of them have pronounced Aryan physical features. The Aryan element is also represented by a few better class families, mostly of foreign origin, who followed the Muslim conquerors, both Afghan and Mughal, as soldiers and traders and obtained posts as ministerial officers and clerks under their rule. Normally, the Muslims are a homogenous and democratic community, apart from the inevitable distinctions of wealth, but in Birampur (Charkai) under Fulbari police-station it was found that a class of *Teli* or oil-pressing Muslims, known as *Kulus*, were not inter-marrying with the ordinary cultivating Muslims. Another separate class among the Muslims is the *Sherhabadiyas*. They are immigrants. They came 40 or 50 years ago and are not afraid of the hard conditions of life in land that may be flooded. They are also known as *Diaras* presumably due to their original home being in the *Diar* areas by the Ganges. They show commendable enterprise and go far afield as traders and carters. They are considered to be very punctilious in their religious observances, more so than the general run of Dinajpur Muslim cultivators, and have been found to arrange by subscription, for teachers of Arabic in their village schools.

Animism.

Most of the Santals and some *Tantis* or weavers of the district are Animists. The salient features of Animism, as described by Mr. Gait in his Assam Census Report of 1891, consist in the vague belief in some one omnipotent being who is well-disposed towards men, and a number of evil spirits who are ill-disposed towards human beings and to whose malevolent influence are ascribed all the woes which afflict mankind. Sacrifices are made to propitiate these evil spirits so that calamity can be averted. There is no regular priesthood, but some persons are supposed to be better endowed with the powers of divination than others. There is a profound belief in omens of all sorts; no journey is undertaken unless it is ascertained that the fates are propitious. This will, however, be discussed in details later on.

The Rajbansis,
the Paliyas and
the Koches.

Risley was of the opinion that ethnically the Rajbansis, the Paliyas and the Koches were the same. There is a legend which was recounted by Dr. Buchanan (Hamilton), that the

Rajbansis are the descendants of those Kshatriyas who fled away from the wrath of Parsuram. The Koches were originally not Hindus and this legend was probably invented in order to find a place for them in the Hindu society. According to Risley, the Paliya caste is a sub-caste of the Rajbansi caste.

In the 1901 Census, the Koches and the Rajbansis were recorded together, but in the Census of 1911 they were recorded separately. Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, the then Superintendent of Census Operations, was of the view that irrespective of any question of origin, the Rajbansis and the Koches were separate castes, and the Rajbansis and the Koches were accordingly shown separately in the Census Report of 1911, but the Paliyas were included among the Rajbansis.

The Koches and the Rajbansis in the Censuses of 1901 and 1911.

In the Census of 1921 also no record of the Paliyas was kept. The typical Rajbansi has a short broad figure, broad across the shoulder and across the calves of the legs. His nose is broad across the nostrils, the eyes are long and narrow and the cheek bones high. The general appearance shows unmistakable signs of Mongolian strain.

The Paliyas in the Censuses of 1911 and 1921.

The Koches, the Rajbansis and the Paliyas have the same general appearance. The women freely go about the countryside and attend the *hats*. They generally wear a single *patani* cloth in check or striped pattern, which is folded across the body and extends from just above the breasts to the knees. The more sophisticated among women wear *sarees*, while among men the wearing of *dhoti*, shirt, coat or *chadar* is becoming common. The Koches worship Siva while the Rajbansis are mainly Vaisnabs.

The Koches, the Rajbansis and the Paliyas: their social life.

Risley noted that a Deshi, a sub-caste, could take rice, water, sweetmeats, etc., from a Paliya man but not from a Paliya woman. There is no inter-marriage between the Paliyas and the Deshis. The Rajbansis have returned themselves as Hindus and they wear the sacred thread, but till 1931 certain customs were prevalent among them which were not in consonance with the tenets of Hinduism. Mr. A. E. Porter, the Superintendent of Census Operation of the 1931 Census, recorded that divorce was practised among them as well as the system of companionate marriage known as *gagoch* in Rangpur. Under the system, a young man was received into a family and he lived with a girl of the household with a view to later on being accepted as the husband of the girl and in the meantime worked for the prospective father-in-law. The remarriage of widows was customary and attachments not amounting to formal marriage were entered into by widows and divorced women.

The Santhals.

The Santhals hail from that part of Bihar and West Bengal which is drained by the Damodar and the Kasai rivers. The Damodar is the sacred river of the Santhals. About the circumstances under which the immigration of the Santhals into the district began, Mr. Gait, who was the Census Superintendent of 1901, said as follows :

“About fifty years ago it occurred to the manager of a Government state that the waste land might be reclaimed if Santals were imported and settled there. The experiment was made and proved such a success that the influx has continued ever since..... Their lead has been followed by a few Mundas and Oraons from Ranchi.”

Social life and their festivals.

The following account of the system of tribal government among the Santhals is quoted from the Census Report of Mr. O'Malley (Census of 1911) :

Manjhi.

“The system of Tribal Government among the Santals is closely bound up with the communal system. Its unit is the village, at the head of which is the Santal Headman or *Manjhi*. He is essential to Santal life, every public sacrifice, ceremony and festival requiring his presence. Should a Santal village have a headman of another race, they will appoint a Santal to perform all the social and ceremonial duties (duties) of the *Manjhi*. He is called a *Handi Manjhi*, i. e., a liquor headman, the consumption of liquor being a feature of their ceremonies.

“The *Manjhi* summons the villagers when any question arises affecting their common interests, or when a villager has complained to him and a communal judgement is required. The meeting is called a *Panchayat* or in Santali *morehor* (literally five men), a term which probably originally signified the headman and the four other village officials.

Desh Manjhi.

“Every village has its council place (the *Manjhi than*) where *Panchayats* are held and petty disputes are settled. The *Panchayat* also disposes of more serious questions, such as disputes about marriage and inheritance. Questions of serious importance are referred to a *Panchayat* consisting of the neighbouring *Manjis* under the control of the *Parganit*.”

According to Mr. Bell, the Settlement Officer, in 1934-40 the Santhals are a class apart in the country side. Their houses are usually 'neat looking' though built of mud. Their homestead

often includes a garden in which a few 'marigold plants' may be seen. They are fond of flowers and music. The women-folk help the men in agricultural work, and consequently enjoy almost equal status with the men in the economic sphere. They wear *shadis* which pass off the waist across the breast and over one shoulder. They wear peculiarly shaped ornaments at their ankles.

The Santhals observe three big festivals in a year. These are the *Pausha Parab*, the *Fagua Parab*, and the *Chaitra Parab*. The first is a form of harvest festival and the second corresponds to the festival of *holi* among the Hindus. At each of these festivals, there is a good deal of dancing and drinking of liquor made of rice. Men and women take part in the ceremonial dances. The Santhals keep poultry, especially fowls. They are fond of witnessing cock fight. They are extremely fond of dogs, and there is hardly a Santhal family which does not have a dog. The Santhals can subsist on wild plants which are not commonly edible.

Nearly three quarters of the houses are thatched, built on bamboo frame. Some houses have mud walls and roofs of corrugated iron sheets. Only the rich persons have pucca brick-built houses in the villages, but in urban areas pucca houses are quite a common sight. The thatched and tin roofed houses have sloping roofs, whereas the pucca buildings have flat ones. The peculiarity of the houses is that they have small and low doors and almost no window. If there are windows, they are made at a higher level so that no one can peep through them from outside. There is practically no furniture except wooden bedstead and bamboo *machang* (loft) or *khatia* on which the people of the comparatively well-to-do class spread their beds. Others do it on the floor on a *chatai* and lie down there. The Santhals specially keep their houses very neat and clean, and the Hindus have ornamental decorations on the walls painted by their women.

Dwelling houses
of Santhals,

The *laban* or *nahanna* ceremony (new rice) is undoubtedly of great importance to the rural people of the district. But these are reserved for women only.

General custom
and usage
prevalent among
the Hindus and
the Muslims.

This is observed during the harvest time when delicious preparations from newly harvested foodgrains are made and friends and relations are entertained. When there is a prolonged drought, the little children and women form themselves into a group and go round the village from house to house beseeching God in an appealing song to send clouds and rain and save them from the scorching heat. There is also a custom

among the rural women, strictly amongst the Hindu community, to entertain a married girl in the seventh month of the first pregnancy with seven kinds of fruits.

Superstitions.

A number of superstitions is found among both the Hindus and Muslims of the district. In this respect reciprocal influence of the Hindus and the Muslims on each other is evident. The Hindus are very careful about the omens and auspicious days. Dates for wedding are often fixed after consulting a Hindu astrologer. Bamboos are not cut, nor the building of new houses commenced on certain days of the week and journeys are often undertaken only after referring to the Hindu almanacs to see if the proposed day is auspicious. When disease is prevalent, goddesses Sitla and Rakshya Kali are worshipped.

Apart from the Hindu superstitions there are certain forms of worship common among Muslims which are not based on the Quran. The most common of these is the adoration of the departed *pirs*. As opposed to the *mullah* or learned teacher who teaches or expounds the Islam law and dogmas to the Muslims, the *pir* inculcates the spiritual submission to and communion with Allah. In early times the people were very devoted to the *pir*, who was supposed to possess supernatural powers. There are innumerable *pirattars* which have been recorded in the *khatians*. Bara Pir Saheb, Panch Pir Saheb, Satya Pir Saheb, Madar Pir Saheb are only a few of the commoner saints in whose names *pirattars* were found. Then there are those dedicated to Bibi Fatema, Bibi Shahebani and Nur Bibi Shaheba. Sometimes the villagers were more catholic, and *pirsthans* and *debsthans* are shared with Hindu villagers. A number of such places are noted in the record as হিন্দু ও মুসলমান সাধাবণের ব্যবহারি। *Sinni* is offered at the *pirasthans* at the foot of a tree, by both Hindus and Muslims, and clay modelled horses are offered as thanks-giving for recovery from illness. The *nabanna* or ceremony at the beginning of harvest is observed by both Hindus and Muslims.

Cultural pattern of the people.

In the cultural sphere the people of the district are not very much advanced, though the percentage of literacy is higher than many other districts of Bangladesh. The people live a simple life and their intellectual level is not high. As a rule, they are fatalistic, and accept life as it is without bothering about the intricacies of the philosophy of higher life. A section of the people who have the light of modern education are, however, progressive-minded, and strive hard for raising their cultural standard.

The games and sports in which the rural people take a lot of interest are *ha-du-du* and *dariabandah*. In urban areas western games like football and cricket are played, especially in the campuses of schools and colleges. Games and Sports.

A section of the people of the district are lovers of music, both instrumental and vocal. The musical instruments include *dhol*, *kartal*, *ektara*, *madal*, flute, harmonium and *tabla*. They also enjoy with great enthusiasm *jatragan*, *kavigan*, and other folksongs. The people have a great liking for *bhawaiya* songs, which with their emotional notes move the hearts of the simple village folks. Dance as a social form of entertainment is common among the aboriginals. Even the girls and young women of Hindu and Muslim families take part in dance and frolicsome music arranged during marriage ceremonies. Music and dance.

The Muslims almost without any exception wear *lungi*, *genji* (cotton vest) and shirt, and on special occasions, such as *Id-ul-Fitr*, etc., wear *pyjamas* and caps of various shapes and colour. The Hindus including the Rajansis put on *dhoti*. Both the Muslims and the Hindus of the district carry a napkin, locally called *gamcha* which, when occasions demand, is wrapped round the middle portion of the bare body. In summer, upper part of the body usually remains uncovered and during the cold season only a coarse *chadar* (wrapper) is used to cover the body as protection against cold. The women in general and those of the Rajbansi and Paliya classes in particular wear *bakni* or *rata* which has the shape of a *lungi*, a piece of cloth less than half the length of a *saree* and wrapped round their bodies and tied in a knot just over the breast. It covers the part of the body from the breast to the knees and probably keeps them free to move about and work with more ease and comfort. The women of means use *sarees*, blouses and petticoats, coloured *sarees*, specially of blue, green, red and mixed bright stripes and checks are preferred by the women. There is practically no difference between winter and summer clothing for them. The noticeable change in the scanty dress of the people during the winter is the addition of a cotton *chadar* (wrapper), occasionally a mixed cotton and woollen one, which is wrapped round the body. In rainy season when men remain engaged in cultivation work in mud and water, they put on only a *kopni* or *lengti* (loin cloth) a very small piece of cloth and *gamcha* tightly wrapped round their heads. In summer and rainy seasons umbrellas are used by those who can afford to buy them, the rest of the people have their *mathalis* or *jhapias*, a wide brimmed bamboo and leaf hat that protects them from sun and rain. Western dress is making its appearance to supplant the indigenous one in

urban areas. The Santhal women wear coarse homespun cotton *sarees* of gay colour which rarely reach their knees from breast, the upper end flung over the shoulders.

There is no special dress for children. Many, however, specially in the urban areas use shorts and shirts, while in the rural areas they wear simply *lenghis*. The following ornaments are usually worn by the women: anklet, locally called *kharu*, bangles, armlets, necklace, ear-ring, *tikli*, *bichha*, finger-rings, glass made *churis*, bangles etc. A negligible proportion of the people wear shoes but the use of wooden sandals is widely prevalent.

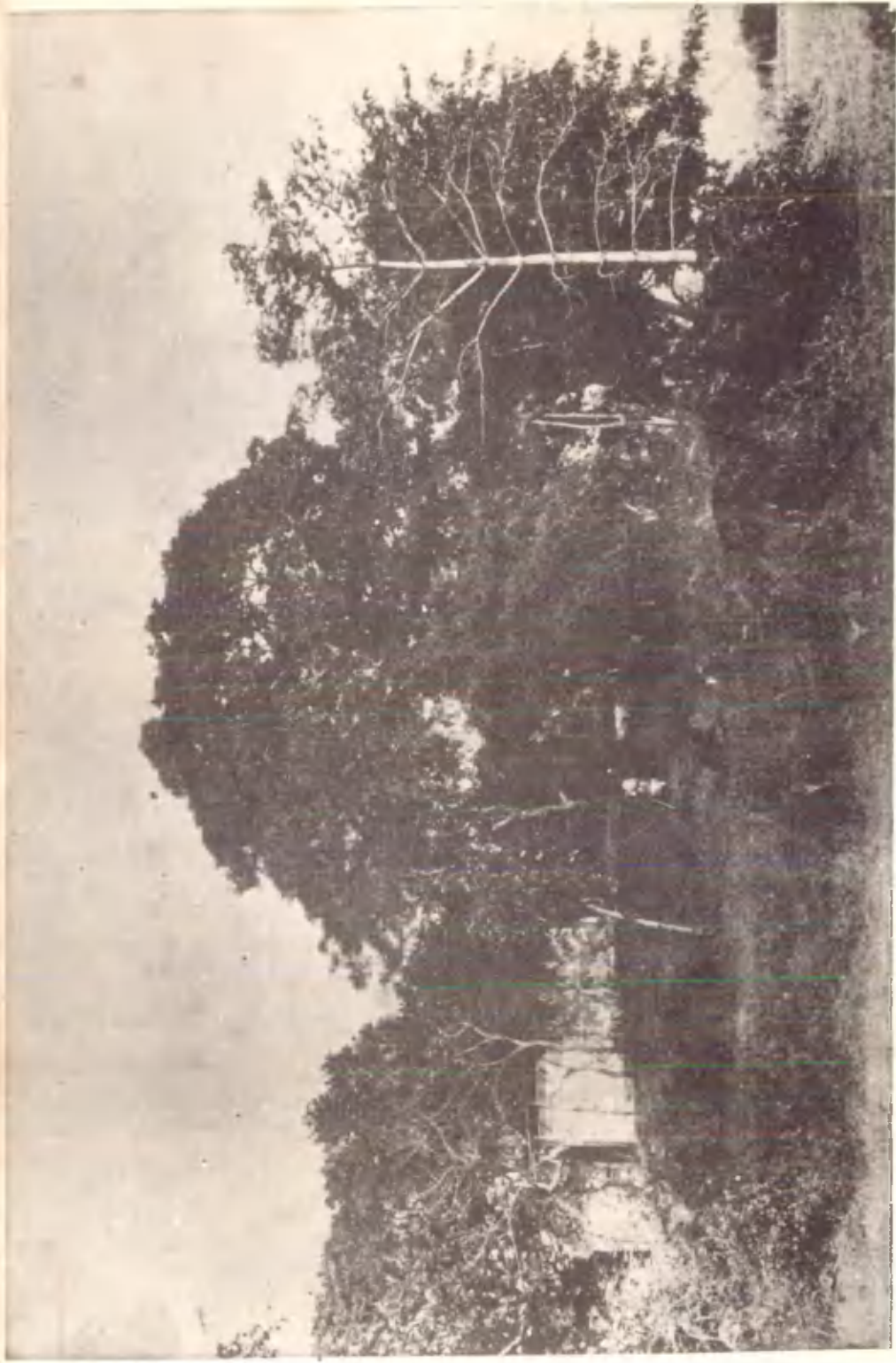
Festivals, fairs,
melas, etc.

Dinajpur is well known for its fairs and *melas* which are held throughout the winter and spring months. Among the items of transactions in the fairs are cattle in the main. These are brought from far and near in large number. Brisk business in clothes, hosiery, stationery, trinkets and fancy goods are also made and the traders reap a rich harvest in these fairs, as the villagers are only too eager to buy things rarely found in their locality. Arrangements for circus, carnival and dramatic performances are also made in these fairs for the entertainment of the visitors who have a fortnight of spree in buying and merry-making. At Kantanagar, where there is a temple of great architectural beauty, a *mela* is held in honour of *Kantaji*, a Hindu god, and thousands of Hindus assemble there to offer *puja*. The names of the most notable *melas* are given below:

- (1) Cheradangi, (2) Dhukarjhari, (3) Alowakhawa,
- (4) Dhemdemi Kalirmela, (5) Nekmard, (6) Fasil-danga, (7) Katla Mela, (8) Chintaman, (9) Kantanagar.

Main and
subsidiary
occupations.

The principal occupation of the people of the district is cultivation. Persons in business, trade, professions, or government services form a very small percentage of the population. Unlike other districts of the province, the pressure of population on land is not high and the people in general are not in want of food; they do not like to move outside the district, even temporarily to seek other means of livelihood. Moreover, they are nostalgic to a degree and unless very hard pressed they do not leave their homes. Seasonal migration from other districts during the harvest time and for making bricks in the kilns is not an uncommon sight. There is practically no skilled labour or professional class here. As they have fewer work, they have little inclination to exert themselves fully. Lack of initiative appears to be such a noticeable characteristic of the people that administrators and other well-wishers of the district



General view of Haragauri Temple, Dinajpur.

have been making pointed remarks about it for a considerable time. The hours of work and rest among them are not precisely fixed, but usually they go out to the field early in the morning and take a long nap in the afternoon. Women and children also work both at home and in the field when occasion demands.

Earthenwares of artistic value and various articles of bamboo which are good for interior decoration, as well as for household use, are made locally by expert craftsmen. The making of *dhokra*, which is the local name of home-made jute mat and clay pottery are the two cottage industries worthy of mention. The women are expert in making *gutri* or cotton quilts. These are made of fibres of raw and old cotton material and embroidered over with artistic designs in variegated colours. Both men and women are engaged in pottery and jute-made *dhokra* industries.

Arts and
handicrafts.

The presence of some architectural monuments in Dinajpur district bears testimony to the fact that in ancient and mediaval period the region was in the lime-light and the rulers and influential people left their mark in these creative activities. The following accounts of these monuments and relics will give an idea about architecture in the district:

Architecture.

- (1) The Gopalganj mosque in Dinajpur district, erected in 865 A.H. (A.D. 1460) has a single-dome square prayer-hall with a front verandah. The monument dates from the time of the Second Ilyas Shahi rulers.
- (2) The stone works of the Husain Shahi period is not confined to the capital, Gour. We have such buildings still existing far away from the capital, but located only in North Bengal. The mosque at Sura is a typical example of this style. It is built of brick, with walls faced with stones to a considerable height. The stones depict panels and other designs similar to those at the Chhota Sona Masjid. On ground of style, it must be dated to the Husain Shahi period.

The mosque follows the plan of the *Lattan Masjid* at Adina, Maldah (India), and consists of a square hall, 16 feet each side, with a front corridor. At all the angles we have octagonal towers, six in all and the cornice is curved as usual. There are three arched doorways, one on the east, one on the north and one on the south, and three

Lattan Masjid.

decorated *mihrahs* on the west. A single dome carried on squinches and also supported by pillars covers the hall. The mosque stands in a dense jungle about seven miles west of the ruins of Ghoraghat, a well-known police outpost.

**Kantadagar
Temple.**

(3) There is an old temple of great architectural beauty at Kantanagar, situated about 12 miles to the north of Dinajpur town, on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon Road. It is supposed to have been constructed during the later Mughal period by Raja Pran Nath of Dinajpur. The temple which fell into decay has now been repaired and is being looked after by the Archaeological Department.

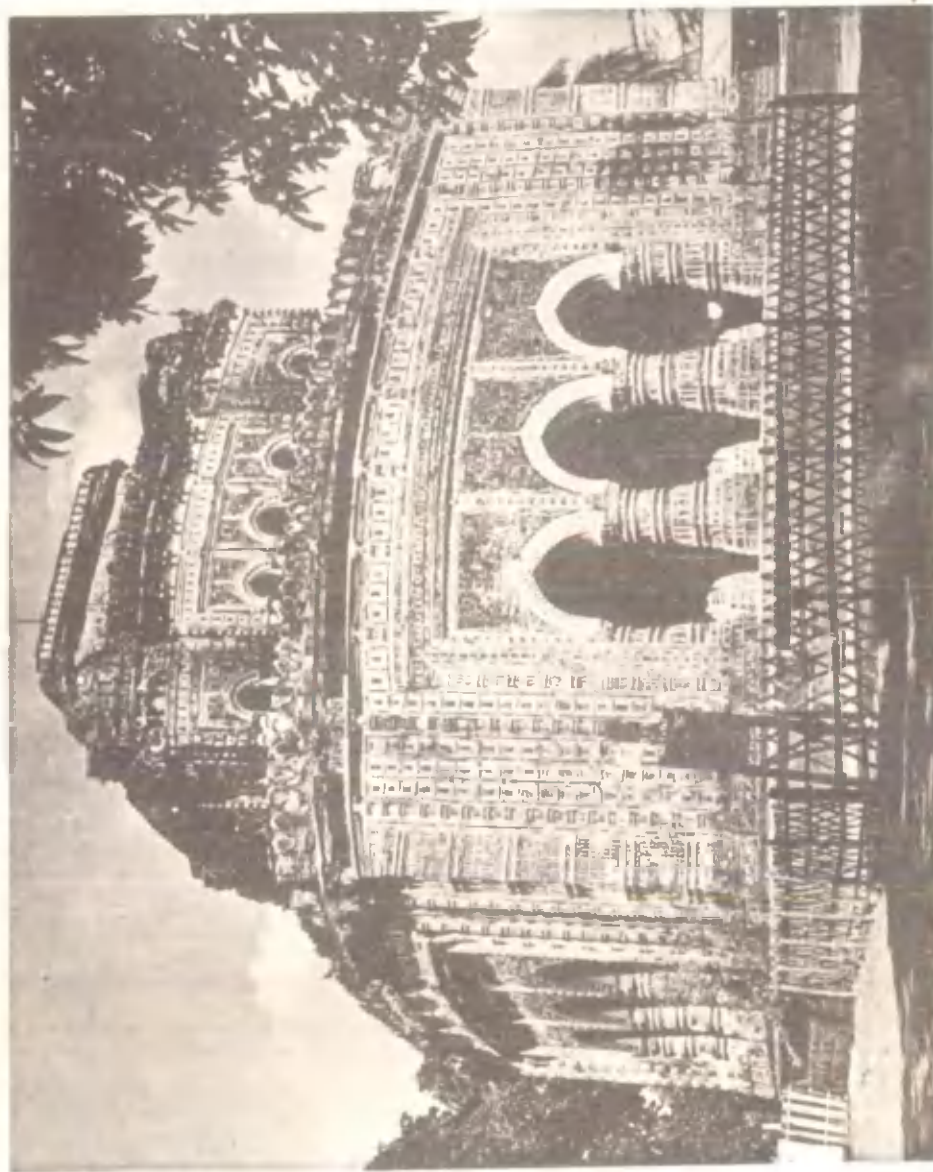
(4) Ghoraghat (place of horse), the stable of legendary Raja Birat, conquered by Ismail Ghazi, a General of Nasrat Khan, King of Gour, in the fifteenth century, which continued to be a military station from that time till almost the end of the Mughal rule, bears marks (relics) of architectural activities in the form of old bricks in ruins.

**Architectural
pieces in Dacca
Museum.**

An elegantly decorated pillar belonging to the 10th century and referring to a Kamboja prince has recently been acquired from the Dinajpur Raj palace, where it had been set up from the ruins of the Pala capital at Bangarh, now in West Bengal. It is divided into three sections: the square base, the dodecagonal shaft and the square top. Each corner of the base contains the centaur and elephant motifs, above which there is a lavishly decorated vase with a rich foliage coming down to its lower parts. The bottom of the shaft depicts on each side a lotus stem and a creeper device, each alternating with the other and both connected with the ornamental foliage of the vase. The upper part of the shaft contains a number of *kirti-mukhas*, from each of which is suspended what may be called a chain-and-bell motif. The top is a vase taking the form of a big *amlaka* at whose bottom geometrical patterns are visible.

Carved stone and wooden brackets, pillars, doorjambs lintel pieces and railings, forming part of the museum collection, also belonging to the sculptural art of ancient Bengal, indicate the excellence of the woodcarver's and the stone-carver's art. They belong mostly to the period of 1000-1200 A.D.

The museum has also a number of stone slabs and railings with idols of Buddhist and Brahminical deities, both carved in round and in relief. Another remarkable piece obtained



General view of Kantanagar Temple (pp. 58, 243)

from Dinajpur is a votive monolith of a miniature *chaitya* of *rekha* variety with figures of Buddha on its four sides and a richly carved *sikhara* of curvilinear type, topped by an *amlaka*, showing the evolution of this type of temple.

A high degree of skill in art and sculpture was attained in this region during the reign of the Pala emperors. Especially sculpture flourished under their patronage. By this time the artists had found a different mode of expression. As can be seen from the images which have been and are still being found, they worked in stone instead of clay, and the not inconsiderable number of statues and images that have been unearthed in the district shows very high excellence of artistic skill. The statues were usually chiselled out of black basalt. Dhiman and Bitap also evolved a distinct style of sculpture. Sculpture.

What is probably a unique example is a recent acquisition from Dinajpur. It is an image of an eight-handed female deity in a fine-grained black basalt, measuring 2' x 2'-2", seated on an woven cane or bamboo stool, so commonly used in Bengal. It is unfortunately grievously damaged, with all the hands broken at the elbow and the face also unrecognisably chipped by iconoclasts. The figure, although carved on a stele, stand out almost wholly in the round. The image, possibly that of *Sitatapatra's Jara*, a form of the personified emanations of the *Dhyani* Buddha, sits in what is called a *Lalitasana* pose with her right leg pendent and resting on a lotus, and the left tucked upon the seat. On either side of the woven stool are standing female figures in *tribhanga* pose, one holding a cymbal on each hand. Below the stool is a *pancharatha* pedestal boldly carved with a pair of schematised creepers growing out of a central stem, each having two convoluted branches ending in a large flower. This ornamental band is flanked by two faintly recognisable human figures one of whom is possibly a male. The goddess wears a diaphanous *saree* with wavy lines, part of which is wound across the breast. She wears jewellery on her arm, feet, waist and neck and has a pair of garlands, one of which reaches below her waist. Behind the figure is a trefoil niche framing the head, this niche being flanked on either side by a peacock devouring a snake. The whole image is of exquisite workmanship. In the sensuous treatment of the breasts, the deep navel and the softly undulating belly, the tasteful jewellery and decorative ornamentation and the graceful flow of the lines, it has a close affinity with the earlier version of the classical Gupta art tradition exemplified by a group of Paharpur Stone Sculpture. Sculpture pieces collected from the district for Dacca Museum. The coarse group of Paharpur sculptures is

traced back to the 7th century. These are considered as a mixture of the native folk tradition and the Gupta art.

**Terra-cotta
pieces.**

Dacca Museum has collected a series of terra-cotta objects earliest of which are the moulded plaques obtained from the excavated remains of the 8th century Buddhist temple at Paharpur (Rajshahi district). Of the three distinct styles reflected in these terra-cotta brick slabs, which were fixed to the outer face of the temple plinth, this museum possesses a selection of those belonging to the tradition of folk-art. Though not entirely unconnected with the religious legends and mythology, the pieces are mostly secular in conception and treatment, totally lacking the sophistication of the urban art tradition or the laboured classicism of late Gupta art. They represent human beings, flying *Gandarva*, and a number of birds and animals such as snake, duck, monkey and peacock with their characteristically natural attitudes and actions. The simplified and frank treatment of the human form, with open mouth, thick lips, over-emphasised eyes and prominently outlined mouth are typical of the terra-cotta figure art of this period. The craftsman's awareness of the nature and variety of life around him is obvious.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Physically the district may be divided into two parts. The northern and north-western portions of the district are flat alluvial plain and the tract comprising the southern and south-eastern portions is slightly raised and undulating. The country slopes gently from north to south and the general trend of the rivers is in the same direction. Introduction.

The district of Dinajpur ranks first in the production of sugarcane, second in barley, fourth in potato, sixth in oil-seeds, eighth in jute, ninth in rice and wheat. It is one of the surplus districts in food. On account of moisture conditions the northern side of Dinajpur grows a good quantity of fruits.

The normal percentage distribution of different crops in the district is given below :

1. Total foodgrain	82.5	Per cent.
2. Oil seeds	5.3	,,
3. Sugar crops	2.5	,,
4. Jute	5.9	,,
5. Tobacco	1.20	,,
6. Fruits and vegetables	2.2	,,
	100.0	,,

The Agricultural labour force number 5,40,244 and non-agricultural labour force number 53,278. The occupations of the agricultural labour force, as found in the 1961 census are detailed in the table marked.

Although in the Dinajpur district the general appearance of the country outside the Barind tracts is flat, the level is not everywhere the same. Every rice growing plain has a natural slope which enables the surplus rain water to drain off. What Mr. O'Malley wrote in the District Gazetteer about the levels of land in Chittagong district applies equally to those in this district. Soil.

According to the productive nature of the soil the district can be divided into two areas, viz. the *Khiar* area and the *Pali* area. The *Khiar* area falls within the southern portion of sadar subdivision comprising police-stations of Fulbari, Hakimpur, Ghoraghat, Nawabganj, and Samipashi Chirirbandar. In the *Khiar* area mainly the *aman* crops are grown and in the *Pali* portion of the district all other crops such as *aus*, *aman*, *oll* and other *rabi* crops are grown.

The soil of the district generally falls into four classes :— (1) *Bela* (sandy) which is suitable for sugarcane, sweet potato, ground-nut, mustard, potato, brinjal, etc., (2) *Bela dowash* (loamy sandy) which grows all kinds of crops, such as *aus*, *aman rabi* crops, jute, sugarcane, etc., (3) *Etel* (loamy) which grows mainly jute and paddy, (4) Red soil comprises part of Ghoraghat and Nawabganj where *aman* paddy is grown and this place is very suitable for fruit cultivation.

The soil of the district is culturable everywhere.

In the northern half of the district the soil is light ash coloured sandy loam changing gradually as one proceeds southward, to a stiff clay of similar colour. The former goes by the name of *Pali* and is highly retentive of moisture and capable of producing two crops; the latter is known as *Khiar* and ordinarily bears a single crop. In the southern or *Khiar* area, isolated patches of the lighter soil are to be found here and there, especially on both sides of some of the larger rivers like the Atrai. This indicates that, this sandy loam had its origin in the sand and silt deposits of the rivers that over-low their banks. This is hardly true *pali*; it is rather soil in transition stage with a larger proportion of sand in its composition than the older *pali*. *Chora*, or *baliya*, as it is sometimes called, is perhaps a better name for it. Now-a-days the greater part of the district is free from floods as the *beds* of most of the rivers are deep and wide, so the deposit of sand or silt is not a factor to be reckoned with seriously. In the lower reaches of the Nagar, Punarbhaba and Mahananda, however, owing to the lowness of the river banks, floods occur and large stretches of country were in the past on this account given up to jungles. They bear only occasional crops of *boro* or spring paddy which is reaped just before the rivers rise. The *Khiar* or clay land grows generally only one crop in the year, *i.e.*, *aman* paddy. On rare occasions when the paddy crops fail, attempts are made to take a second crop of mustard from it, but such attempts are not attended with much success. In the *Pali* tracts two crops may be grown. Common rotations are autumn paddy (*aus*) followed by mustard, and jute followed by winter paddy (*aman*) and pulse. In the extreme south of the district the Barind makes its appearance. The higher ground in this tract is generally barren and little attempt is made to cultivate it, though with time and determination this can be done successfully. The low ground is a stiff clay of reddish colour and is excellent paddy land, though like the *Khiar* area, it does not lend itself to the cultivation of any other crop.

The total area of the district is 16,70,400 acres. In 1965-66 the area covered by forest was 18,749 acres, the culturable waste was 1,60,000 acres, 3,11,651 acres were not available for cultivation and 11,80,000 acres were under cultivation. According to Agricultural Census of 1960 there were 2,21,110 agricultural farms, whose size varied from 0.5 acre to 40 acres, the average size being 5.5 acres. In 1964-65 the total cropped area was 14,27,615 acres, and area sown more than once covered 2,59,515 acres.

Area of fallow land reclaimed in 1960 was 2,294.42 acres and area settled was 18,404.95 acres. During the year 1959-60 six tractors were used in the district and 630.56 acres were reclaimed through tractor cultivation.

In 1965 total area of fallow land reclaimed was 2,495 acres in khas and 133.74 acres private.

The comparative figures of acreage under cultivation in the following years will show progress and expansion of cultivation.

Name of Crops.	1947-48.	1954-55.	1959-60.
Rice	8,81,400	9,90,500	9,80,100
Gram	5,000	9,000	2,300
Wheat	2,000	2,200	4,400
Barley	5,000	9,500	2,500
Jowar other cereals ..	2,000	2,900	1,400
<i>Mug, Mashkalai, masur.</i>	1,200	9,200	8,400
Peas, etc. ..	800	4,300	4,400
Oil seeds ..	41,200	42,000	71,700
Sugarcane ..	49,500	62,000	53,400
Tobacco ..	6,000	9,600	2,900
Others	1,81,000	39,600	40,450
Jute	97,487	45,775	36,500/1961-62

The total cropped area of the district was 11,00,885 acres in 1947-48, and 11,72,700 in 1959-60.

Agriculture is dependent on seasonal distribution of rainfall. The remarks of Mr. O'Malley on winter and autumn rice in his Gazetteer of Chittagong district may appropriately be quoted here as they are equally applicable to Dinajpur. "Winter rice is usually sown in July and August, transplanted in August and September, and reaped in December. The critical period for this crop is the transplantation season,

when copious rain is required; but at the end of September and in October, rain is also urgently necessary to swell the grain. For the autumn rice crop (*bhadoi*) ploughing commences with the pre-monsoon showers which fall in March and April; and the crop is sown in May, some weeks before the regular monsoon rains commence. For a successful crop there should be some rain in March, April and May and the monsoon should commence in June with moderate showers, with frequent intervals of fine weather to permit of weeding operations, and to enable the young seedlings to put forth a vigorous growth before the heavy rainfall, which usually follows in July. Excessive rain in May and June is extremely injurious to the young crop. During July and August the rainfall should be heavy, but with intervals of fine weather. The crop flowers in August and stands in need of rain at this time in order that it may be enabled to throw out shoots, and in order that the grain may fill out. Want of rain in August is on this account very harmful to the prospect of the crop. The Autumn paddy crop is mostly reaped by the middle of September, and except where it is sown late, it is not influenced by the character of the rainfall after the middle of September."

Jute is commonly sown at the end of April or beginning of May. A great deal depends on the weather conditions of the sowing time. If there is any insufficiency of moisture at this season, the crop will not germinate, while on the other hand if moisture is in excess the young seedlings are liable to be drowned before they have strength to resist total or partial submersion.

Irrigation.

The channels of the rivers and streams are too deep to lend themselves readily to the practice of irrigation. Hence channels and wells for irrigation were unknown here. The people too were averse to the trouble involved, as irrigation was regarded unnecessary.

Irrigation as an agricultural practice did not exist in the past under normal circumstances. In normal years the rainfall was plentiful and irrigation was unnecessary. In dry years, however, some attempts were made especially in the southern part of the district to utilise tanks for the purpose of irrigation, the water being raised either by triangular mat baskets (*chhenadi*) swung by two men from ropes tied at the corners, or by hollowed out tree trunks with a weight at one end (*jat*) which were forced down into the water and allowed to spring up so that a stream of water was projected from the weight end. This system is still in practice in many parts of

the district. There are in all 29,110 ponds in Dinajpur measuring about 7,116 acres. These are partly used for irrigation purpose.

According to the Agricultural Census of 1960, only 21,063 acres, *i.e.* 2 per cent. of the total cultivated area was irrigated and 1,23,751 acres, *i.e.* 11 per cent. of the total cultivated area was flooded and the rest which represented 87 per cent. remained unirrigated.

In recent years, however, scientific method of irrigation has been introduced in the district. It has been found that by traditional method of irrigation an increase of 29% in the production of transplanted aman crops was obtained but by application of the modern system of irrigation an increase of about 40 per cent. in the production can be ensured. During the year 1959-60 two power pumps worked in the district and a total area of 8,200 acres was irrigated with them. Besides, 22 minor irrigation schemes were executed at a cost of Rs.16,900 and this benefited 13,45,000 acres of land.

In 1964-65 one power pump was used in each thana: Atwari, Birganj and Fulbari with 6 cusec capacity to irrigate land and the total area irrigated was 103.51 acres. In 1964-65, 464 shallow tube-wells and in 1965-66, 943 shallow tube-wells were distributed for irrigation. In 1965-66 one pump was installed and 39 acres were irrigated.

Bangladesh WAPDA sank 3 tube-wells of 3 cusec capacity each at a cost of Rs.28,915 in Ranisankail, Nekmardan, Ruhea, Pirganj Thakurgaon and Boda thanas to irrigate a total area of 1,36,400 acres. Five tube-wells were sunk in the Sadar Subdivision, 6 in Thakurgaon subdivision for demonstration purpose and 1,466 acres were irrigated by them. The installation of these pumps was completed in 1965.

In Thakurgaon subdivision one 7,500 K.W.T. Power Pump centre was installed, besides 27 electric power pump centres for irrigation.

Under the ground water development and lowlift pump irrigation project a scheme was taken at Thakurgaon for sinking 380 deep tube-wells to irrigate a total of 91,000 acres. By March 1966, 200 of these were in operation and 5,746 acres were irrigated.

The Bangladesh WAPDA took up the ground water development and lowlift pump irrigation project in the district in 1961. The Government handed over the old pumps to this Authority for this purpose. The Land Use Directorate of

Bengladesh WAPDA now holds the responsibility of providing irrigation facilities in Dinajpur.

The statement of the number of light power pumps at different centres in 1965-66 with acreage covered is given below.

The total area irrigated by light pumps was 24,925 acres.

Locality.	Number of pumps.	Acres benefited.
Gauripur	4	480
Ghugudenga	4	480
Mederganj	8	964
Mohanpur	8	960
Jhanjira	6	730
Phulhan Shunderban	11	1,320
Chiribander (north and south)	13	1,593
Shailova	10	1,225
Shingnagar	10	1,200
Kanchannagar	5	643
Kazipara	5	480
Kantanagar	15	2,500
Rampur	2	250
Prannagar	3	256
Kharibari North Katra Akche and Akcha	23	2,350
Molani, Tabura, Jalashi	14	1,220
Ahmednagar	18	1,870
Mirgoon and Charwai	11	1,150
Nishchintapur, Gov. Japurnagar Mergaon	13	1,520
Atwari, Birgonj	1	103.51
Fulbari	1	3
Kotwali	1	3

Besides, 60 low-lift pumps (diesel driven) of 4 cusec capacity each were installed on the Atrai river running between Dinajpur and Birganj.

An account of the number of deep tube-wells in operation in 1965-66 with localities and acreage covered is given below. Total area covered by deep tube-wells for irrigation was 59,658.80 acres in the district.

Locality.	Number of deep tube-wells.	Acres benefited.
Salander	32	7,936
Akhanagar	9	2,534
Rahimapur	11	2,518
Chilerang	7	1,120

Locality.	Number of deep tube-wells.	Acres benefited.
Gazaria	2	520
Mohammadpur	16	2,280
Amtiapur	7	1,741·60
Jamalpur	9	2,491
Balia	20	3,808
Baragaon	1	136
Balidangi	1	270·40
Fatepur	1	118·40
Deshai	13	2,974·80
Charul	6	1,540·80
Boda	4	937
Maydendighi	3	511·20
Kasheya	11	2,620
Kanchangaon	8	2,534
Bhomradah	7	2,172·80
Daulatpur	2	656
Pirgonj	8	2,624
Lehamba	7	2,324
Bachre	1	1,732·80
Bhogragaon	32	9,120
Shajatpur	1	256
Mohanpur	7	1,960
Secuheri	4	..

132 deep tube-wells were sunk in Thakurgaon subdivision and 238 tube-wells were made fit for irrigation. The number of shallow tube-wells distributed among farmers on loan basis for irrigation in 1964-65 and 1965-66 was 464 and 943 respectively. The total area irrigated in the district under the ground water development and low lift pump irrigation project was 84,583·80 acres.

The statement showing low lift pump irrigation schemes in Dinajpur under Teesta Barrage Project, is given below. The work commenced in 1958-59.

Sl. No.	Name of schemes.	Location.	Length of canal.	Benefited area in acres.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bhajanpur	Tetulia	12,230	960
2	Majheepara	Do.	9,500	720
3	Jagdai	Pachagarh	3,000	360

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes.	Location.	Length of canal.	Benefited area in acres.
4	Chowai	Pachagarh ..	1,900	360
5	Molani	Do. ..	460	360
6	Mirgarh	Do. ..	7,200	720
7	Ahmed Nagar Canal No. I.	Beda ..	4,900	600
8	Ahmed Nagar Canal No. II	Do. ..	2,683	480
9	Ahmed Nagar Canal No. III.	Do. ..	3,500	300
10	Talma	Pachagarh ..	4,897	480
11	Jalashce	Do. ..	3,070	480
12	Nalkura	Do. ..	2,600	360
13	Baliadangee	Baliadangee ..	2,000	240
14	Prannagar	Birganj ..	6,100	360
15	Birganj	Do. ..	5,424	480
16	Bashirbandar	Dinajpur ..	9,350	480
17	Phulbari	Do. ..	393	1,200
18	Sainagar	Chirirbandar ..	10,800	1,200
19	Saitara	Do. ..	7,070	715
20	Ghanjira	Dinajpur ..	9,950	934
21	Madarganj	Do. ..	3,750	240
22	Rampur	Do. ..	15,125	2,300
23	Kantanagar	Kaharol ..	5,100	633
24	Chirirbandar (North)	Chirirbandar ..	6,200	960
25	Chirirbandar (South)	Do. ..	12,300	1,080
26	Vial	Do. ..	2,700	480
27	Mohanpur	Dinajpur ..	4,200	483
28	Gouripur	Do. ..	5,100	480
29	Ghughudanga	Do. ..	4,700	360
30	Kazipara	Biriol ..	6,510	670
31	Kanchan	Do. ..	5,590	480
32	Uttarbatine	Thakurgaon ..	7,922	480
33	Kharibari	Do. ..	1,260	180
34	Akcha Canal No. I	Do. ..	6,740	480
35	Akcha Canal No. II	Do. ..	2,250	360
36	Suk	Do. ..	4,880-4,630	480
37	Babindanagar	Do. ..	6,320	344
38	Nischintapur	Do. ..	2,670	360
39	Shalandar	Do. ..	6,782	849
40	Nargum	Do. ..	..	..
41	Ghoraghat	Ghoraghat ..	17,000	3,100
Total ..				24,548

A list of some small schemes of drainage under Bangladesh WAPDA along with their position as on December 1967 is given here:

Name of Scheme.	Sanctioned estimate in Rs. (lakhs).	Expenditure up to December 1967 in Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage in expenditure.	Remarks.
1. Construction of bridge-cum-regulator over Kurities <i>khal</i> .	1.90	4,691.99	10%	1. Contour survey, collection of Hydraulic data completed. 2. Collection of material partially done.
2. Construction of bridge-cum-regulator in connection with Kumargari <i>beel</i> drainage scheme.	1.21	28,880.40	23.87%	The work will be started as soon as the technical sanction of estimate is obtained.
3. Kanchan <i>beel</i> drainage scheme.	1.22	1,59,987.85	100%	Work completed.
	1.66 (Rev).			
4. Bulli <i>Bundh</i> scheme	0.63	3,81,833.21	Expenditure exceeded the original cost.	The estimate is under revision for more work.
	12.37 (Rev).			
5. Buri <i>Bundh</i> scheme	3.63	6,98,942.34	43.22%	All works completed except one unit reconstruction of barrage.
	16.175 (Rev).			

Principal crops grown in the district in order of importance are (i) *aman*, (ii) *aus*, (iii) sugarcane, (iv) rape and mustard and (v) jute. Acreage under rice covers 82 per cent. or 10,83,728 acres against 13,19,467 acres of total cropped area.

Principal Crops.

During 1964-65 *aman* was grown in 8,22,350 acres and the production was 3,96,030 tons. This is by far the most important crop and during the year under reference it covered 70.4 per cent. of the net cropped area of the district. Next in importance is *aus* which in 1964-65 was grown in 3,37,300 acres and the production was 1,22,830 tons. About 29 per cent. of the net cropped paddy area was under this crop. *Boro* or summer paddy is grown in a small scale, though in abnormal years when the *aman* crop has been poor, a good deal of land is put under this crop in order to supply the deficiency of foodgrains. In 1964-65, the acreage under this crop was 1,100 acres and the output was 405 tons.

Paddy: *aman*,
aus, *boro*.

Varieties of rice.

Kataribhog, dadkhani, dighalsaru, darika sail are all fine white rice of which the first two are well known and appreciated throughout the country. Coarser varieties of *aman* rice are *indrasail, pant sail, supandari, chengo, gajalgari, malsira*. The first four are white and the last two are red varieties. *Gajalgari* is much used for preparing *khai* (fried rice). *Aus* is principally grown throughout the Thakurgaon subdivision and in Nawabganj thana in the Sadar subdivision. The main varieties are Duni, Jama, Gorbai and Sani. These are white. Mostly the first two are grown. *Aman* is the principal crop throughout the district and in the Kotwali and Parbatipur thanas in the Sadar subdivision *Boro* is grown.

Mode of cultivation.

In the case of all rice crops the land must be well prepared by ploughing. Each ploughing is a double ploughing, *i.e.*, one lengthwise and other breadthwise and every double ploughing is followed by one or more laddering with a *mai* (ladder) to break the clods and produce a fine tilth. The system of cultivation followed for broadcast *aus* and broadcast *aman* is somewhat different from that adopted for transplanted paddy. In the former case the land is twice harrowed with what is called a *bida*. The object is to loosen the soil, and to destroy weeds and superfluous plants of rice, so that the crop may come up in regular clumps almost as it had been transplanted. Both *aus* rice and broadcast *aman* rice are sown about the same time, *i.e.*, at the end of April or beginning of May and they get two weedings about the end of May and the third week of June.

In the case of transplanted paddy the seedlings are sown thickly on highland, generally near the homestead about the same time that broadcast paddy is sown. The seed bed is reduced to a very fine tilth by ploughing and laddering and is generally manured with cowdung. The seeds of the finer varieties of *aman* paddy are first soaked in water till they sprout and then sown into the seed bed about a month before transplanting, the surface of the seed bed being puddled by the application of water. If the rain water is not sufficient for the purpose, irrigation is resorted to. The fields in which the seedlings are to be transplanted usually get two double ploughings at intervals of about a week or fortnight. The second double ploughing reduces the bed to a puddle, and the seedlings are then transplanted in clumps of 3 or 4 roots at a time. Sometimes if transplanting is done late in the season, as many as 5 or 6 seedlings are planted in a clump. Two to twelve inches of water on the land is necessary for successful



On the way home after harvesting of paddy.

transplanting, the water being retained by the small embankments or *ails* by which every rice plot is surrounded.

The date for transplanting *aman* paddy varies according to the nature of the land and the character of the season. Low lands are generally transplanted first about the end of June, and the higher lands later as the water rises and makes transplanting on them possible, but if the rainfall is short or long delayed transplanting may be carried on till the middle of September.

Boro ripens in the hot weather of spring and is cultivated *Boro.* only in small quantities chiefly in inundated lands, where there are marshes and old water-courses, that preserve a small quantity of water throughout the year, sometimes a dam is made across the water-course at the end of rainy season, and its upper part forms a reservoir filled with water, which is let gradually out to supply the paddy plants in the lower part which has been drained in order to admit of cultivation. In other parts small quantities of this paddy crop are cultivated on the sides of old tanks that are partly filled up and water is thrown up on the paddy plants by a simple machine. In times of scarcity many poor people engage in this kind of cultivation, which gives them a temporary supply of food. In other years less attention is bestowed on it, for the grain is very coarse and the produce small, so that it would ill pay the labour. It is always transplanted, and its straw can seldom be saved. The grain is almost always consumed by those who have raised it.

Next important crop raised in the district at present is *Sugarcane.* sugarcane. With the official encouragement to promote cultivation of this crop as a substitute for jute and the establishment of sugar mills at Setabganj and Thakurgaon the area under sugarcane in the district considerably increased during the last two decades. The raising of this crop needs much longer time than any other crop. It occupies the ground for a full year, and indeed the preliminary ploughing takes up additional four months before the planting. Occasionally sugarcane is planted in land quickly prepared after mustard is raised, but more often the preparation of the land goes on from November to February on land which has grown *aus*. The cane requires the same high and dry land, as is suitable for *aus*, and it abhors moisture and flooding. The cost of preparing the cane field is high. The soil requires repeated ploughing and harrowing, and ditches have to be dug around the field. Heavy manuring is essential. In February, the slips have to be

planted out in furrow, and then covered over, and in the summer, canes are tied together. No other crop, except *pan*, requires so much labour in cultivation. It is harvested the following winter from January onwards.

Rape and mustard.

In 1964-65, 56,200 acres of land were under rape and mustard (mostly *sharisha*) and the output was 9,540 tons. It ranks after rice and sugarcane and is most widely grown in the district. It is usually grown on *pali* soil and in the *doba* (low) lands by the side of the Punarbhaba and the Mahananda. The thinly populated western thanas of Haripur and Ranisakail show the largest proportion of cultivated area growing mustard. The crop is shown in the Bengali month of Kartik (late October and November). It ripens quickly and is harvested in February.

Jute.

The acreage under jute during 1964-65 was 56,000 acres and the output was 1,74,160 tons. During the late thirties of this century nearly one lakh acres of land were under this crop. Gradually the acreage under jute declined till it reached this figure. The restriction imposed by the Government on large scale cultivation of jute within 5 miles of international border is one of the factors accountable for this low acreage under jute. The crop is grown in the same manner and in the same season as *aus* paddy. Jute is usually cultivated in low lands or lands having a sufficiently high rainfall. It grows well in *pali* lands, the soil of which is comparatively loose and light. It is principally grown in Thakurgaon subdivision and in parts of Kotwali thana and in Chirbandar thana. It generally receives some four weedings at intervals of about a fortnight, during May and June. Both the varieties of jute are grown in this district. The low land variety commonly known as *deshi* or *tita pat* (capsularis) occupies the major area while *tosha* or high land variety (*olitorius*) grows only in high lands. The process of retting for extraction of fibre from the plant is interesting and may be briefly described. After harvesting the stems are tied into bundles and placed in the water of a stream or backwater to ret. The bundles are weighted with clods of earth or pieces of plantain stem so that they may be completely submerged. If the water is fairly clean a better quality of fibre may be looked for than if muddy water is used. After the stems have been in the water for about a fortnight the bark or fibre which has become loosened is stripped off and washed, and the stems are thrown aside to be used as firewood or for purposes of fencing. After washing, the fibre is dried and is then ready for sale, or export or use for domestic purpose.



Santhal women engaged in sugarcane harvesting. (pp. 71, 72)

The following table will show the acreage under different minor crops together with their total yearly output during the year 1964-65:

Crops.	Acreage.	Production in tons.
1. Wheat	3,300	925
2. Barley	2,010	530
3. <i>Rabi</i> Jowar	120	25
4. <i>Bhadoi</i> Jowar	180	55
5. Bajra	40	10
6. Maize	2,190	725
7. Ragi	600	174
8. Other <i>Rabi</i> cereals	670	150
9. Other <i>Bhadoi</i> cereals	2,300	675
10. Gram	1,700	485
11. Tur or Rahar	890	245
12. <i>Mung</i>	1,750	415
13. <i>Masur</i>	2,350	510
14. <i>Mashkalai</i>	4,510	1,335
15. <i>Khesari</i>	1,210	380
16. <i>Garikhali</i> or Soyabean	170	50
17. Cowpea or <i>Barbati</i>	420	135
18. <i>Motor</i>	370	115
19. Other <i>Rabi</i> Pulses	1,410	360
20. Other <i>Bhadoi</i> Pulses	1,075	340
21. Linseed	310	70
22. Summer <i>til</i>	700	115
23. Winter <i>til</i>	1,240	239
24. Groundnut	130	20
25. Coconut	150	115
26. Other oilseed	20	5
27. Chillies	2,510	735
28. Onion	2,970	6,430
29. Garlics	1,300	1,790
30. Other Condiments and spices	1,570	1,730
31. Other sugars	50	70
32. <i>Rabi</i> sunhemp	40	80 bales
33. <i>Bhadoi</i> sunhemp	26	40 "
34. Other fibres	30	95 "
35. Tobacco	2,800	720
36. Betelnut	430	185
37. Betel leaves	200	130
38. Other drugs and narcotics	100	90
39. Other <i>Rabi</i> Vegetables	12,800	26,450
40. Other <i>Bhadoi</i> Vegetables	3,900	9,135

Crops.	Acreage.	Production in tons.
41. Potato	14,200	9,25,000
42. Other Sweet Potato	2,000	2,00,000 mds.
43. Other <i>Bhadoi</i> food crops ..	1,000	990
44. Other <i>Rabi</i> food crops..	900	850
45. Other non-food crops..	670	740

**Subsidiary food
crops: Pulses
and potatoes.**

The miscellaneous food crops the pulses, gram and millet call for little comment. They are grown fairly widely, throughout the district, and provide a subsidiary source of food supply. *Thakuri kalai* which is elsewhere known widely as *maskalai* is a favourite with the people of this district, for it grows quickly, and with little effort by the grower. A regular cash crop, it is often seen in plots which grew *aman* seedlings, and it matures so early that it had to be classified as a winter crop. Pulses like *Khesari* and *masur* are sown in some parts of the district among the paddy. The *arahar* pulse is found on poor soil, and it is also used as a fencing round the side of sugarcane fields. Potato is grown widely and the yield per acre is 65 mds. It occupies a substantial portion of the local food produce.

**Chillies and
potatoes.**

Chilli is another important crop. The seed is sown in seed beds in October, and transplanted in November. Before transplanting, the surface of the land is reduced to a fine tilth by laddering and the seedlings are planted in parallel furrows. They are watered at the time of planting. The chillies ripen in April and are plucked by women and children. Plucking continues till the end of May. After being dried the chillies are sold in the local market or exported. They are very profitable crop and there is a great demand for them, especially in the eastern districts of the country. During 1964-65 this crop was grown in 2,510 acres and the output was 735 tons.

**Onions and
Garlics.**

Most cultivators grow some onions in their gardens. At times they are grown for sale, when a field of half of an acre or more may be devoted to this crop. Land for onion is divided into many small squares, so that water can be led in between to irrigate the crop. From November onwards, constant watering is required for the onion bed which is always situated near a tank, the whole usually being enclosed with a good fence. Onions were grown on 2,970 acres of land during 1964-65 and the yield was 6,430 tons. The process of cultivation of garlics is also the same and in 1959-60, 1,100 acres of land produced 1,525

tons and in 1964-65, 1,300 acres of land produced 1,790 tons of garlies in the district.

Tobacco occupies an area of 2,800 acres and the yearly yield is 720 tons. It grows principally in Parbatipur and Pirganj thanas, though small plots of it are to be found in almost every village. It is cultivated almost exclusively for local consumption and little of it is exported. It is grown on high land and the soil is heavily manured. The quality of the tobacco produced is inferior. Tobacco.

The principal cultivated fruits are plantain, mango, jackfruit and pineapple. Of plantain there are many varieties, such as *chini champa* and *malbhong*, which are particularly popular and well flavoured. This fruit is grown near every homestead and is an important item in the diet of the people. During 1964-65 bananas were grown on 3,800 acres of land and the yield was 22,335 tons. Mango trees are common but generally little trouble is taken in their cultivation. In the neighbourhood of Dinajpur town and in the Raiganj and Ranisankail thanas better kinds of mangoes are to be found. The best varieties, are the *Gopalbhog*, *fazli* and *lampa bhaduri*. During 1964-65 mango trees were found to be growing on 8,160 acres of land and the yield was 37,470 tons of mango. Jack fruits are almost as common in every village as plantain. They need practically no cultivation and bear heavily. During 1964-65, 2,000 acres of land were under these fruits and the output was 6,980 tons. During the same period pineapples were grown on 780 acres and the yield was 1,580 tons. There seems to be only one variety, a small reddish coloured pineapple which varies in size according to the care taken in its cultivation. Large pineapples fetch a very good price, but it is not easy to get them. In 1964 citrus fruits were grown on 880 acres and the yield was 1,940 tons, melon was grown on 550 acres which gave an yield of 5,850 tons and *lichi* was grown on 500 acres and the production was 2,205 tons. Besides these, various wild fruits like *bel* and *jam* (black berry), tamarind and *boroi* were grown on 1,100 acres and the production in 1964-65 was 4,850 tons. Fruits.

Cocconut and betelnut are also produced in the district and average of land under their production was 130 acres and 200 acres respectively and their yield was 115 tons and 130 tons respectively during 1964-65. Date trees grow wild in considerable number which are commonly tapped for toddy. The juice is drunk unfermented. Molasses (*gur*) is often obtained from it by boiling. In some parts of the district palmyra palms or *tal* trees grow; toddy and fruits obtained from it are not relished by many. Other principal cultivated fruits are pineapples, papaya,

lime and pomelo. The total area under orchards in Dinajpur was 7,700 acres in 1959-60. It was 17,260 acres in 1964-65.

Vegetables. During 1964-65 *Rabi* vegetables were grown on 12,800 acre of land and the output was 26,450 tons while *Bhadai* vegetable were grown on 3,900 acres and the production was 9,135 tons. Every homestead has its garden where large varieties of these two types of vegetables are grown for home consumption. Some people grow them on a large scale in their fields for sale in the markets. The principal vegetables grown for the market are brinjal (*begoon*), radish (*mula*), arum (*kachu*) and various kinds of cucumbers, gourds and pumpkins. Beans (*sim*) and *datasak* (a kind of spinach) are produced both for home consumption and sale. *Patsak* (leaves of a variety of jute) is used by some people as vegetable, being eaten young.

The seed rate, yield rate, sowing time and harvest time of different crops are given here:

	Seed rate per acre.	Yield rate per acre.	Sowing time.	Harvest time.
<i>Aus</i>	15 seers (transplanted).	10 to 15 maunds	Middle of March to Middle of May (broadcast). May to June (transplanted).	July to middle of September.
<i>Aman</i>	30 to 40 seers (broadcast) 10 to 15 seers (transplanted).	12 to 15 maunds of cleaned rice.	From February to April (broadcast), June to September (Transplanted).	November to January, end of March to middle of May.
<i>Boro</i>	10 to 15 seers	12 to 15 maunds of cleaned rice.	November to December	End of March to middle of May.
<i>Gram</i>	12 to 18	10 to 15 maunds	Middle of October to Middle of November.	February to middle of March.
<i>Masur</i>	9 to 15 seers	8 to 12 maunds	Middle of October to Middle of November.	February to middle of March.
<i>Mung</i>	8 to 12 seers	6 to 9 maunds	August, September early crop, December to early part of January late crop.	From November to April, May.
<i>Mashkalai</i>	12 to 15 seers	6 to 9 maunds	August, September ..	December to January.
<i>Khesari</i>	15 to 20 seers	10 to 15 maunds	Middle of October to middle of November.	February to middle of March.
Wheat	30 to 35 seers	8 to 12 maunds	October, November ..	March, April.
Barley	30 to 40 seers	9 to 12 maunds	Do. ..	Do.
Sugarcane cutting planted.	2' to 3' feet apart	400 to 600 mds. of Sugarcane.	November to February	October to March.
Potato	6 to 10 maunds	60 to 120 maunds	October, November, August, September, September to November.	January to March, December to January, February to March.
Rape and Mustard.	3 to 5 seers	4 to 6 maunds	Summer <i>til</i> —February, March; winter <i>til</i> in August, October.	May, June, November January.
Sesamim (<i>til</i>)	20 to 25 seers	8 to 10 maunds	November, December	Middle of March to Middle of May.
Jute	3 to 3½ seers	15 to 20 maunds	Capsularis February, Olitorius April, May.	April, July, September.
Tobacco	¼ to 1 seer ..	10 to 15 maunds	October to November ..	February, March.

The following table shows the concentrated areas of production of different crops and their assembling markets in the district:

Crops.	Concentrated areas of production.	Assembling markets.
Rice/ <i>Aman</i> ..	Biral, Dinajpur, Chirirbander, Parbatipur, Nowabganj, Fulbaria, Bochaganj, Birganj, Thakurgaon, Balidanga, Ranisankail, Pirganj, Pachagar and Boda.	Setabganj, Dinajpur, Sibgonj, Ruhea, Chirirbander, Biral, Manmathpur, Parbatipur.
<i>Aus</i> ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Gram	Biral, Kaharul, Bochaganj, Pirganj.	Setabganj, Dinajpur, Pirganj.
<i>Masur</i> ..	Parbatipur, Chirirbander ..	Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Parbatipur and Chirirbander.
<i>Khesari</i> ..	Parbatipur, Chirirbander Dinajpur Khansama.	Parbatipur, Chirirbander, Setabganj.
Barley ..	Biral, Birganj, Kahwal, Thakurgaon, Pirganj, Ranisankail, Boda, Debiganj.	
Sugarcane ..	Biral, Birganj, Bochaganj, Sadar, Sujanagar, Thakurgaon, Boda, Atwari and Pirganj.	Setabganj, Bhusirbandar.
Potato ..	Nowabganj, Parbatipur, Dinajpur, Boda.	Puratanhat, Setabganj.
Jute ..	Chirirbander, Birganj and Khansama, Thakurgaon, Kaharul, Pirganj and Thakurgaon.	Setabganj, Dinajpur and Ruoea.
Tobacco ..	Thakurgaon ..	Thakurgaon.
Banana ..	Dinajpur ..	Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Nasratpur, Birakuri, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon.
Mango ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Lichies ..	Ditto. ..	Ditto.

Agricultural implements: the plough.

The agricultural implements used in the district are very primitive. They are the familiar *nangal* (plough), *moi* (ladder) and rakes. The wood of the ploughshare may be *sal*, or mango or jackfruit trees as available. Where local *sal* is found, it is preferred, but there is no import of ploughshare. Sometimes cultivators themselves prepare their own ploughshares. It is set with an iron tip prepared by a local blacksmith. Different types of ploughs are used in different parts of the district, one type in the far north being called the Nepal plough. The yoke is of some local wood; mango, jackfruit, *nim*, *barai* or wild plum, all being used; though in places, yokes are made of stout bamboos, these being especially favoured when ploughing with buffaloes. The *ish* which connects the ploughshare with the yoke is frequently made of strong Nepal or Duars *Sal*, for it is the most fragile part of the plough. This local type of plough is evidently proved by long experience to be well-suited to this area.

Other implements.

The *moi* (ladder) is an instrument made of two bamboo pieces each about six feet in length, which are joined together by some cross bars. It is widely used to break up the clods and to smooth out the ploughed soil. After the sowing it is finally used to cover the seed. It is yoked to two oxen, and the driver usually stands on it to give it weight. The '*bida*' (the rake) which is also called *languliya* is used for thinning and weeding paddy and jute. It consists of a dozen sharp bamboo or wooden teeth set in a wooden bar which is drawn by two oxen with a bamboo *ish*. For hand weeding *daos* (a bill hook made of iron by local blacksmiths and set in pieces of wood handle) are widely used. *Kaste* or *Kachi* (sickles) are used for harvesting. This is a curved piece of iron made also by local blacksmith and set in a wooden handle. 'Kasawa' is a small bill hook. *Khunti* (an iron shod stick) for making holes is a very useful common implement.

The use of the modern tractors and power tillers has not spread much. The cost of these is beyond the reach of the common farmers. For irrigation power pumps are extensively in use. These will be discussed under the sub-head mechanised cultivation.

Seeds.

Improved seeds of paddy, jute, wheat, potato and mustard etc., are supplied to the cultivators by the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation and the Agriculture Department. There is a research farm, where seeds of *aman* paddy, D-31 variety are available. It has proved to be of heavy yielding.

With a view to increasing food production, seed multiplication farms have been established in different areas of the district, the aim being to grow improved varieties of seeds mainly paddy, mustard seeds and wheat, and supply the same to the cultivators directly from the farms, and also through thana seed stores, so that they may get higher yield. The district has one 500 acre Seed Multiplication Farm at Debiganj police-station and another 100 acre Seed Multiplication Farm in Thakurgaon police-station. The latter has been managed by the B.A.D.C. since 1962-63. It was started in 1956 by the Government. During 1964-65 the following varieties of seeds were produced by the farm and distributed among the farmers at a subsidised price:

Seed Multiplication Farm.

Name of the seeds.	Quantity.
<i>Aman</i> paddy	540 maunds.
<i>Aus</i>	15 mds. 15 seers.
Jute seeds	2 mds. 27 seers.
Sugarcane	4,264 mds.
Wheat	11 mds. 25 seers.
Mustard	11 mds. 32 seers.
Khesari	88 mds.
Winter vegetables seeds	27 mds.
Green manure	9 mds.
Fodder	85 mds.
Pineapples	8 mds. 34 seers.
Vegetable seedlings	5,000 mds.

An account of production of the Seed Multiplication Farm at Thakurgaon for 1965-66 is given below crop-wise:

Name of crop.	Acreage under production.	Production.	Average yields.
<i>Aus</i>	10	180 mds. 22 seers	18 mds. 2 seers.
Transplanted <i>Aman</i>	29.70	591 mds. 22 seers	19 mds. 29 seers.
Jute seeds— <i>Olitorius</i>	2	5 mds. 2 seers	2 mds. 3 seers.
Jute capsularis	0.05	5 seers	20 seers.
Fodder	2.50	750 mds	..
<i>Dhui</i> che seed	1	2 mds. 39 seers	2 mds. 39 seers.
Cowpea seed	0.40	32 seers	2 mds.
Sugarcane	6.00	1,375 mds. 25 seers	..
Mustard	6.00	30 mds. 20 seers	5 mds. 3 seers.
Wheat	9.00	91 mds. 30 seers	10 mds.

The total distribution of improved seeds in the district in 1965 was as follows:

<i>Aman</i> seeds	...	...	325 mds.
Potato seeds	...	...	200 mds.
Mustard seeds	...	...	121 mds.
Wheat seeds	...	...	200 mds.
Winter vegetable seeds	...	...	88 lbs.

A statement of the registered growers with area covered and their production of seeds of different crops for 1966-67 is given below:

Name of crops.	Number of growers.	Acreage under Production (in mds.).	Seed produced in mds.
<i>Aus</i> paddy	.. 175	526.45	1,250
Transplanted <i>Aman</i> paddy	179	759.19	3,500
Jute seed	.. 356	399.01	389 mds. 25 seers.
Wheat seed	.. 100	50.00	400

Besides, Rural Demonstration Farms and Rural Demonstration plots have been started in the district with a view to demonstrating the utility of using improved seeds and manures.

The district has 191 rural demonstration farms and 3,196 rural demonstration plots and 132 Development Blocks. 26 blocks are for *aus* paddy and 89 blocks for *aman* paddy. Three of these blocks comprise more than 1,000 acres. 17 blocks are for sugarcane. A 10-acre block was established for banana in Kotwali P.S.

For preservation of seeds and for their protection a big godown was established with one central seed store. Three intermediary godowns, three thana godowns, twenty-two thana seed stores and 149 Union seed stores for Union Councils were established. A number of 10,582 farmers were also given practical and theoretical training for 5-7 days.

Cowdung manure.

As early as 1872, Hunter records that cowdung was more used in Dinajpur district than elsewhere. From March onwards one can see neat cones for cowdung and also of 'gala' i.e., earth dug from tanks heaped throughout the paddy stubbles, ready for ploughing as soon as the rains break. There is no accepted standard of manuring, and generally cultivators give the land all they have got, but farmyard manure is rarely bought and sold. In the *Khiar* lands of the south ponds and tanks are cleaned out, and the earth so excavated is long

known as a good manure. Such 'gala' will be given to the land once in two or three years. Cowdung is often mixed with household ashes and carted on to the land, after being filled or put on a midden heap during the year. Much heavier manuring is given for sugarcane. Mustard oil cake is sometimes given as a manure to sugarcane, and the ashes of the cane used to boil the *gur* go back into the soil as manure. An amount of 1,779 maunds of cowdung and compost manure and 41,394 maunds of chemical fertilizer were used in 1960.

People use sulphate, urea, triple super phosphate, phosphate, muriate potash, etc. as fertilizer. In 1963-64, 4,583.43 tons of chemical fertilizer were distributed among the farmers. In 1964-65 the B.A.D.C. supplied to farmers in Dinajpur 1880.86 tons of urea, 18.18 tons of ammonium sulphate, 979.01 tons of triple super phosphate and 173.94 tons of muriate potash, the total being 3,051.99 tons. The figures of fertilizer distribution in cash and on loan in 1964-65 and 1965-66 are given below:

Chemical
Fertiliser.

	1964-65.	1965-66.
In cash ...	29,718 mds. 30 sr. 2ch.	18,205 mds.
On loan ...	53,314 mds. 22 sr. 4 ch.	32,489 mds.

The main crops of the district such as paddy, sugarcane, jute, potatoes, pulses, tobacco and chillies are generally attacked and damaged by insects. The damage of paddy is caused by paddy-borer, rice-hispa (*pamripoka*), rice swarming caterpillar (*leda poka*), ear cutting caterpillar (*shishakata leda poka*) and rice bug (*gandi poka*), which are generally found in the district. Of these rice bug causes more damage to paddy than any other pest. The mature rice-bug is brown coloured. Its female lays round 15 to 20 eggs on the leaf of the paddy plant and within a week little ones come out. It attacks paddy during the period from *Baisakh* (April-May) to *Sraban* (July-August). They suck out the milky liquid from inside the paddy when it is very young and tender. As a result the paddy turns into husk.

Pests and
diseases.

Next to the rice-bug comes the stem borer. It also causes a lot of damage to the rice plants. It enters into the soft portion of the stem, especially of the *aman* paddy and eats it away during the months of *Aswin* (September-October). The female borer lays eggs in the lower surface of the leaves. These enter into the soft portion of the stem and eats it. The growth is retarded. Its attack is mainly on *Aman* paddy.

Jute plants are damaged by hairy caterpillar (*bisapoka*) and semilooper (*gharapoka*) during the period from *Jaistha* to *Sravan*. The female hairy caterpillar lays eggs from 600 to 900 at night and within 5 to 6 days the young ones come out. The female semi-looper lays eggs from 200 to 400 at night. Both these eat away the green part of the leaves and make them like strainers. They are found to attack jute from *Jaista* (May-June) to *Sravan* (July-August).

Two kinds of jute diseases: stem rot and black spot are prevalent in the district. These diseases create black spot in jute plants and it spreads ultimately destroying the plants.

Top shoot borer (*sade majra*) and stemborer (*majra*) cause damage to sugarcane. Top shoot borers' attack continues from *Chaitra* (March-April) to *Aswin* (September-October). It causes the main stem of the sugarcane to dry away and thus prevent the off shoot come out. They make hole in top side of sugarcane and come down to two or three knots. The attack of the stem-borer continues from *Jaistha* (May-June) to *Agrahayan* (November-December). They make hole on the sugarcane and make the inside hollow. By this attack the juice of the sugarcane decreases. The red rot is a disease of sugarcane by which the main vein of the leaves and the body becomes spotted and inside the sugarcane there remains a red mark from top to bottom. Another disease called 'turnip' is very rare.

Potatoes are sometimes attacked with early blight or late blight. Both these diseases cause spots on the leaves of the plants, and if not cured in time the crops die away. Fortunately, we have now remedy for all these pests and diseases and the plant protection authorities take necessary steps for preventing their attack and for curing them.

The total areas under different crops affected by pests and diseases and remedies applied during 1964-65 were as follows:

Name of crop.	Area attacked with pests and diseases.	Area treated.
<i>Aman</i> paddy	11,410.00 acres	11,410.00 acres
<i>Aus</i> paddy ...	10,552.50 "	10,443.50 "
Sugarcane ...	9,396.00 "	9,305.50 "
Jute ...	327.00 "	327.00 "
Vegetables ...	4,840.50 "	4,840.50 "
Misc. crops ...	3,105.50 "	3,045.50 "

Curative and preventive measures for pests and diseases.

The total area under curative treatment was 39,372.00 acres in 1964-65 and 41,620.00 acres in 1965-66 and the total area under preventive treatment was 1,28,425.50 acres in 1964-65

and 76,931.00 acres in 1965-66. The technical staff of Plant Protection Organisation give training to the cultivators in the rural areas so that the cultivators themselves can take preventive and curative measures when necessary. During 1964-65 as many as 2,028 persons were trained. Besides pests and diseases, parrots, sparrows, jungle fowls and rats and pigeons do a lot of damage to paddy. Jackals cause damage to sugarcane and vegetables. Scare crows or human dolls are put there to scare away the birds and beasts.

Mechanised cultivation was started with the introduction of motor tractors in the district. Mechanised Cultivation.

In 1959-60 six tractors worked in the district and 630.56 acres were benefited. In 1964-65 three tractors were used in Kotwali, Thakurgaon and Farbatipur thanas one in each thana. These covered 425.37 acres, 4.50 acres and 30.32 acres respectively. In 1965-66 three tractors were installed and 203 acres were cultivated. About 30 tractors and 7 power pumps were used in the public sector, mainly in sugarcane and *aman* paddy fields under development block.

Though power pumps form an important aspect of irrigation it undoubtedly constitutes a big head of mechanised cultivation. During the year 1959-60 two power pumps worked in the district and a total area of 8,200 acres was irrigated with them. Besides this 2 minor irrigation schemes were executed at a cost of Rs.16,900 and this benefited 13,45,000 acres of land. In 1963-64 one power pump was used in Kotwali P.S. and 3 acres of land were irrigated. In 1964-65 three power pumps were used one each in Atwari, Birganj and Fulbari with 6 cusec capacity to irrigate the soil and the total area irrigated was 103.51 acres.

In 1964-65, 464 shallow tube-wells and in 1965-66, 943 shallow tube-wells were distributed for irrigation.

Bangladesh WAPDA sank 6 tube-wells of 3 cusec capacity each at a cost of Rs.28,915 in Ranisankail, Nekmardan, Ruhea, Pirganj, Thakurgaon and Boda thanas to irrigate a total area of 136,400 acres. Five tube-wells were sunk in the Sadar subdivision, 6 in Thakurgaon subdivision for demonstration purpose and 1,466 acres were irrigated by them. The installation of these pumps was completed in 1965.

In Thakurgaon subdivision one 7,500 K.W. power pump centre was installed, besides 275 electric power pump centres for irrigation.

Livestock.

According to Banglaesh Census of Agriculture held in 1960 the number of holdings reporting work animals is 2,88,220 and the total number of work animals is 7,09,670. Of these 3,82,210 are bullocks, 5,150 are horses, 3,15,710 are cows and 6,620 are buffaloes. Holdings reporting milch animals are 1,55,410 in number, which have a total of 3,45,500 milch animals. Of these milch animals 3,41,700 are cows, 3,800 are buffaloes. The number of breeding bulls is 33,950 and that of young stock 3,73,030. Of these 3,69,970 are calves and the rest are buffalo calves. The district has also 2,420 holdings reporting 9,130 sheep, 153,480 holdings reporting 4,88,570 goats, and 123,990 holdings reporting 7,41,570 fowls.

The local breed of cattle resembles that in most other parts of Bangladesh, being small and stunted. No attempt at systematic breeding was made till recently. Good bulls are rare in the district and the sires are the immature uncastrated males running with the herds. The whole question of cattle breeding has in fact been ignored till now. The local cattle, owing to their small size, are unfit for anything but ploughing and are also very poor as milkers, a seer of milk per diem being a fair average yield of milk for a cow. The reason why the necessity for improving the local breed of cattle never apparently came home to the people in the past was that a large number of fine cart bullocks were brought to the big fairs or *m a* from Bihar and up country areas and sold to local (merchants, traders and professional carters. But after Partition (1947) the supply of fine bullocks from India came to an end and attempts for the first time at Government level were made to improve the local breed.

Improvement of Breeding and Artificial Insemination.

There are three artificial insemination centres in the district, managed by the District Council. During 1964-65, out of 628 cows and heifers in these centres, 640 were inseminated and the number of conceptions was 443 and the progenies born were 175 males and 58 females. There were 48 departmental stud-bulls generally of Red Sindhi type for natural service. There are now 31 stud bulls. The buffaloes found in the district are generally imported and not bred locally. They are smallish animals and much inferior to the fine buffaloes of the Brahma-putra valley. They are sometimes used for carting and Santal Settlers make use of them for ploughing also. Milch buffaloes are kept in small number in the low-lying country on the lower reaches of the Punarbhaba and in the portions of the Ranisankail thana.

Goats of small and short legged type are to be found in every village. They rarely grow to any size. Before Partition (1947) flocks of large castrated goats were in the cold weather

imported from outside and found a ready sale for food purposes. At present local goats are of two types e.g. 'Black Bengal' and 'Jamuna ari'. The local poultry are of a small type and belong to no particular breed.

There is no Government or private dairy farm in this district. The production of milk and milk products in Dinajpur are as follows. These are given in maunds. It is the estimate of 1945 as reported in the form of Provincial Marketing Survey Report.

Cow milk 14,99,347 mds., buffalo milk 42,588 mds., total 15,41,935 mds.; Ghee 21,587 mds., butter 578 mds., Beef (including buffalo) 2,15,386 mds., Cowhides 80,000 pieces, buffalo hides 6,000 pieces, Goat skins 6,00,000 pieces, sheep skin 12,000 pieces, mutton 44,307 mds. For skin of goats and sheep estimate is based on production of 1959-60. Important markets for some of these products are given below:—

Products.	Markets.
Cattle	.. Jashaihat, Balurghat, Jopalganjhat.
Milk	.. Dinajpur, Thakurgaon.
Ghee and butter	.. Dinajpur, Thakurgaon.
Hides	.. Dinajpur.
Fish	.. Dinajpur.

There is no organized poultry farm in the district, the poultry Poultry farming. farming being run by the farmers as a subsidiary means of livelihood. In some places fairly good ducks may also be found. The foreign breeds usually give 150 to 200 eggs and the *deshi* breeds give 50 to 60 eggs per year.

There are different breeds of poultry found in this district, e.g. the Rhode Island Red, White Leghorn, Black Monacha, *Doasti* and *Deshi*. There are only four poultry (farm) units at Parbartipur, Panchagar, Pirganj and Ulipur, the number of birds at each unit being 30 laying hens and 3 cocks. Eggs and birds of improved varieties are supplied to the villagers to improve their breed. 4,529 improved type eggs were distributed in 1966-67.

Large breadths of pasture lands are scattered throughout the district. Some of the peasantry engage in pasturing cattle in these tracts as an additional means of subsistence. Pasturage is plentiful, but deficient in nourishment. The necessity of preserving grazing areas for growing fodder crops has never been seriously considered. Paddy straw and grass are the two principal items of diet for these animals. Milk cattle are sometimes given some oil-seeds with rice stem and rice *kura* as cattle feed. The green grass is very rare due to sandy oil and lack of irrigation.

In the northern parts of the district the cattle are stronger, goats are plentiful, but in the south of the district they are exceedingly small.

Out of 10,75,818 acres of cultivated area, 3,951 acres are fodder area, and the livestock unit being 11,45,815 there is one cattle head per cultivated acre and 290 cattle heads per acre of fodder area. For fodder straw, oil cake, *bhushi*, *maskalai* and *ksheshari* are used, and actually there is no cultivation for fodder.

Veterinary relief.

Dinajpur does not suffer very much from cattle disease. In the year 1909-10 one outbreak of rinderpest and two of foot and mouth diseases were reported, but the mortality does not appear to have been heavy. The number of inoculations for rinderpest performed during the year was 100 only. Veterinary relief was afforded at a veterinary dispensary at Dinajpur at which in 1909-10, 5 equines, 15 bovines and 4 other animals were treated as in-patients and 51 equines, 221 bovines and 67 other animals as out-patients. During 1964-65, however, the number of out-patients and in-patients rose to 28,060 of which 114 were equines, 17,861 were bovines and the rest were other animals. Total number of castration performed during that period was 635 of which 455 were bovines and 180 were other animals. For treatment and castration Animal Husbandry staff visited 1,811 villages and performed castration on 2 equines and 180 other animals. 174 bovines and 531 other animals were treated against contagious diseases while 73 equines, 13,515 bovines and 7,974 other animals were treated against non-contagious diseases. The main cattle disease is Anthrax (Sporadic) the preventive treatment being vaccination and inoculation. Number of livestock inoculated in 1964-65 and 1966-67 in suspected areas for different diseases is given below :

Diseases.	Number of livestock inoculated.	
	1964-65.	1966-67.
1. Anthrax	9,486	21,432
2. Rinderpest	2,95,061	3,16,037
3. Haemorrhagic septicaemia ..	12,829	7,336
4. Black quarter	1,130	4,547

There is no report of contagious or non-contagious diseases of livestock for 1966-67. As a preventive measure against contagious diseases vaccination was used as follows :

Diseases.	Number of livestock vaccinated.
1. Rinderpest	3,16,037
2. Anthrax	21,432
3. Black quarter	4,547
4. Haemorrhagic septicaemia	7,336

For general treatment, 47,285 livestock units were given herapeutic, antibiotic and sulphur drugs.

There are three Veterinary Hospitals at Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagar. One Government Veterinary Hospital is under construction at Dinajpur. There are fourteen thana veterinary dispensaries. Two more are under construction.

The main poultry disease is Ranikhet. Inoculation and vaccination are remedies. The poultry mortality figures are given for 1964-65 under different diseases :

1. Ranikhet—1,325.
2. Fowl pox—329.
3. Fowl Cholera—32.
4. Other diseases—803.

The number of cases of outbreak of diseases is stated against each disease with number of vaccines and serum in the presence of outbreak for the year 1964-65 :

Name of diseases.	No. of outbreak.	No. of vaccine.	No. of serum.
1. Anthrax	8	2,325	52
2. Haemorrhagic septicaemia	2	2	8,388
3. Fowl pox	7	1,362	..
4. Black quarter	2	660	760
5. Rinderpest	43	20,588	..

Eight villages were affected.

For fowl pox 19,181 birds were inoculated in 1964-65 in suspected areas for prevention of disease.

Fisheries.

Dinajpur in the past was known as the *Matsha Desh* for its plenty of fishes. But now the condition is different. It is now deficit in fish production. Fish constitutes by far the greater part of the animal food that is consumed in the district. The demand being very considerable and the supply being rather scanty there is no export of fish and salt is too expensive to admit of its being used in curing fish. The whole fish caught are, therefore, consumed in the country, and none exported. During four months of the year, when the rivers are much swollen fish is very scarce, for they have then an extensive range, they are not easily caught, but as the inundations subside, and when the fish are confined within narrow bounds, they are easily secured by various simple means which the local people employ.

Method of catching fish.

When a pond, ditch, or marsh has become nearly dry, and the fish of a large space have been collected into a small pool the most simple method of catching fish is to divide it by dams of mud, and then, having thrown the water from each successively, where they are left dry. This is usually practised by all the poor labourers, especially in the ditches and pools near the rice fields, which are not let to fishermen by the landowners. In about six weeks after the rainy season commences, every rice field although quite dry and hard in spring, abounds with small fishes. They are certainly most numerous near rivers and marshes, from which they in general come.

Where the water is deeper, and communicates with a large extent of low land, this method is improved by enclosing a square piece of shallow water, perhaps fifteen feet in diameter with a mound of earth, and leaving an opening of about three feet wide in the side next the branches of trees, which attract the fish. After the branches have remained for some days, the opening is shut with a dam, the branches and water are thrown out, and the fish are secured. This also is chiefly practised by those who are not regular fishermen; but when this plan is further improved, it becomes one of the most effectual means of procuring fish that are employed in this district.

In the old courses of rivers, called *beels*, large quantity of branches and twigs of trees are tied together and thrown into the water, so as to occupy space of twenty or thirty feet square from the bottom to the surface. After they have remained from twenty to thirty days, and the fish have entered



Catching fish by a typical net locally called "Dharma Jal".

into all parts, the branches are surrounded by a kind of screen called *byana*, which is made of reeds tied parallel to each other by means of twisted grass and placed so close that even the smallest fish cannot escape. These screens are about four feet wide, and are of sufficient length to surround the whole heap of bushes. When this has been done, the bushes are thrown out and the fish are secured by *chhakni*, small bag (nets) the mouths of which are fastened to hoops.

The *byana* (screen) is sometimes used without having previously thrown in branches of trees. This is done in shallow water, where there are many weeds. A space is surrounded by the *byana*, and all the fishermen go in with bag nets and secure the fish.

This kind of fishing requires about seven men, who usually have two heaps of branches in the water for nine months in the year, or from about the middle of October until the middle of July, when the country becomes too much inundated. They draw one of these *byanas* once a week, and in the intervals of this labour, surround small spaces as above mentioned, where no branches have been placed.

These same fishermen employ a kind of trap called *onta* which is made in the form of a truncated cone. These traps are made of reeds, in the same manner as the *byana*, and the two edges are not fastened, but are bent in towards the cavity, so as gradually to approach each other. The fish can readily force its way into the cavity, but its efforts to come out are vain. The fish are directed to the opening by a screen placed on each of its sides and according to the situation of the fishery, these are disposed in two manners.

The *onta* is used during the dry season in shallow water courses that are stagnant or have but little stream, and in such situations the screen extends the whole way across, and has traps at the distance of every twenty or thirty feet. In the one at Akhanagar, which was about 300 feet wide a net was suspended over the screen, in order to prevent the fish from leaping over. For some of the carp kind leap with an agility equal almost to that of the salmon. This apparatus, called a *bandh*, procures a great many small fish, and is usually rented for a certain sum.

The other situation chosen for this manner of fishing is much more common, as during the rainy season it is the only way in which these fishermen can procure employment.

The screen is placed on the shelving side of a river, with one end to the shore, and the other as far into the water as possible, but it cannot be placed where there is a greater depth of water than four feet. Such a screen admits of one or two traps, according as the water deepens more or less suddenly, and one man manages two screens. The fish caught in this manner are much smaller than those caught by the other method, but the quantity makes up for this defect. These fishings with the *byana* and *onta* are very productive, especially in the southern and western parts of the district and require no boats.

Still more simple ways and means are used. One is called *polo*. The fisherman puts the mouth of it in the mud, and then passing his arm through the hole in the bottom, gropes for the fish which he may have secured. Another, called *Jakoyi*, is a basket of an irregular three-sided form, open at one end, and has a bamboo shaft. The fisherman places the bottom flat of it on the mud, treads the weeds before the opening, thus drives the fish into the trap, and then, suddenly raising the handle brings the opening above the surface. These two methods can only be practised in very muddy places covered with aquatic plants, and are commonly employed by labourers of the lowest rank to catch fish for their own use.

The most simple net in this country is the *bhesal*, which is stretched between two bamboos that meet behind at an acute angle (about 75°), by which the fisherman holds. The net is of a triangular form so as to apply to the bamboos, but is much bagged behind. The fisherman, walking up to the middle in the water, pushes the points of the bamboos along the bottom for a little way, and then raises them up to secure whatever fish may have come into his net. The bamboos are from twelve to fifteen feet in length.

The same form of net is enlarged so as to have bamboos nineteen cubits long, and is then used in a boat. A rower at each end manages the canoe, which is kept broadside on to the stream, and allowed to descend with it, and a third man lowers the points of the bamboos, which are fixed at right angles to the gunwale, and then occasionally raises them to secure the fish. This is one of the most common nets used by fishermen. Its mesh is small. The boat is 16 or 17 cubits long and 2½ cubits wide, sharp at each end, and broadest abaft the middle. At the widest part of the boat two forked sticks project between three and four feet outwards and upwards from the gunwale, and a stick lashed between the forks serves as a lever, over which the bamboos of the net are raised and lowered. On

the gunwale opposite to the net is a small outrigger, which serves as a balance. This kind of fishing may be carried on at all times, but the rainy season is the most favourable. Most of the fish caught in this manner are of the crustaceous kind. On the Mahananda, a boat built of *sal* will last fifteen years, but it requires considerable repairs. The net is usually made of *shon*, but sometimes of cotton, but the fishermen usually make it themselves, and it costs only the materials.

The same kind of net is still more enlarged, and is raised by a complicated machinery of bamboos. It is called a 'Chauri' or 'Khora', and is fixed on the steep side of some river. A frame of four strong bamboos supports the net, placed with its descending edge towards the mouth of the river, and also supports two sloping bamboos, on which a man walks, who has one end of a long rope round his middle. The other end passes over a bamboo, for they have no pulley, and raises the net when the man walks and lowers it in the water when he walks up the sloping bamboos. The movement is increased by a lever of bamboo, the heel of which rests on the bank, while the rope from the man's waist is fastened to the other end, and that again is connected with the bamboos of the net. This is the most complicated machine and seems to me very ill contrived. The net is quadrangular. Two corners are stretched to the bamboos, one of the other two corners is fixed to the bamboo lever, while the other is fixed to the end of a bamboo that projects over the river, which is fastened to where the lever and the two lateral bamboos join, and which is suspended by a rope from the frame, so that this corner should always be high. Ropes also pass from the bank to the two lateral bamboos, which prevent them from yielding to the stream, while a small bamboo from one of the lateral ones stretches out the lower edge of the net. Two men are employed at this net, one below, who is generally small, and most fish are caught from about the middle of September until the middle of November, when the rivers are falling.

Another kind of net, somewhat of a similar nature, would appear to be better fitted for such a large machine. It is called *Chak* or *Jhati*, and is of a square form, a good deal bagged in the centre. Its angles are fastened to the ends of two bamboo bows that cross each other at right angles in the centre, which is suspended from the end of a bamboo lever, the other end of which rests against the bank, where the fisherman sits. He lowers and raises his net by means of a rope which is fastened to the far end of the lever. A large net of this kind, raised and lowered by a man on an inclined plane, with

the assistance of a pulley, might be a good contrivance in muddy water. The *Chak* is used chiefly by poor farmers and labourers.

The casting net is very much used. It is from nine to eleven cubits in diameter, called *bhomori* or *khepla* which is commonly thrown from the shore or a boat. The mesh is small, and the sinkers are often merely earthen rings baked by the potters but iron rings are also used for the purpose. If made of cotton the net will last for seven years; if made of *shon*, it will last only for four years. If the net is thrown from a boat, two men are required, one to throw the net and another to manage the boat. The boat is only 13 or 14 cubits long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubits broad. Small fish, especially of the crustaceous kind, are chiefly caught in this manner, which is only used in the dry season.

A much larger kind, 38 cubits in diameter, called *other* is frequently employed, and is thrown by means of a long narrow boat, which must be rather longer than the diameter of the net. This is gathered carefully into the boat, one edge taken in first, and then one fold is placed above another. The boat is rowed into the stream, and, by a rower at each end, is placed broadside on. Two other men then throw over first one edge of the net, and as the boat drives, they throw gradually the remainder. The whole sinks to the bottom, and the boat is allowed to drive until the edges of the net have been dragged close to each other, when the net is drawn to the shore. Very large fish are caught in this manner.

The fishermen use the *seine*, of several sizes, and of different names. The *Pahilijal* of Ghoraghat is a seine composed of several pieces, about 11 cubits wide and 12 cubits long, which belong to different fishermen, six or seven of whom unite their stocks, and join their different pieces into one net. The centre pieces are the widest, the mesh is small, the floats are gourds, and the weights are rings of potters' ware. It is thrown out in the usual manner from the stern of a boat, and requires six or eight men to draw it.

On the Atrai, the large seine is called 'bed', and is made in one piece, 360 ft. long and 10 or 11 cubits wide in the centre. It is floated by the spongy stems of the *sola* (*Aschynomne diffusa*, w.) and sunk partly by iron rings, and partly by those made of baked clay. The twine made of *shon*, would cost ten rupees; but the plant is usually reared by the men, and spun by the woman in intervals of labour. The boat is made of mango-wood and lasts only for two years. Six men are required; the proprietor of the net and boat takes

6/16ths of the fish, the remainder is divided equally among the other five men. In the rainy season only this net is used in the river. At all seasons it is used in tanks. The largest fish such as Rui, Katla and Chital are caught by it.

The *tana* is smaller seine of fine twine, about 90 cubits long and 3 cubits wide. It is floated by cuttings of a spongy reed called Ula Khagra, and sunk by rings of potters' ware. One man goes with the boat, and another holds the end that is left on shore. This net seems well fitted for clear water, a shallow river, and sandy bottom. Two or three nets of this kind are sometimes joined into one.

The *tune* is a small drag net that is well fitted for fishing in shallow water among weeds. It is about 20 cubits long and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cubits wide, and has neither floats nor sinkers. A row of sticks, about 2 feet long and 2 feet from each other, unite the two side ropes, so that the net bags behind. A man at each end goes into the water, until both are about 3 feet deep; they then immerse the net, and drag it towards the shore with one end of the sticks touching the ground.

Wherever the fishery is of such importance as to employ regular fishermen, the Government exacts a revenue, which seems judicious and proper because it is interested to improve the fishery, and to take care of the people employed.

The duties that are levied on the fishermen are in general moderate enough, and do not amount to a considerable sum. The Government now standing in the shoe of old proprietors generally lets out their fisheries from year to year, and the farmers (*Ijaradars*) sometimes employ fishermen to catch the fish, either for wages or for a share. The farmer employs fourteen men to fish with the *byana*, and these give him one-half of the fish. They fish for nine months in the year. They require no boat, and make the whole apparatus. The rent, and the charge of watching are very small. Small traders come and purchase the fish, which they retail at different markets. The profit of those who fish with nets and boats, is more considerable than of those who use the screen and the traps.

The traders who retail fish have some capital; in most parts they are in general very poor, and the fish are often retailed by the wives of those who catch them.

Fishermen in general are not so poor as the common labourers who are employed in agriculture, and many of them live like farmers who have two ploughs.

The Government in recent times took comprehensive schemes to increase the fish stock of the district. But general poverty of the mass and the poor pay of the lowest staff do not create positive interests in them; these contribute to the failure of schemes for want of mass consciousness and collective interest. Even small fries or fishing are not spared. If there was restraint about it in the breeding season and a little after, fish stock could be doubled or trebled.

Fisheries

An office of the District Pisciculture Officer was established in 1949 with a view to attract the people of this district towards pisciculture. Demonstration and supplying of quality fry among the tank owners were the main function of the office. There are 4 thana Fishery Officers and 3 Fish Culture Assistants in the district who operate Expanded Reclamation Scheme, Nursery Fish Farm, Fish Seed Multiplication Farm and Demonstration Fish Farm, to supply quality fry among the interested pisciculturists, to conduct inspection of private tank and to give technical advice regarding pisciculture. There are 4 Fieldmen at Dinajpur whose function is to survey the tanks of the district and to prevail on the tank owners to reclaim their tanks and to culture fish therein.

Tanks for fish culture.

The number of tanks under Government ownership is 1,203 with average of one acre and above each, measuring totally 1,405 acres and the number of tanks with average of below one acre each is 3,405 totally measuring 1,500 acres. Under private ownership the number of tanks with average of above one acre each is 3,589 with total area of 3,782 acres and the number of such tanks below one acre each is 6,804 with total area of 3,232 acres. The number of derelict tanks under Government ownership is 3,500 with total area of 2,010 acres and under private ownership 6,873 with total area of 4,205 acres.

Development schemes.

The number of tanks taken for improvement under Government ownership is 1,100 with a total area of 895 acres and under private ownership is 3,520 with the total area of 2,809 acres.

Thirteen units of Expanded Reclamation Schemes were taken up for improvement during the first and the second five-year plan period. Five units of the expanded scheme have been handed over to the Revenue Department after development for using out the tanks to private parties.

There are three Fish Seed Multiplication Farms in the district. All these farms have been constructed during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

Fish-Seed
Multiplication
Farm.

There are five Demonstration Fish Farms of which three were started in 1965.

Demonstration
Fish Farm.

Under this Scheme 12,317 tanks were surveyed by the Field-men during the Second Five-Year Plan Period.

CHAPTER V

FOREST

The forest is mostly concentrated in south-east portion of the district. Patches of scrubby jungles and waste lands are found in the north-western part of the district.

Situation and configuration.

In general appearance, the country is flat and a gentle southwardly slope is suggested by the trend of the river. The forest areas are seldom contiguous and are generally intermixed with cultivation and habitation of local and tribal people. In the south as well as in the west of Dinajpur, the curious formation known as Barind geologically classed as old alluvium makes its appearance. The characteristic of this is an undulating country interspersed with ravines. Elevations are nowhere worthy of the name of hills, the highest patch does not exceed 20' above the surrounding country. The ravines vary from shallow stretches of low land suitable for growing paddy to deeper depressions bearing a resemblance to old river beds, sometimes contained water. Old writers have made mention of large number of marshes locally called *beels* formed by overflowing of rivers. One of them lies west of Dinajpur-Thakurgaon road.

There is no reserve forest in the district. The only forest areas are vested forests which were vested under State management through the Private Forest Act and acquired forests which have been acquired under the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act. The position of the forest areas in the district is as follows:

Distribution and area.

Vested forests	...	...	...	11,057 acres.
Acquired forests	...	...	...	12,320 acres.
Total forest area in the district			...	23,377 acres.

The forests in the district are remnants of the *sal* forests of the *Duars* in the foot-hill of the Himalayas.

Vegetation.

The main species in these forests is *sal* (*Shorea Robusta*) Associated with *sal*, are *noda* (*Litsea spp*), *kurchi* (*Holarrhenu anti-dysenterica*), *sisso* (*Dalbergia sisso*), *sonalu* (*Cassia fistula*), *Sheora* (*Streblus asper*), *palas* (*Butea frondosa*), *kumbi* (*Careya arborea*), *shirish* (*Albizia spp.*), *Chhatim* (*Alstonia scholaris*), *chalta* (*Dillenia indica*), *bot* (*Ficus bengalensis*), and others.

Clerodendron infortunatum and *Eupatorium odoratum* are the common shrubs. Of the climbers, the important are *palashlata* (*Spatholobus roxburghii*), *satamuli* (*Asparagus racemosus*), *gulan-cha* (*Tinospora cordifolia*) and *kochikata* (*Acacia pinnata*).

Besides these natural forests, there are plantations of *sal*, *teak* and *jarul* (*Lagerstroemia flosreginae*). Bidi leaf tree (*Diospyros spp*) has been planted over extensive areas.

Wild life.

Due to the open nature of the forest, there is very little wild life in the area. Wild boar and python are sometimes found in the forest areas. Panthers are met with occasionally in scrubby jungles. Jungle fowl and partridges also occur. In the cold weather, migratory birds such as ducks come to some of the *beel* areas.

History and Management.

There is no doubt that the area was covered with *sal* forests which were contiguous with the adjoining *Duars* area of India, though this has now been reduced only to small patches.

The recent history of the *sal* forest of the zone is an account of excessive felling with a deliberate aim of getting as much money as could be available in a short time. The big landlords wanted to reap the maximum profit before the enactment of the Bengal Private Forest Act of 1945. In 1947 with partition, there was further inducement by the migrating owners to sell as much as they could before leaving Bangladesh. As a result, vast areas have been clear-felled after partition. With the passing of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950, further areas of *sal* forest land was clear-felled by the ex-owners. The result of this deliberate ruthless felling is that most of the forest areas now contain only young coppice re-growth, utilizable as fire-wood and cheap timber. To stop further degradation, a Forest Division was created in August, 1952 to save whatever remnants of the forest that existed. Besides 23,377 acres of forests in the district, the forest division with its headquarters at Dinajpur also administers 3,591 acres of forests in Rangpur and 6,976 acres of forests in Rajshahi district, i.e., a total of 33,944 acres of forest areas. Till 1954, however, no regular working of the forest could be taken up as the staff was engaged primarily on survey, demarcation and organisational problems. In 1953-54, clear-felling and re-plantation work of the denuded forest was taken up systematically. Besides growing *sal* plantation, *bamboo* and *tendu* (*bidi* leaf) was also raised in plantation.

Except in *mauzas* of Kangsara, Bhowanipur, Singara, Birganj, Lohanipara, Alokdhota, the rest of the forest is composed

of young coppice re-growth forest and staff was engaged on protection and tending operation of these young crops.

The forests of the tract are mixed up with cultivated land and homestead of villagers. Therefore, protection from fire and encroachment also takes up lot of time of the staff.

In 1959-60, a working scheme for the forests of the Division was drawn up for a period of 10 years. The working scheme aimed at creation of the following working circles:

A. Conversion Working Circle:

This working circle comprises of comparatively good quality *sal* forest. The method of management is clear-felling and re-planting with *sal* under *tanguyya* system. Under *tanguyya* system agricultural crops are allowed to be grown in between the line of forest plants when they are young. This practice of growing agricultural crop along with forest crop, lowers the cost of plantation by cutting down the cost of weeding and tending. Though *sal* is the major species to be planted, in low lying areas *Jarul*, *kadam* (*Anthocephalus kadamba*), *jam* (*Syzygium spp.*), and *pitali* (*Trewia nudiflora*) are grown.

B. Coppice Working Circle:

This working circle comprises *sal* forest of poor quality. The coppice crop is composed of badly shaped and stunted *sal* poles fit only for fire-wood and low class timber. The method of management is to cut the tree as low as possible and to induce re-growth of shoots from the stumps. Where the stocking is poor, sowing of *sal* seeds is resorted to.

C. Afforestation Working Circle:

This working circle comprises most of the waste land in the districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur and Rajshahi. New plantation of valuable timber like *sal*, *teak*, etc., are being raised over extensive areas. *Tendu* or the *bidi* leaf has also been planted in this working circle.

The annual working area is laid out according to the provision of the working scheme and is sold in auction generally one year in advance. The trees to be felled and cut are all marked previous to the auction sale. The area of forest in the district is small and there is little export of timber from the district. Most of the forest produce is extracted by the bullock carts.

Utilisation of the produce.

The out-turn of timber, firewood and minor produce and revenue and expenditure figures from 1952-53 is given in the table below. The figure are for the forest division comprising

Out-turn and revenue and expenditure.

forest areas in the districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur besides the forests of the district.

TABLE A

Out-turn of Forest produce

Year.	Timber in 1000 cft.	Firewood in 1000 cft.	Value of other forest produce. (Rupees).
1952-53	2	21	102
1953-54	29	103	1,424
1954-55	45	115	236
1955-56	50	110	898
1956-57	30	87	1,279
1957-58	74	86	687
1958-59	156	66	1,146
1959-60	195	96	1,367
1960-61	71	77	1,510
1961-62	58	133	2,356
1962-63	66	164	3,471
1963-64	65	168	2,029
1964-65	78	108	900

TABLE B

Revenue and expenditure excluding development expenditure.

Year.	Revenue (Rupees.)	Expendi- ture. (Rupees.)
1952-53	5,588	Nil.
1953-54	64,904	Nil.
1954-55	90,586	14,029
1955-56	1,19,122	17,585
1956-57	91,427	21,063
1957-58	1,20,659	31,921
1958-59	1,69,385	40,385
1959-60	68,533	77,511
1960-61	2,41,368	1,50,578
1961-62	2,53,512	1,78,702
1962-63	2,26,866	1,85,547
1963-64	1,61,395	2,00,236
1964-65	2,14,400	2,44,020

TABLE C

Development expenditure being Capital outlay.

Year.	Forest plan- tations in- cluding tendu Plantation.		Forest roads and build- ings inclu- ding Ram- sagar tourist centre.	Settlement, surveys and studies.
	(Rupees.)	(Rupees.)	(Rupees.)	(Rupees.)
1952-53	...	29,397	...	...
1953-54	...	60,520	...	...
1954-55	...	55,894	...	...
1955-56	...	69,810	1,121	...
1956-57	...	79,000	14,787	...
1957-58	...	1,20,013	40,644	...
1958-59	...	1,28,044	18,290	...
1959-60	...	57,308	9,198	...
1960-61	...	2,21,583	1,43,267	12,175
1961-62	...	4,29,628	1,90,346	12,983
1962-63	...	5,44,057	1,32,816	12,694
1963-64	...	6,80,089	1,23,929	14,057
1964-65	...	6,91,497	12,536	5,711

The area of new plantation created every year for the forest division comprising the three districts is given in the table below: Plantation area.

TABLE D

Plantation from the creation of the Division up to 1964-65
in acres.

Year.	Area in acres planted during the year.			
1954-55	60
1955-56	81
1956-57	142
1957-58	410
1958-59	122
1959-60	230
1960-61	736
1961-62	1,558
1962-63	2,168
1963-64	1,781
1964-65	2,368

CHAPTER VI

ECONOMIC CONDITION

The economy of the district is mainly agricultural. Even among the shop-keepers and artisan classes, nearly every household supplement their ordinary means of livelihood by cultivating a small patch of land, either by themselves or if sufficiently well off, through others, who receive a share of the crop in return for their labour. Persons in business, trade, professions or government services form a very small percentage of the population. Unlike in other districts of the province, the pressure of population on land is not high. The average size of farm area is 5.5 acres and the same in respect of cultivated area is 4.9 acres (the provincial average being 3.5 acres and 3.1 acres respectively) (and each agricultural worker, on an average, has 3.45 acres of cultivated land to work upon. (These figures being second highest in the province, the only district which has higher figures than Dinajpur is Kushtia.)

General economic condition and special features of the economy of the district.

The people of Dinajpur in general are not in want of food, they do not like to move outside the district even temporarily to seek other means of livelihood. The Dinajpur District Census Report of 1961 observed, "They are nostalgic to a degree and unless very hard pressed they do not leave their homes. Seasonal migration from other districts, during the harvest time and for making bricks in the kilns is not an uncommon sight. There is practically no skilled labour or professional class here.....Lack of initiative appears to be a noticeable characteristics of the people." In 1964, the total number of industrial units using power was only 63, out of over 1,800 in the entire province.

Dinajpur is one of the principal rice-producing districts in the province and a large portion of the crop is available for export. Generally speaking, a cultivator's entire holding is under rice, with the exception of a small patch around the homestead, on which he raises some vegetables. The crop very rarely fails, and the year 1873-74 is the only year on record in which a serious famine occurred.

Rice-producing district.

During the early years of the 19th century, the people generally were both poor and improvident. The only crop worth mentioning was rice and owing to the low price obtainable for this locally, and for want of facilities of export, the cultivators, though not lacking in food, had little ready money and could seldom afford luxuries. A large portion of the district was under jungle and the profits to be made from agriculture were

Economic condition of the 1st half of the 19th century.

not sufficient to induce the local cultivators, always averse to hard labour, to go to the trouble of clearing and bringing it under cultivation. At the same time the prevalent practice of early marriages and their fondness for spending money on these and other ceremonies, led them to involve themselves and their descendants in debt and frequently reduced them to the most abject poverty. In the course of the succeeding half century, with improved communications and the consequent rise in the price of food-stuffs, specially rice, the condition of the people underwent a change for the better.

Economic condition in the 2nd half of the 19th century.

From an account of Major Sherwill who wrote about 1860, as quoted in the last Gazetteer of the district (1912), we do have an idea about the economic and social condition of the cultivators in particular and the people of the district of the time in general:

“The social condition of the agricultural classes has greatly improved of late years by the enhanced value of rice and all other agricultural produce. The *ryots* are the principal gainers by the unprecedented rise in the price of grain, by which, in many instances, their profits are more than doubled. The zamindars, the only prosperous section of the community, are also great gainers, on account of waste lands and jungles being brought under cultivation, and the *ryots*, being in more prosperous circumstances, have increased facility in paying up their rents. Mutations and desertions of *ryots* are less frequent; in a word, the prospects of all have improved, but still the *ryots* have no pretension to wealth or affluence. Although not rich, the *ryots* are more independent, and in easier circumstances than the peasantry of most other nations, and although often oppressed by the zamindars, who enrich themselves at the expense of the *ryots*, they still have sufficient to support themselves and families. Few experience the pangs of hunger, as our own country men do in times of distress, or during a severe winter. They may wholly abstain from labour for weeks or even months together, and still manage to feed and clothe themselves and families. Their wants are few and easily supplied; rice, dal, salt, oil and tobacco supply them all. They suffer somewhat from cold at night in December, January and February, but at other seasons of the year they require scarcely any clothing at all.”

Economic condition at present.

In more than hundred years which have elapsed since this was written, the economic condition of the people has changed. The prices of food-stuffs and other agricultural produce have continued to rise, trade and commerce have

expanded, the waste lands of the district are being brought under cultivation, sugarcane, tobacco and jute have come into prominence as profitable crops. The zamindari system has been abolished with the tenants now having direct responsibility of owning lands and increased production is being recorded. As a consequence of all this, the number of cultivators who have risen from the position of *ryots* to that of well-to-do tenure holders employing hired labour, and from the position of agricultural labourers working for hire to that of tenants with heritable occupancy and transferable rights is very great. The ready money which the cultivator has at his disposal has been of inestimable benefit to the poorer classes such as agricultural labourers, metal-workers, etc., as the man who formerly had to do all his work himself and had little cash to spare for luxuries, can now afford to employ labourers to do a portion at least of his work for him, and to substitute iron and brass utensils for the homely earthen ones he formerly used.

A significant feature of Dinajpur rural life during the few decades before Independence and also few years afterwards was the great inequality in economic status and standard of living of different rural families. Besides big zamindars, there were in existence, families of substantial cultivators, better known as *jotedars* who used to hold several hundreds or even thousands of acres of land in their own possession. This class constituted a rural aristocracy which used to cultivate their lands by employing labourers or "adhiars", on a large scale. Some of them used to keep elephants as a mark of prestige. The young members of the family obtained university education, joined the bar or took other profession and maintained a house at the town. Schools, madrassas and dispensaries were supported by many of these families. They were also the financiers of the countryside and used to market much of the agricultural surplus of the district.

Inequal economic status of the rural families of Dinajpur.

Not quite rich, but working on a smaller scale were the cultivators who used to hold 100 acres or more of land. Economically and socially this class of people was a step lower than the *jotedar* families. In the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations of the district (1934-40), Mr. F.O. Bell commented, "If men of this class cannot rise to sending their sons to University, they will probably have sent them for a time, to a high school whence they will return to keep accounts and look after the family paddy business; or possibly to do some teaching in the village."

The effects of the State Acquisition Act, 1950 on the Agricultural class structure of the district.

After the implementation of the provisions of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950; the *jotedars*, the substantial cultivator families and the zamindars are no more in existence in the district since 1956. Before whole-sale acquisition of estates, there existed no small proprietor in the district who used to own, occupy and cultivate their land themselves, without either a zamindar or superior landlord of any sort above them. This now is the exception rather than rule in the present day situation. The agricultural class now consists of large number of cultivators, having heritable occupancy and transferable rights over the land they possess.

Economic condition of the 'adhiars', a class of agriculturist.

Before Independence, the *adhiars* formed a distinct economic class and the system of *adhi* was most significant in the field of agricultural production. The *adhiars* were classed as "share cultivators", with common labours and "low artificers", such as basket makers and washermen among the poorest class of rural society. The *adhiars* were men who had one or two ploughs which they worked themselves. If they could work more land, they took more on *adhi* and for six months in the year they, together with the small *rayats* were financed by the big cultivators by advances in cash and grain. The importance of the *adhiars* can be realised from the fact that a quarter of the cultivated area of the south and west of the district was cultivated through the *adhiars*. The root idea common to all *adhi* arrangements was that the *adhiar* took half the crop for supplying all the labour of cultivation. Almost always the *adhiars* supplied the plough and cattle. There were variations according to whether the *adhiar* or the *jotedar* supplied seeds or manure. Sometimes the landholder would supply all the seeds and took back equivalent weight, perhaps with 50 per cent. interest before the grain was divided. Normally, straw is divided in equal proportions but if the *adhiar* supplied manure he might take all the straw in lieu of supplying all the manure. Most *adhiars* were men with plough and cattle and a little land in tenancy right. Some had to borrow from their *jotedars* to buy cattle, and repay probably in grain after the harvest; and occasionally the *jotedars* supplied the *adhiars* with cattle, which were, however, kept in the custody of the *adhiar*, and fed and maintained by the *adhiar*.

According to an estimate, as contained in the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations of the district (1934-40), four-fifths of the *adhiars* used to hold less land than was necessary to maintain a family and had to take *adhi* land in addition. As many as 103 were shown as having over 10 acres.

One purpose of the system was that, many people were enabled to give land in *adhi*, because they were incapable through widowhood, minority, or old age and sickness, from cultivating themselves and supervising the works of the labourers. It has also been observed that most land was given to *adhiars* because the *rayat* or *jotedar* had got more land than he could cultivate himself, even if he and his family worked full time on the land. But it was in evidence that most *jotedars* of cultivating stock preferred to cultivate by their own ploughs, or by hired labourers, and gave land in *adhi* because they had no time to supervise the work on all their lands. Herein lies the distinction of the *adhiars* to labourers, for which the system gained some popularity. Actually the poor soil was being cultivated by the *adhiars*, and it was thought better to get half of anything than to loose money on paying for labourers. The non-resident or non-agricultural man who had land, preferred to cultivate through *adhiars*. It is said, "*Adhi* is more suited for gentlemen."

The *adhiars* being mostly poor villagers, having no capital and land of their own, could earn something from the land of the *jotedars* with the finance they supplied. But the most unhappy economic fact was that, the *adhiars* being mostly peasants, who used to cultivate the land for their family subsistence, using their own plough and cattle, were in precarious economic condition without having any tenancy rights.

A farmer's living house or hut is constructed sometimes on a raised earthen plinth and sometimes on the ground, with wooden or bamboo posts, bamboo mat walls, and a thatched roofs, tin-roofed houses are few and far between. Such partitions as there may be inside, are of bamboo matting and the rafters and crosspieces are generally of bamboo. The cook-house and other out-houses are grouped about the living house, to form a homestead and in many cases the inner premises are surrounded with a high fence of split bamboo. Occasionally a well-to-do cultivator has a more pretentious dwelling with corrugated iron roof and mud plastered walls, and merchants and *mahajans* commonly have houses of this kind. This description of cultivators' huts indicates the simple living which their income afford. The landowners mostly live in old-fashioned buildings surrounded by the huts of their retainers.

The household articles in the ordinary cultivator's house consist of some brass utensils, such as plates, cups, pots, some sleeping mats and coarse quilts and some earthen cooking vessels. The poorer sorts sleep on the ground and the more affluent on bamboo *machans*, or charpoys. In the bazars,

Living pattern
of agriculturists.

Furnitures.

enamelled iron is rapidly taking the place of brass for plates and drinking vessels, being cheaper and cleaner though not so durable. The ubiquitous kerosine oil tin is put to variety of uses, chief among which is carrying or storing water. Every better class house is provided with a *baitakkhana* (drawing-room) in which the master of the house entertains visitors, furnished with mats and low wooden stools, and perhaps a chair or two; and many of the landholders have better furniture and they use tables, chairs, beds, dressing tables, etc.

Diet.

The diet of all classes of the people is the same, with the exception that a well-to-do shop-keeper or prosperous cultivator has a greater variety at a single meal than a poor peasant or labour. ~~The staple article of food of course, is rice, but of~~ late wheat is also gaining popularity and different preparations of this foodgrain is taken specially by the urban population with great relish. The rice is usually taken in boiled form with fish, pulse (dal), vegetables, meat and milk according to taste and purse of the cultivator. But fried rice (*chira*, and *muri*, locally called 'Jalpan') is taken by almost everybody as breakfast with or without tea. The leaves of the jute plant are also commonly used as vegetables. The low caste Hindus and Santhals sometimes keep and eat pigs. Mustard oil is in general use for cooking. Sweetmeats made of sugar and ghee and milk in various forms such as curds are consumed by well-to-do farmers and merchants. Fresh fish is not everywhere available and there is no great consumption of dried fish.

Dress.

An ordinary farmer's dress is simple and inexpensive. He generally wears a *lungi* and a *gamcha* is warpped over his head while he works; he wears a *genji* and the *gamcha* is tied around his abdomen while at leisure.

Change in the traditional pattern of living of the agriculturists.

A perceptible change in the livelihood pattern of the cultivators is observed in recent years. With the change in the traditional pattern of living, the needs of the agriculturists have changed and demands have increased. Besides the cost of cultivation, they now have to provide for educational expenses of their children. During the period before Independence, it was not common for the children from cultivators' family to leave their homes for higher education. The outlook and philosophy of life of the cultivators is undergoing a change. They are now finding the advantages of hard work, higher earning and are giving up the belief that fate determines their economic condition.

The tillers of the soil of the district are now better off because of (i) the disappearance of the *jotedars* and zamindars and establishment of a direct relationship between the tenants and the state, (ii) a better supply of rural credit since establishment of the branches of Agricultural Development Bank of Bangladesh in the district, (iii) the relatively higher price of agricultural produce in recent years, (iv) the facilities being provided by the Agricultural Development Corporation in the form of modern implements, cheap fertilizers, better seeds and plants, technical guidance, etc., (v) the facilities of better irrigation, flood control, drainage and electricity being provided by the Bangladesh Water and Power Development Authority, and (vi) provision of better roads and transport helping marketing of agricultural produce.

Facilities, the agriculturists now can avail themselves of.

In recent years, introduction of tractors and large scale farming has been started in a few cases by the big land owners. By 1961, the number of rural demonstration farms increased up to 191, number of rural demonstration plot were 1,910, number of irrigation pumps used were 110, plant protection measures have also been increased to the extent that there were 392 plant protection equipments of various types in the district.

Large scale farming.

During the period from 1934-40, enquiries were conducted in a number of villages, each year, regarding the amount of land held in tenancy right in the *khas* possession of families. Land cultivated through *ahdiars* was shown in the ownership of the family that let out the land to the *ahdiars*.

Size of agricultural holdings vis-a-vis economic condition of the agriculturists.

The information is given in Table 1 as follows:

*TABLE

Year.	Number of selected villages.	Holdings over 10 acres.			Holdings 5--10 acres.			
		No. of families in the group.	No. of persons in all the families.	Total land owned by the families in acres.	No. of families in the group.	No. of persons in all the families.	Total land owned by the families in group.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1935	...	11	66	629	1,505.66	52	527	346.09
1936	...	13	60	671	1,257.84	74	504	335.38
1937	...	18	74	702	2,117.02	92	564	663.28
1938	...	15	72	538	1,459.90	83	529	592.73

(1) Includes two families with 34 persons

(2) Includes four families with 95 persons

(3) Includes one family with 5 persons

(*Source: Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Dinajpur, 1934-40.)

1.

Holding 1—5 acres.			Holdings under 1 acre.			Total.		
No. of families in the group.	No. of persons in all the families.	Total land owned by the families in acres.	No. of families in the group.	No. of persons in all the families.	Total land owned by the families in acres.	No. of families in the group.	No. of persons in the families.	Total land owned by the families in acres.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
126	650	339.70	75	324	20.11	319	1,930	2,211.56
151	772	459.72	46	187	10.34	330	2,134	2,263.28
156	830	428.00	152	787	40.96	474	2,883	3,249.26
148	696	417.10	134	618	33.01	437	2,381	2,502.74

holding 241.95 acres.

holding 805.61 acres.

holding 108.86 acres.

The land included all land owned by the family in whatever village. For comparison, the following table (Table 2) is presented. The latter information was obtained by an officer who made some special enquiries for the Land Revenue Commission during the same period. In five villages he obtained the following results:

TABLE 2

Size of holdings.	Number of families.	Number of persons in all the families.	Total land owned by the families in acres.
Over 10 acres ...	46	458	1,062·26
5—10 acres...	71	441	474·26
1—5 acres ...	184	974	469·30
Under 1 acre ...	101	414	53·03
No raiyati land ...	25	117	...
Total ...	427	2,404	2,058·65

In these enquiries, however, the area was of *rai-yati* land alone; but as very few people here held as under *rai-yats*, the result was not very different. Among these families there was more concentration of land in the hands of a smaller number of individuals relative to Table No. 1. Gradually, a class is emerging that has to have some source of income other than their lands. Figures of Table No. 2 were, however, overweighted by one village, where there were an unduly large number of men who were labourers.

The following information is presented for the district from the Agricultural Census (1960).

The Agricultural Census of 1960.

TABLE 3*

Size of farms.	Total number of farms.	Total farm area (acres.)	Total cultivated area (acres).
Under 1 acre ...	12,050	5,767	4,755
1 to under 5 acres ...	1,14,590	3,42,370	3,10,377
5 to under 12·5 acres ...	77,450	5,66,184	5,01,306
12·5 to under 25 acres	14,910	2,40,104	2,05,113
25 to under 40 acres ...	1,790	52,769	42,331
40 acres and over ...	320	18,196	11,936
Total of the district ...	2,21,110	12,25,390	10,75,818

†Source: 'Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the district of Dinajpur, (1934-40.)'

*This table has been constructed by adding up figures on identical head of items as available in the "Pakistan Census on Agriculture, 1960 (Vol. 1., East Pakistan.)"

TABLE 4*

Size of farms.	Tenant-operated area (acres).				
	Total area.	Owner operated area.	Total.	Rented.	Share cropping.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Under 1 acre ..	5,767	4,184	1,583	100	1,483
1 to under 5 acres ..	3,42,370	2,03,825	1,38,545	3,475	1,35,070
5 to under 12.5 acres	5,66,184	4,28,294	1,37,890	5,428	1,32,462
12.5 to under 25 acres	2,40,104	2,10,923	29,181	1,659	27,522
25 to 40 acres ..	52,769	50,279	2,490	180	2,310
40 acres and over ..	18,196	..	..	..	..

TABLE 5*

Size of farms.	Total number of farms.	Owner-farms.		Tenant-cum-owner farms. *		Tenant farms.	
		Total number.	Area (acres.)	Total number.	Area (acres.)	Total number.	Area (acres.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Under 1 acre	12,050	7,960	3,602	2,590	1,464	1,500	701
1 to under 5 acres	1,14,590	37,710	1,09,632	64,010	1,97,821	12,870	34,917
5 to under 12.5 acres.	77,450	35,920	2,71,735	38,540	2,75,016	2,990	19,433
12.5 to under 25 acres.	14,910	9,960	1,63,004	4,800	74,673	150	2,427
25 to under 40 acres.	1,790	1,550	54,882	240	6,887	..	..
40 acres and over	320	320	18,176	..	..	..	..
Total ..	2,21,110	93,420	6,12,051	1,10,180	5,55,861	17,510	57,478

*These tables have been constructed by adding up figures on identical head of items.
Source: "Pakistan Census of Agriculture, 1960 (Vol. I, East Pakistan)."

The total number of agricultural holdings in the district are 2,43,540 which is 4% of the total agricultural holdings in the province which numbers 64,64,400. Out of the total agricultural holdings in the district 2,21,110 are farms and 22,430 are livestock holdings.

There are a large number of bigger-sized farms in the district, which suggests the possibility of introducing large-scale farming in the district.

Out of the total agricultural acreage of 12,64,267 in the district, the culturable area is 11,14,695 acres of which 38,877 acres are culturable waste and 10,75,818 acres are cultivated area of which the net sown area is 10,38,319 acres and area under current fallow is 37,499 acres.

Of the total uncultivated area of 1,49,572 acres, forest area is 46,078 acres, the area constituting culturable waste is 38,877 acres and unculturable area is 64,617 acres. At present the total cropped area in the district is 13,23,314 acres.

The problems of rural indebtedness and credit.

During the years from 1934-40, enquiries into the economic-facts of the countryside revealed the following information on rural indebtedness in the district: (1) Indebtedness was most acute among the moderate sized cultivators, less among the big cultivators who were more often money-lenders; and rarest among the poorest people, the *adhiaars* and labourers with little or no permanent rights in land; (2) Most of the borrowing was done before the break in prices in 1931 or at the beginning of the slump and (3) that the money-lenders were in most cases the richer cultivators or *jotedars*. The information obtained from the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district (1934-40) is given in the following table:

TABLE 6*
Frequency of Debt.

Year.	Indebted.		Free of Debt.		Percentage of families.		Percentage of persons.	
	Fami- lies.	Per- sons.	Fami- lies.	Per- sons.	In- debted.	Free of debt.	In- debted.	Free of debt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1935 ...	154	1,067	165	863	48	52	55	45
1936 ...	224	1,631	257	1,461	47	53	53	47
1937 ...	160	1,029	160	851	50	50	55	45
1938 ...	182	1,132	255	1,249	42	58	48	52

*Source: 'Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the district of Dinajpur (1934-40.)'

TABLE 7*

Nominal present value and incidence of debt per family, per head.

Year.	Under enquiry.		Indebted.		Present nominal value of debt.	Average debt per family.	Average debt per head.	Average debt per indebted family.	Average debt per head of indebted family.
	Families.	Persons.	Families.	Persons.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1935 ...	319	1,930	154	1,067	37,831	119	19-10	246	35-70
1936 ...	481	3,024	224	1,631	45,535	95	15-10	203	27-15
1937 ...	320	1,880	160	1,029	23,297	101	17-00	202	31-60
1938 ...	437	2,381	182	1,132	20,924	48	8-13	115	18-80

The money-lenders used to advance loans at the annual interest rates of 24 per cent., 25 per cent. or 37½ per cent. per annum, but they never expected to obtain payment of interest and the principal at these high rates, because of poverty of farmers. The figures in the above tables reveal that about half the population was indebted.

The following table indicates the various causes for which people used to borrow in the district during the period (1934-40).

Causes of rural indebtedness.

TABLE 8*

Causes of debt.

In respect of liability of Rs.36,032 in 1935 of 154 families consisting of 1,067 members:

	Rs.
Marriage	13,173
To pay rent	6,274
To buy cattle	4,831
Trade or business	4,236
Food or domestic purposes	2,232
Funeral	1,936
To buy land	1,842
Illness	1,147

Source: 'Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the District of Dinajpur (1934-40)'.

In respect of sum borrowed of Rs.36,518 in 1936 by 224 families consisting of a total of 1,631 members:

			Number of Loans.	Sum borrowed. Rs.
To buy land	..	..	30	10,477
For marriage	..	..	92	10,371
Business and Trade	..	..	7	3,190
Cultivation and cattle	..	..	48	2,214
Food, Clothing and domestic	..	..	53	2,155
To pay off old debts	..	..	14	1,874
To pay rent	..	..	28	1,701
Illness ..	..	..	4	1,593
Litigation	..	..	8	1,440
Education	..	..	2	772
Funeral	..	..	6	722

In respect of sum borrowed of Rs.27,236 in 1937 by 160 families consisting of 1,029 members:

				Rs.
Marriage	...	...	...	7,919
Food and maintenance	...	...	...	7,131
Agriculture and cattle	...	...	...	6,358
Building houses	...	...	...	2,312
Business	...	...	...	1,504
To pay rent	...	...	...	1,232
To buy land	...	...	...	330
Funeral	...	...	...	250
Litigation	...	...	...	150
Illness	...	...	...	50

In respect of sum borrowed of Rs.15,618 in 1938 by 182 families consisting of 1,132 members:

	Transaction.	Value.
		Rs.
Marriage	73	8,134
Food and domestic	126	2,562
To buy plough and cattle	46	1,868
Business	8	929
Litigation	2	850
To pay old debts	8	451
To buy land	7	395
To pay rent	6	284
Agriculture and cultivation	6	144

Marriage was evidently the cause of the largest amount of borrowing. Among cultivators, both Muslims and "Rajbangshi," the marriage of a son occasioned much more expenditure than the marriage of a daughter, and it seems to be entirely luxury expenditure, in the sense that money spent on marriage went not in a dowry, or "setting up home," but in entertaining neighbours with feasts and fireworks. The country folk themselves, however, realised that such expenditure was creating an impossible situation and the caste *panchayats* fixed a limit for marriage expenditure. The marriage of a son of a moderate sized "Rajbangshi" cultivator which used to cost Rs. 100, in the early 1930's would in 1940 be celebrated at the cost of Rs. 25. Purchase of cattle also occupied a high place every year in the cause of indebtedness.

Many people borrowed for "Food or domestic purposes". Some families were used to a certain standard of living and when for any reason they were short of money or incurred unusual expenditure, they had to resort to borrowing which formed almost a habit. Other causes of rural indebtedness.

Characteristics
of credit "derhi"
system.

In 1937-38, some special enquiries were made into the operation of the *derhi* system, a type of credit in kind by which the poorer cultivators, *adhiars* and labourers were helped over the difficult period of the year. The enquiries made in 15 villages distributed in over five thanas of the west of the district revealed that 156 families had taken *derhi* loans in grain, out of a total of 504 families, so some 30 per cent. of the families obtained assistance in this way. *Adhiars* figured largely among the borrowers, and 42 per cent. of the indebted families held more land in *adhi* than in tenancy right. In all, 29 per cent. of the indebted families held less than an acre in tenancy right. These 156 families borrowed 825 maunds of paddy in the year 1937 stipulating to repay 1,280 maunds. Actually 668 maunds had been repaid when further enquiries were made in the spring of 1938, and the amount might have been more if the repayment enquiries in one thana had not been made as early as January. A small amount was borrowed as early as April, 1937, but the month of greatest borrowing was *Asharh*, after which borrowing gradually declined. *Magh* and *Phalgun* were the months generally stipulated for repayment. The 156 families were indebted to 99 different creditors, for whom all except three were described as *jotedars* or cultivators. Almost a third of the families in these fifteen villages were found to be borrowing grain in 1937.

Repayment.

As the name implies, the normal stipulation was that $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds should be repaid for every maund borrowed, but sometimes $1\frac{1}{4}$ was actually repaid; and very occasionally double was demanded. These rural lenders did not seem very rapacious, for considerable sums were allowed to run from one year to another. Repayments within the year varied greatly in different villages. Probably there was a certain element of charity in these grain loans. They were taken primarily not to pay for agricultural operations, but to provide subsistence for the borrower, who without the grain might have to go hungry. There was elasticity about repayment, and the system might be regarded not so much as "rural credit" but as a form of poor relief by loan.

Rural
indebtedness in
1960.

More recent picture of the extent and nature of rural indebtedness in the district has been revealed by the Agricultural Census of 1960. Out of the total of 2,21,110 farms, 92,000

or 42 per cent. of the total number of farms, were reported to be in debt. The information is given in a tabular form as follows:

TABLE 9
Farms reporting debt, classified by size of debt and by size of farm.

Size of Farm (acres.)	All farms.	Total.	Per cent. of all Farms.	Number of Farms Reporting Debt.																
				Rs. 1-99	Rs. 100-249	Rs. 250-499	Rs. 500-999	Rs. 1,000-1,999	Rs. 2,000 and over.	7	8	9	10							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10											
Under 0.5	5,700	990	17	530	350	70	20	10	10											
0.5 to under 1.0	6,350	1,580	25	930	510	110	20	10	..											
1.0 to under 2.5	37,300	14,890	40	6,260	4,370	1,720	1,610	900	30											
2.5 to under 5.0	77,290	34,010	44	13,300	13,880	4,490*	1,870	420	50											
5.0 to under 7.5	46,940	20,840	44	5,810	8,870	3,570	2,040	470	80											
7.5 to under 12.5	30,510	12,680	42	2,780	4,990	2,650	1,620	500	140											
12.5 to under 25.0	14,910	6,000	40	1,050	2,100	1,220	980	380	270											
25.0 to under 40.0	1,790	930	52	60	140	80	130	110	410											
40.0 and over	320	80	25	..	20	10	20	10	20											
District Total	2,21,110	92,000	42	30,720	35,230	13,920	8,310	2,810	1,010											

(Source—"Pakistan Census of Agriculture, 1960, East Pakistan.")

**Institutional
credit for
agriculture:**

A.D.B.B.

The major source of institutional credit for agricultural purpose in the district now is the Agricultural Development Bank of Bangladesh. The first branch office of the bank was established in the district headquarters in 1958 and later another branch office was opened up at Thakurgaon. These offices supply credit to those agriculturists of the district who need it and the rate of interest now charged is 7 per cent. By 1967 an amount of Rs.1,02,88,950 was supplied to the cultivators as loan, out of which Rs.28,61,120 was short-term loan. This type of loan was advanced to the cultivators for the purpose of buying fertilizer, seeds, etc. and for sugarcane cultivation. This type of loan increased from Rs.4,00,000 in 1962-63 to Rs.15,00,000 in 1966-67. The total amount supplied as medium-term loan was Rs.74,27,830. Agricultural tools and implements were also supplied to the intending purchasers on hire-purchase system.

In the year 1967-68, a total of 2,234 cultivators received loan from the Agricultural Development Bank of Bangladesh and the amount of loan was Rs.20,09,991. Of this 1,066 cultivators received Rs.4,23,217 as short-term loan; 1,122 cultivators received Rs.12,75,398 as medium-term loan and 46 cultivators received Rs.3,11,376 as long-term loan.

**Co-operative
loans.**

The second important source of institutional credit for the farmers are the Co-operative Societies. The Central Co-operative Societies grant loans to the primary co-operative societies for subsequent supply of loans to the farmers who are usually the members of the various primary societies scattered throughout the district.

In the year 1965-66, the 10 Central Co-operative Societies granted Rs.8,32,040 to 45 primary co-operative societies; in 1966-67, the 11 Central Co-operative Societies granted Rs.9,74,368 to 109 Primary Co-operative Societies and in 1967-68, the Central Co-operative Societies whose number increased to 15 granted Rs.18,71,100 to the 189 Primary Societies.

In the table overleaf the amount of loan advanced by some of the Primary Co-operative Credit Societies, their purpose and the number of cultivators who received loans for three years is presented. An analysis of the table will show that in the year 1965-66, these societies supplied Rs.8,65,910 as loans to the farmers; in 1966-67, Rs.10,74,468 was supplied to the farmers as loans and in 1967-68, an amount of Rs.19,85,839 was

supplied as loans to the farmers:

Name of Primary Co-operative Credit Societies.	1965-66.			1966-67.			1967-68.			Purpose and use for which loan was supplied.
	No. of society.	Amount of loan advanced (in Rs.).	No. of farmers who received loan.	No. of society.	Amount of loan advanced (in Rs.).	No. of farmers received.	No. of society.	Amount of loan advanced (in Rs.).	No. of farmers received.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Ltd.	1	31,400	56	1	1,00,700	52	1	87,700	52	For improvement of land and farms.
2. Union Co-operative Multipurpose Society Ltd.	151	1,00,000	405	151	3,96,000	2,016	151	7,42,400	3,105	For cultivation of paddy.
3. Sugarcane Growers' Co-operatives.	20	5,53,890	3,693	20	3,36,800	2,958	20	5,55,500	3,842	For purchasing cattle and improvement of agricultural land. For cultivation of paddy and other agricultural products.
4. Tube-well Co-operative Societies.	...	...	...	56	94,218	2,356	96	2,00,000	3,794	For cultivation of Irrig paddy, Maxi-Pak wheat and other agricultural crops.
5. Industrial Co-operative Societies (Weavers)	10	2,470	15	...	...	...	14	27,039	459	Improvement of cottage industries, i.e., weaving of cloths.

According to Census Report of 1951, the total population of the district was 13,54,432 of which 7,20,985 were males and 6,33,447 were females. The total number of persons in the civilian labour force were 4,08,717, of which agricultural labours were 3,56,319 and non-agricultural labour force were 52,398; males in the agricultural labour force were 3,43,477 and females were 12,842 and males in the non-agricultural labour force were 45,314 and females were 7,084.

Occupation of agricultural labour force.

Of the total 3,56,319 agricultural labour force, cultivators were 3,56,114 of which 3,43,294 were males and 12,820 females; herdsmen and dairymen were 205 of which males were 183 and females were 22; and dairy farmer of poultry keepers were 11 in number.

Occupation of non-agricultural labour force.

Of the total number of non-agricultural labour force of 52,398 persons, the numbers employed in the different occupational groups were as given below:

Groups.	Branches.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Professional and Technical :	.. .. .	2,656	2,330	326
	Engineers, Architects, etc. ..	24	24	Nil.
	Transport Manager, Pilots, etc. ..	20	20	Nil.
	Professors and Teachers ..	1,240	1,158	82
	Religious workers ..	264	226	38
	Physicians and Surgeons ..	616	616	Nil.
	Nurses and other Health workers ..	287	95	192
	Judges and Lawyers, etc. ..	61	61	Nil.
	Chemistry and Metallurgists ..	6	6	Nil.
	Other Professions ..	138	134	4
Administrative;	.. .. .	3,874	3,862	12
	Business Executives ..	369	365	4
	Government, etc., officers ..	46	46	Nil.
	Office workers ..	3,459	3,451	8
Sales workers and shop-keepers	.. .. .	10,577	9,577	1,000
Forestry workers ..	.. .. .	3	1	2
Fishermen ..	.. .. .	1,166	1,045	121
Mine and quarry workers ..	.. .. .	26	26	Nil.
Transport operatives :	.. .. .	2,189	2,185	4
	Road Vehicles Driver ..	597	597	Nil.
	Railway workers ..	1,476	1,472	4
	Sea and River craft crews ..	115	115	Nil.
	Air Transport workers ..	1	1	Nil.
	.. .. .	7,988	7,072	916
Manufacturing workers :	.. .. .	1,559	1,559	Nil.
	Metal workers ..	2,662	2,217	445
	Textile workers ..	1,942	1,627	315
	Wood workers ..	111	109	2
	Coke, cement, brick, etc., workers, ..	571	472	99
	Glass and ceramic workers ..	47	47	Nil.
	Chemical, paints and oil mill workers. ..	526	526	Nil.
	Leather workers ..	57	57	Nil.
	Paper mill workers ..	18	18	Nil.
	Printing Trade operatives ..	282	282	Nil.
	Building trade operatives ..	106	106	Nil.
	Electrical workers ..	107	107	Nil.
	Other skilled production workers ..	2,450	2,346	104
Food, Drink and Tobacco Processing workers.	.. .. .	1,805	1,805	Nil.
	Police, Fire, etc., Services ..	1,762	1,623	139
	Other services workers ..	3,853	3,358	495
	Domestic servants ..	14,049	10,084	3,965
	Unskilled labourers ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .

(Source: "Census of Pakistan, 1951, Vol.-8, East Bengal")

The total number of land owners in the district, in 1951, was 2,27,889. Of them 2,27,351 were engaged in agricultural activities and 399 in commerce and industries. A total number of 139 were economically inactive.

Economic activities of the land owners.

Agriculture is not a whole-time occupation, cultivators and agricultural labourers usually have other sources of income besides their produce in farms. According to the Census Report (1951), out of 3,56,319 agricultural labour force in the district, 39,116 had subsidiary occupations of non-agricultural nature. Subsidiary occupation for the agricultural labour force has been defined in the Census, as "a secondary source of income pursued throughout the whole year in addition to the usual main occupation or an alternative means of livelihood adopted at times when the main occupation could not be followed".

Subsidiary occupations of the agricultural labour force.

The number of cultivators performing the services of School Teachers and Private Tutors was 1,909 males and 2 females; that of Imams, Moazzins and Religious workers was 440 males and 1 female; those acted as "Hakims, Apothecaries, Midwives and other health workers was 1,509 males and 4 females; engaged as lawyers and legal assistants' was 91 males; Musicians and Entertainers was 90 males; performed the services of 'clerks and moharrirs was 256 males and 1 female; performing the services of peons, duftaries and chowkidars was 4,956 males and 42 females; engaged as shop-keepers and hawkers was 13,566 males and 217 females; engaged in 'trade and commercial works was 795 males; as weavers and spinners 1,505 males and 38 females; as tailoring 1,162 males and 27 females; engaged as carpenters and sawyers 1,624 males and 12 females; doing bamboo, cane and basket working 1,010 males and 33 females; doing the job of pottery and chinawaring 549 males and 29 females; engaged in shoe-making and leather works 115 males; doing masonry, building and construction work was 259 males, engaged in manufacturing work and craftsmen 37 males; engaged in gur and sugar making 185 males and 1 female; doing the job of sweets making and confectionery 42 males and 2 females; engaged as butchers 22 males; biri-makers 614 males and 3 females; food processing workers 1,858 males and 303 females.

The total number of population in the district according to the Census Report of 1961 was 17,09,917. Thus, during ten years between 1951 and 1961, the population of the district increased by about 25 per cent.

Economic activities of the people in 1961.

Labour force.

In 1961, the civilian labour force consisted of 5,93,502 people. The number of persons not in civilian labour force was 5,05,594. Between 1951 and 1961, the civilian labour force has increased by about 50 per cent. This increase is much more than that of population itself. It shows, perhaps, that the pressure on the employment market, during the period has increased more than the rise of population in absolute figure. The increase to certain extent is also due to a change in the definition of "labour force" in the two censuses. In 1951 Census, all persons of "12 years and over" were included as labourer while in 1961 Census, persons of "10 years and over" were considered as labourer.

Economic status of population in respect of different age-groups.

The economic status of the people of the district in 1961 in respect of different age-groups is given below:

Age-groups.	Total and Sex.	Persons in civilian labour force.	Culti-vators.	Other agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Other self-supporting persons and dependents.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All ages:	Total ..	5,93,502	5,34,422	5,802	53,278	11,16,415
	Male ..	5,44,774	4,96,025	1,896	46,853	3,57,615
	Female ..	48,728	38,397	3,906	6,425	7,58,800
10-11 years:	Total ..	20,083	19,567	67	449	37,688
	Male ..	18,367	17,978	49	340	13,583
	Female ..	1,716	1,589	18	109	24,105
12-14 years:	Total ..	41,006	39,308	181	1,517	48,182
	Male ..	38,940	37,496	129	1,315	12,176
	Female ..	2,066	1,812	52	202	36,006
15-19 years:	Total ..	57,619	52,707	448	827	86,088
	Male: ..	53,492	49,200	251	404	15,278
	Female ..	4,127	3,507	197	423	70,810
20-24 years	Total ..	66,798	59,088	546	7,164	66,953
	Male ..	61,678	54,874	225	6,579	2,454
	Female ..	5,120	4,214	321	585	64,499
25-34 years	Total ..	1,51,071	1,33,012	1,376	16,683	13,188
	Male ..	1,38,964	1,24,160	423	14,381	1,018
	Female ..	12,107	8,852	953	2,302	12,170
35-44 years:	Total ..	1,14,532	1,01,674	1,303	11,555	68,895
	Male ..	1,04,000	93,342	323	10,335	668
	Female ..	10,532	8,332	980	1,220	68,227
45-54 years:	Total ..	76,421	68,303	1,021	7,097	42,945
	Male ..	69,214	62,793	257	6,164	726
	Female ..	7,207	5,510	764	933	42,219
55-59 years:	Total ..	23,116	21,149	292	1,675	12,571
	Male ..	20,942	19,450	74	1,418	458
	Female ..	2,174	1,699	218	257	12,113
60 years and over:	Total ..	42,856	39,614	568	2,674	29,084
	Male ..	39,177	36,732	165	2,280	3,210
	Female ..	3,679	2,882	403	394	25,874

(Source : Dinajpur District Census Report, 1961).

The total number of agricultural labour force in the district in 1961 was 5,40,224 among which males were 4,97,921 and females were 42,303 in number. Of the total agricultural labour, 5,34,422 constituted the "cultivators and agricultural labourers". The rest were employed in various kinds of agricultural work, e.g., *mali*, dairy farmer, animal breeder, drivers of tractors, etc.

Agricultural
labour force.

Out of the total population of the district of 17,09,917, the number of rural population was 16,37,979 of which 8,62,764 were males and 7,75,215 were females. Thus 96 per cent. of the population of the district was rural in 1961.

Rural population.

During the first decade of the present century, owing to the smallness of the population as compared with the area of the district and the amount of cultivable land still remaining unoccupied, the rates of rent paid by *raiyyats* holding land directly from landlords were very low as compared with the rates prevailing in the neighbouring districts. From an examination of the Settlement Records of 8 small private estates with a total area of 14,369 acres, surveyed and settled under the Bengal Tenancy Act, it appears that the different classes of *raiyyats*, the average rent per cultivated acre payable by and the average size of holding in possession of each class were as follows:

Rates of rent
during the First
Decade of the
20th century.

Class of cultivator.	Average area of cultivated land per holding.	Average rent per cultivated acre.
	(Acres.)	Rs. a.*
1. <i>Raiyyats</i> at fixed rates or fixed rents	7.29	1 13
2. Settled <i>raiyyats</i>	3.15	1 15
3. Occupancy	2.54	1 12
4. Non-occupancy	2.30	1 5
5. Under- <i>raiyyats</i>	0.26	2 15
Total	3.10	1 15

[Source—Last Gazetteer of the district (1912).]

Of *raiyyats* holding their land directly from the landlord by far the largest class were the occupancy *raiyyats* or *jotedars*. Non-occupancy *raiyyats* or tenants-at-will were comparatively few. Except in the case of under-*raiyyats*, no distinction was made between different classes of land in a village nor was any account taken of the kind of crop grown in fixing the rent

*N.B.—A rupee consisted of 16 annas.

of a plot of land. The average rate per acre was rather higher in the southern portion of the district than in the northern, being Rs.2 to Rs.2 and 12 annas as against Re. 1 and 8 annas to Rs.2. Under-*raiyyats* had to pay very much higher rents, and for them the rent, when payable in money varied according to the class of land and the crop grown on it. The rents paid by such under-*raiyyats* varied from Re. 1 and 8 annas per acre of poor lands to as much as Rs.20 per acre for the best jute lands. Lands suitable for the cultivation of tobacco sometimes was let at as much as Rs.28 an acre. The *adhiars*, to whom the term under-*raiyyats* was not properly applicable, paid their rent in kind, the *raiyyats* whose land they cultivated, taking half the crop. This procedure worked very well in practice, as in a bad year the loss was distributed between the *raiyyat* and the *adhiar*, while in a good one the former shared the profits.

Rates of rent
during 1934-40.

The average rent of fixed rate *raiyyats* was Re.1 annas 9 and pies* 3 an acre which was appreciably less than that paid by the ordinary settled and occupancy *raiyyats* whose average rent was Re. 1 annas 15 and pies 7 per acre. The non-occupancy *raiyyats* paid Rs.2 annas 2 and pies 6 as rent per acre. The average rent for all the three classes was Re.1 annas 14 and pies 9 per acre which was believed to be the lightest district average in the province (the province of Bengal).

The district of Dinajpur comprises of 22 police stations out of which 17 belonged to the district in the pre-Independence days also. The average rents and proportion of land held by different categories of *raiyyats* during 1934-40, in the 17 thanas are given below:

Thana.	Average rent of fixed rate <i>raiyyats</i> .			Average rent of settled and occupancy <i>raiyyats</i> .			Average rent of non-occupancy <i>raiyyats</i> .			Average rent of all <i>raiyyats</i> .			Percentage of area held by fixed rate <i>raiyyats</i> to total area of land held by <i>raiyyats</i> on cash rent.
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	
Parbatipur ..	1	15	5	2	3	10	2	11	8	2	2	6	30
Nawabganj ..	1	11	7	2	3	3	2	2	10	2	3	0	2
Ghoraghat ..	1	12	10	2	4	6	2	3	9	2	4	0	6
Chiribandar ..	2	3	11	2	9	4	2	5	9	2	8	8	7
Dinajpur ..	1	14	10	2	6	9	2	12	10	2	5	1	21
Biról ..	1	13	6	1	14	7	2	2	10	1	14	5	14
Atwari ..	1	9	0	2	5	8	2	12	3	2	1	6	32½
Baliadangi ..	1	7	0	2	3	2	2	4	7	1	13	8	45
Thakurgaon ..	1	6	9	1	7	6	3	0	1	1	7	5	22
Ranisankail ..	1	2	1	1	13	5	3	4	1	1	11	4	28
Haripur ..	0	15	7	2	7	5	2	1	7	2	2	5	20
Pirganj ..	1	5	4	1	9	1	1	7	8	1	8	7	12
Bochaganj ..	1	9	5	1	12	4	1	8	4	1	12	2	5
Kaharol ..	2	1	6	2	10	7	3	0	5	2	10	3	4
Birganj ..	1	11	6	2	5	3	1	15	7	2	4	9	4
Khansama ..	2	12	6	3	1	4	4	6	1	3	1	0	7
Phulbari ..	2	0	8	2	3	4	2	0	8	2	3	2	6

(Source—Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Dinajpur, 1934-40).

*N. B.—An anna consisted of 12 pies.

The rates of rent did not alter with the passage of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act of 1950. The rates of rent prevailing in the pre-Independence days were incorporated into subsequent policies regarding rents. However, formulation of new rates was necessary for those lands for which there was no previous fixation; but the new rates according to the provision of the Act, must not exceed the value of the one-tenth of the gross annual produce of the land. Only in respect of this new fixation, the rates, in certain cases, may be found to be higher when compared with the earlier ones. At present, in the district, there is a fixed rates of rent for agricultural lands which is Rs. 3·13 per acre.

Present day
rents for
agricultural land.

But land revenue which the land owners (who are mainly agriculturists) have to pay in recent years, includes not only rent but also certain other cesses, rates and taxes, namely, Education Cess, Local Rate, Development and Relief Tax and Additional Development and Relief Tax. These are realised at 20 per cent., 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively on the amount of the actual rent of the holding. The Additional Development and Relief Tax is levied at 50 paise per acre of land in each holding. Due to imposition of these cesses, rates and taxes at the rate of certain percentages on the actual rent the burden on the land owners (including agriculturists) has increased to some extent compared to the charges paid by them prior to acquisition of all rent-receiving interests by Government. But this increased charge falls far below the rate of rent assessable under the provisions of the State Acquisition Act which is one-tenth of the value of the gross produce of land at the maximum. The existing rent is a legacy from the *ex*-landlords the rate of which is not uniform for lands of the same class with similar advantages.

Land revenue.

Rationalisation of rents with a view to fixing up fair and equitable rates of rent for different classes of land on the basis of yield, fertility, prices of the produce, location, etc., is the need of the time. The Government have already decided to take up rationalisation of rent during the Revisional Settlement Operations which are at present in progress in the districts of Rajshahi and Dacca.

As regards non-agricultural lands, the rates differ according to location and the purpose for which they are put. At present the following rates exist in the district:

Rents for non-
agricultural land.

	Rate of rent per acre.
1. Urban residential area ...	... Rs.33·00 to 90·00
2. Commercial and industrial area ...	... Rs.250·00

	Rate of rent per acre.
3. Public places	Nishkar.
4. Waste land	Rs.1.50

Prices: 1787.

In the year 1787, the earliest time for which price statistics for the district are available, rice was sold at 3 to 4 maunds per rupee. Prices of agricultural produce showed considerable rise after 1787. Mr. Buchanan Hamilton's contention was that prices had doubled between 1787 and the second decade of the 19th century. It was possible that price levels in the district and even in the countryside were affected by world factors and the high prices ruling during the French Wars.

In the second decade of the 19th century.

In and around the second decade of the 19th century the best quality rice was sold at 36 seers for a rupee, that of coarsest quality 64 seers for a rupee and that of common varieties was selling at 48 to 55 seers for a rupee. Paddy was sold at 3 maunds a rupee or 5 annas a maund. The normal price of gur was Re. 1 and 8 annas a maund, of jute 12 annas a maund, mustard seed 12 to 14 annas a maund. A pair of ordinary plough bullock was priced at 6 rupees and a cow at 3 rupees.

1860.

The next period for which price data are available is 1860. The list of prices of essentials of the year is given below:

- Ordinary rice—35 to 40 seers a rupee.
- Unhusked paddy— $2\frac{3}{4}$ maunds a rupee (6 annas a maund).
- Common pulses—16 seers a rupee.
- Salt—8 seers a rupee.
- Mustard oil— $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers a rupee.
- Sugar—Rs.14 per maund.
- Young strong country bullock—Rs. 16 or Rs. 20 each.

1866.

In 1866 the price of some of the commodities in the district were as follows:

- Wheat—10 seers 6 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (best sort)—10 seers 12 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (common)—14 seers 6 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—7 seers 2 chhatak per rupee.

This shows some rise in the prices over that of 1860.

1870.

In 1870, the prices of wheat and salt registered a slight fall while that of rice went down by more than half. The prices of the year are given below:

- Wheat—12 seers 8 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (best sort)—23 seers 8 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (common)—29 seers 5 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—7 seers 7 chhatak per rupee.

Gur was 3 to 5 rupees a maund; and small plough oxen 12 to 16 rupees a pair.

Four years later in 1874, which was termed as the famine year, the price level registered a rise. Compared to 1870 level there was a slight rise in the price of wheat and that of rice was doubled, but all the prices were still lower than those in 1866. The prices for 1874 are given below: 1874, the famine year.

- Wheat—11 seers 7 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (best sort)—11 seers 12 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (common)—15 seers 4 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—7 seers 5 chhatak per rupee.

After 1874 prices did not return to the earlier lower-level. Four years later in 1878 there was little change in prices as are given below: 1878.

- Wheat—10 seers 12 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (best sort)—11 seers 12 chhatak per rupee.
- Rice (common)—15 seers 3 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—8 seers per rupee.

During the following 30 years prices did not change much, but in 1909 there was a sharp rise in prices excepting that of salt. The price of salt which began to decline from the beginning of the 20th century reduced by half in 1909 compared to that in 1878. The prices for the year 1909 in the Sadar subdivision are given below: 1909.

- Wheat—8 seers per rupee.
- Rice—8 seers 5 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—16 seers per rupee.

After 1909, prices began to fall and this continued up to the beginning of the First World War in 1914. After the war, as a natural consequence of inflation prices began to shoot up. 1914.

In 1920, the prices in the Sadar subdivision of the district were as below: 1920.

- Rice—6 seers 14 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—10 seers per rupee.

This rise in prices continued up to 1925. Consistent with the fall in the world prices, prices in 1930 declined but did not decrease much in the district as are given below: 1930.

- Rice (medium)—12 seers per rupee.
- Rice (coarse)—13 seers 3 chhatak per rupee.
- Salt—16 seers per rupee.

1940. There was little changes in prices up to 1935, but in 1940 with the beginning of the Second World War, prices again began to rise and increased further in subsequent years as will be seen below:

Rice (average)—6 seers 12 chhatak per rupee.

Rice (coarse)—7 seers 8 chhatak per rupee.

Salt—10 seers 8 chhatak per rupee.

1947. Prices increased further by 1947 when they were as follows:

Rice (common)—2 seers 4 chhatak per rupee.

Rice (coarse)—2 seers 7 chhatak per rupee.

Salt—3 seers 9 chhatak per rupee.

1950. Prices in 1950:

Rice (common)—2 seers 14 chhatak per rupee.

Salt—4 seers per rupee.

1960. Ten years later, there was considerable increase in the prices of all commodities, as is shown below:

			Per maund.
			Rs.
Rice (fine quality)	..	..	26.25
Rice (medium)	..	..	25.25
Wheat	..	..	17.12
Atta	..	..	19.62
Jute (best quality)	..	..	55.00
Jute (inferior quality)	..	..	49.00
Tobacco (Jati)	..	..	168.00
Tobacco (Motihari)	..	..	154.00
Milk (cow)	..	..	28.00
Ghee	..	..	280.00
Beef	..	..	50.00
Mutton	..	..	103.00
Mustard oil (local)	..	..	113.00
Mustard oil (Karachi)	..	..	93.25
Salt (fine)	..	..	7.50
Salt (coarse)	..	..	5.00
Cocconut oil (imported)	..	..	108.00
Cocconut oil (local)	..	..	120.00
Sugar	..	..	53.75
Gur (cane)	..	..	25.00

1965. There was further increase in prices in 1965:

			Per maund.
			Rs.
Rice (fine quality)	..	..	30.25
Rice (medium)	..	..	28.84
Rice (coarse)	..	..	26.98

				Per maund Rs.
Mustard oil (local)	..	..	..	151·54
Mustard oil (Karachi)	..	..	..	125·25
Sugar	..	..	..	83·00
Gur (cane)	..	..	..	37·18
Tobacco (Motihari)	..	..	..	164·44
Beef	..	..	..	70·00
Mutton	..	..	..	126·66
Milk (cow)	..	..	..	30·00

Mr. F.W. Strong writing in the District Gazetteers of Dinajpur in 1912 commented about the effects of continued rise in prices in the words: "This rise in prices does not affect the cultivating classes, who except, on the rare occasions of a failure of the crops, can grow more than sufficient to supply their own needs, while the good market for their surplus produce makes for their prosperity. To these a year of comparatively short out-turn with high prices is almost as welcome as one of large out-turn with low prices. Landless labourers also share in this prosperity as work is abundant. It is otherwise with the non-agricultural middle classes, generally known as *bhadralok*, from whose ranks the professions and the Government services are recruited. Notwithstanding higher salaries and improved prospects these are steadily deteriorating in prosperity and the complaint is general amongst them that they are worse than their fathers were, on half their income." Effects of price rise.

More than half a century has elapsed since this was written. What seemed to be true in the early part of second decade of the present century cannot be a whole truth in the late 1960's. Economic conditions must have changed over years. Prices have increased manifold. The price of rice, for example, which was 15 to 16 maunds a rupee, now sells at an average price of Rs.38 per maund indicating an increase of 14 to 15 times. Similar price increase has occurred in other agricultural produce too. While the rise in agricultural produce is a measure of the extra cash available to the cultivator, the true measure of his relative wealth is the ratio of the prices of articles he sells to those he buys. The latter consists of clothing, oil, salt, utensils and cattle and the demand from the State in the form of rent, cesses, and union council taxes. The prices of these products have shot up to an unprecedented level. As regards clothing, oil, and utensils, price comparisons would be fallacious, for many lines are now available which were wholly unknown a century ago. Cloth is now mill made and thread is of artificial chemical fibre and different styles are worn. Kerosine is new

and gas is a newer product, and enamelware utensils are replacing bell metal, or the products of local potters. Though rent is said to exist at the earlier rates, additions to land revenue in the form of taxes and cesses have been made and newer taxes have been imposed by the union councils.

Among other factors affecting the economic condition of the cultivators, the number of population has increased many times with its consequent pressure on land and rise in demand for food stuff. The agricultural holdings are subdivided and fragmented. Cultivation is done mainly on subsistence basis and there is little surplus of agricultural produce to be sold out by farmers and to earn an income. The cultivator in general, does not possess sufficient purchasing power to meet all his needs which is now larger than before; and in some cases to buy their subsistence for which he resorts to borrowing.

What Mr. Strong said about non-agricultural middle classes probably holds good today. Though salaries have increased, the increase has not been in proportion to that in prices and cost of living, which is now many times higher than at any other previous period.

Wages.

In the early parts of the present century, the demand for labourers in the district was stated to be great and the rate of wages very high. This was due to two factors. The cultivable area of the district was large as compared with the population and the prices of agricultural produce had risen to such an extent that agriculture had become a very profitable occupation. It paid the cultivators to take up large holdings and cultivate them in the main by hired labour. A significant aspects of the time was the immigrant labourers consisting mainly the gangs of up-country coolies who used to come to the distirct during the winter to harvest the rice-crop. These labourers were stated to be paid at the exceptional rate of 8 annas a day and food during the harvesting of winter-rice. The ordinary agricultural labourer also was by no means ill off. His wages all the year round worked out at something like Rs.5 a month *plus* his food as compared with Rs.2 a month and food in 1870. The ordinary cooly, who used to find employment at railway stations and in doing odd jobs in towns got 6 annas a day. The artisan class was also benefited by the rise in wages and the common carpenters and masons used to get 10 to 12 annas a day as compared with half this amount 30 or 40 years ago. During this time carters were a numerous class in the district. Generally they used to own carts and bullocks and earn Re.1 to Re.1 and 4

annas a day for cart hire. When the carter, however, was only a hired man who used to drive his employer's cart he used to get Rs.6 to Rs.7 a month plus his food.

The daily wages of different types of labourers in the district during the ten years from 1903 to 1912 are given below:

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Superior mason ..	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Common mason ..	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Superior carpenter ..	0 10 0	0 12 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	1 0 0
Common carpenter ..	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 12 0
Cooly ..	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Women ..	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 6 0	0 3 6	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Boy ..	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 4 0
Ghatami ..	0 6 6	0 6 6	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
Superior blacksmith ..	0 12 0	0 12 0	1 0 0	1 4 0	1 4 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
Common blacksmith ..	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
						0 10 0	0 11 6	0 11 6	0 11 6	0 12 0

[Source: Bengal District Gazetteer, B-Volume, Dinaipur District Statistics (1900-01 to 1910-11).]

**Characteristics
of agricultural
labour and wages.**

The demand for agricultural labour is highly seasonal. The busiest months of the agricultural year are from *Baisakh* to *Bhadra* of the Bengali year when agricultural labour is in great demand. In the thirties of the present century, at this time of the year, in the east of the district, three men could be hired for a day for one rupee *plus* their food. The big *jotedars* who cultivated 100 bighas under their management employed a number of men for the four or five busy months at Rs.4 to Rs.6 a month together with food. The food sometimes was supplied and cooked by the *jotedar*, but was more likely to be given in a lump payment of a maund of paddy a month. The men who used to work throughout the year got Rs.6 a month *plus* 1½ maunds of unhusked paddy. The temporary hands used to get 4 annas a day, with a seer of rice and 2 pice. Yearly wages used to vary from Rs.30 to Rs.45 with same fooding allowance as was paid to those paid monthly. Even where the contract was for a year, the wages were likely to be paid monthly, or at convenient intervals when there was cash in hand. Occasionally labourers used to live in the homestead of their employers and got cold-weather clothing in addition to the usual cash and grain payments, but it was more usual for the labour, even when paid by the year; to live in his own homestead, with his family in a neighbouring cottage. Wages tended to be higher in the east of the district than in the poor thinly populated west.

Harvesting and threshing was often paid at piece rate. A local man used to cut paddy receiving in payment 3 or 4 *katas* out of every 20 *katas* which he had cut. Threshing was used to be done at so much per *paun*. A feature of this district at the time, was the large number of Hindustani immigrants coming to work in the harvest season. The immigrant labourers used to do not only agricultural work, but also many miscellaneous, rough and unskilled jobs, *e.g.*, earthwork *ails* for sugarcane fields, working in rice mills, etc.

The situation is much different in the late 1960's. Though the coming of the up-country coolies has ceased soon after Independence, a large number of *muhajirs* have settled in the district many of whom have taken up agriculture. (According to 1951 census, the number of *muhajirs* in the district was 74,379 of which 11,650 were agricultural and 10,888 non-agricultural labourers). Pressure on land has now increased.

Wages in 1967.

During harvesting time from *Poush* to *Magh* (Bengali year) an agricultural labourer now earns Rs.1.50 per day with free supply of food three times including cold rice in the morning.

During *Falgun* (i.e., for cultivation of jute and its weeding) up to *Bhadra* (i.e., for sowing and seeding of the paddy) the rate of wages is the same as that of harvesting time but without food.

Some landowners keep domestic servants throughout the year who do domestic works of their masters as well as are engaged in jute and paddy cultivation. Their pay varies according to their efficiency from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 annually with four *lungees*, two *gamchas*, two *genjees* and two shirts of which two sets are given in two *I'd* festivals.

In the urban areas a brick-layer gets Rs. 4.00 to 5.00 per day without food. But this job is not available always. A rickshaw puller earns Rs. 3.00 to Rs. 4.00 out of which he has to pay Rs. 2.00 to the owner. Generally, the owners of push-carts and bullock carts are the drivers of their own carts. A push-cart driver earns Rs. 4.00 to Rs. 5.00 per day when he does not own the cart. Bullock carts are very much in use in the district for movement of jute and sugarcane.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATION

It does not appear that the Hindu rulers (with few exceptions), Old-time roads. who probably travelled mostly by boat or on elephants, ever troubled themselves much about making roads. In the days of Muslim rule the district was fairly well provided with roads. One of these roads, ran from Ghoraghat to Damdama (In India). It is said to have been a fine road and to have formed the basis of the District Board road from Ghoraghat to Hili. After the decline of the Muslim power, the roads made by them were allowed to go to ruin. In Major Rennell's map and in his list of the roads published in 1777 and 1781 respectively, a large number of roads were shown as leading from Dinajpur town to various places. They were said to have been fine broad roads, but were totally unbridged and probably most of them more or less impassable during the rainy season.

As a consequence of the lack of roads for commerce, this was mostly carried on by boats in the rains. At this season there used to be considerable export of rice outside the district by means of large country boats, while small boats of all kinds plied along the streams and khals between the big bazars and the villages in the interior. In the dry season such trade as existed was carried by pack—bullocks over fair—weather tracts through the fields straight across country. Carts were non-existent except in Dinajpur town and only plied along its vicinity or along the high roads leading to the headquarters stations of the neighbouring districts. The land holders through whose lands these roads ran were bound to provide ferries for the use of the public.

There were three branch roads, leading from Dinajpur to Rajshahi, Rangpur and Bogra, which were kept in repair by the Ferry Fund, and were average fair-weather roads. It was of great utility in opening up the communication with Bogra. The partition ridges of earth, raised between the rice-fields were often the only means of communicating with the neighbouring villages. In these parts, carts were unknown, and the only means of transporting baggage across country was on elephants; and this was rendered difficult by the numerous beels, water-cuts, rivers, and ditches, which were everywhere encountered. The remains of a high road from Rajshahi to Ghoraghat, called *jangal* could still be traced in many places, but is now overgrown with jungles, totally obliterated in some places, and in total disuse.

There was another road leading from Dinajpur to Purneah (now in India). In the north of the district, all the thanas were connected by moderately good fair weather roads.

District Board Roads.

In 1909-10, the total mileage of roads maintained by the then District Board was 933. Besides these, there was a considerable mileage of village roads, more or less practicable for carts in the cold weather and which at all seasons afforded a means to pedestrians of getting about. These were repaired from time to time either by some zamindar or large tenure holder, or at the cost of the District Board, if the repairs were considered as urgently necessary and a little money was available. None of the roads in the district with the exception of a few miles in Dinajpur town, Parbatipur, and Phulbari, and a small portion of the Hili road was metalled and it could scarcely be said that they were kept in a good state of repair. Most of them were fairly well provided with bridges of a permanent nature, though this improvement was only effected in the beginning of twentieth century.

Present District Council Roads.

By April, 1970, the District Council had under its control and maintenance a total of 575 miles of roads of which 55 miles were metalled and 520 miles unmetalled. A statement of the roads having a distance of 10 miles or more is given below:

Name of the road.	Length of road (miles)	Important places, the road connects.
1. Dinajpur-Parbatipur Road	17 (Metalled)	Kotwali, Chirirbandar and Parbatipur P. Ss.
2. Thakurgaon-Atwari Road	18.12 (Unmetalled)	Thakurgaon and Atwari P. Ss.
3. Dinajpur-Pulhat-Hili Road	14.50 (Unmetalled)	Kotwali, Chirirbandar, Phulbari and Hakimpur P. Ss.
4. Dinajpur-Nekkarhat Road	26 (Unmetalled)	Kotwali and Birol P.Ss.
5. Dinajpur-Dungdungi Road	10.50 (Unmetalled)	Kotwali and Birol P.Ss.
6. Pulhat-Borogram Road	10 (Unmetalled)	.....
7. Thakurgaon-Pirganj Road	14 (5 metalled, 9 unmetalled)	Thakurgaon and Pirganj P. Ss.
8. Dhukurjhari-Bhadreswari	31 (18 metalled, 13 unmetalled)	Birol, Bochaganj Pirganj and Ranishankail P. Ss.
9. Nashipur-Khansama Road	14.50 (Unmetalled)	Kotwali, Kaharole, Birganj and Khansama P.Ss.

Name of the road.	Length of road (miles).	Important places the road connects.
10. Sotapir-Biswanathpur Road	19·25 (Unmetalled)	Phulbari, Hakimpur, Nawabganj and Ghoraghat P. Ss.
11. Kathaldangi-Tareya Road ..	37 (Unmetalled)	Ranishankail, Baliadangi and Atwari P. Ss.
12. Ranishankail-Haripur Road	10 (Unmetalled)	Haripur and Ranishankail P. Ss.
13. Thakurgaon-Chandipur Road	20 (1 metalled and 19 unmetalled)	Thakurgaon, Birganj and Khansama P. Ss.
14. Phulbari-Krishtapur Road	12·50 (Unmetalled)	Phulbari and Nawabganj P. Ss.
15. Birampur-Jantipurghat Road	11·12 (Unmetalled)	Birampur.
16. Hili-Ghoraghat Road ..	20·12 (0·50 metalled and 19·62 unmetalled).	Hakimpur and Ghoraghat P. Ss.
17. Chintamon-Phulbari Road	12·50 (Unmetalled)	Chintamon and Phulbari.
18. Dhukurjhari-Birganj ...	14·63 (Unmetalled)	Atwari and Thakurgaon P. Ss.
19. Shibganj-Ruheha Road ..	10 (Unmetalled)	Atwari and Thakurgaon P. Ss.
20. Bochaganj-Bigunbari Road	12·75 (Unmetalled)	Bochaganj and Birganj, P. Ss.
21. Bhusirbandar-Angarpara Road.	11 (Unmetalled)	Chirirbandar and Khansama P. Ss.
22. Central Emigration Road ..	12·50 (1 metalled, 11·50 unmetalled).	....
23. Tetulia-Shiliguri Road ..	11·50 (Unmetalled)	Tetulia P. S.
24. Bhajanpur-Debiganj Road	18·25 (Unmetalled)	Tetulia, Panchagarh and Debiganj P. Ss.
25. Boda-Domar Road ..	14 (Unmetalled)	Boda P. S., Domar.

There are 22 country boat ferries maintained by the District Council.

Important roads. A list of principal roads in the district under the control and maintenance of the Roads and Highways Directorate of the Government of Bangladesh is given below:

Name of the road.	Total.	Metalled.	Unmetalled.
1. Dinajpur-Phulbari Road ..	25.75	25.75	..
2. Dinajpur-Border Road ..	7.00	4.50	2.50
3. North Bengal Highway ..	18.00	18.00	..
4. Rangpur-Saidpur-Dharagarh Road (Saidpur-Beldanga portion).	15.00	15.00	..
5. Rangpur-Saidpur-Dharagarh Road (Dharagarh portion).	39.00	..	39.00
6. Birganj-Darwari Road ..	15.00	..	15.00
7. Birganj-Panchagarh Road ..	40.00	40.00	..
8. Thakurgaon-Station Road ..	3.75	3.75	..
9. Panchagarh-Goalpara Road ..	6.00	6.00	..
10. Ruhea-Goalpara Road ..	12.00	12.00	..
11. Pachagarh-Tetulia Road ..	26.00	20.00	6.00
Total mileage in the district ..	207.50	145.00	62.50

Vehicles and Conveyances.

Cart has been and still remains the chief means of transport in this district. It carries men as well as commodities and agricultural produce. Not long ago, a roomy, well furnished covered cart drawn by big bullocks used to be a status symbol in Dinajpur and one may still find some of them with big landowners. Motor buses and trucks also ply along fixed routes carrying passengers and goods from one place to another. Cycles, cycle-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws also constitute important means of conveyance for the people. As the rivers are few in number and not navigable all the year round, boats are not much in use, though goods are carried by them in the rainy season.

A statement of total number of different vehicles* that existed in the district as on 31st December, 1967 is given below :

1. Bus—			
	(a) Petrol	..	56
	(b) Diesel	..	5
	Total	..	61
2. Trucks—			
	(a) Petrol	..	151
	(b) Diesel	..	37
	Total	..	188
3.	Taxi	.. ..	16
4.	Private motor car	.. ..	43
5.	Jeep	.. ..	145
6.	Auto-rickshaw	.. ..	2
7.	Motor-cycle	.. ..	505
8.	Others	.. ..	73

A list of Dakbungalow and Inspection Bungalow together with their name, location, accommodation and name of their controlling authorities is given below :

Name and location.	Accommodation.	Name of the controlling authority.
1. Thakurgaon Inspection Bungalow at the 18th mile of Birganj-Panchagarh Road.	2 rooms	Dinajpur Road Division of the Roads and Highways Directorate.
2. Panchagarh Inspection Bungalow, at the 1st. mile of Panchagarh-Tetulia Road.	Ditto	Ditto.
3. Tetulia Inspection Bungalow, at the 26th mile of Panchagarh-Tetulia Road.	Ditto	Ditto.
4. Bhatgaon Inspection Bungalow, at the 14th mile of North Rengal Highway.	Ditto	Ditto.
5. Phulbari Inspection Bungalow, Phulbari, Dinajpur.	Ditto	Ditto.
6. Dinajpur Sadar Dakbungalow, Dinajpur Town, Dinajpur.	12 rooms, two-seated each.	District Council, Dinajpur.
7. Birganj Inspection Bungalow, Birganj, Dinajpur.	2 rooms, single-seated each.	Ditto.
8. Parbatipur Inspection Bungalow, Parbatipur, Dinajpur.	Ditto	Ditto.

“Statistical Digest of East Pakistan (No. 5, 1968.)”

Name and location.	Accommodation.	Name of the controlling authority.
9. Kaharole Inspection Bungalow, Kaharole, Dinajpur.	2 rooms, single-seated each.	District Council, Dinajpur.
10. Khansama Inspection Bungalow, Khansama, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
11. Birampur Inspection Bungalow, Birampur, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
12. Hili Inspection Bungalow, Hili, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
13. Bhaduria Inspection Bungalow, Bhadura, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
14. Nawabganj Inspection Bungalow, Nawabganj, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
15. Ghoraghat Inspection Bungalow, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur.	Two single-seated rooms.	Ditto.
16. Chintamon Inspection Bungalow, Chintamon, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
17. Thakurgaon Rest House, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur.	4 rooms, single seated each.	Ditto.
18. Mokdighi Inspection Bungalow, Mokdighi, Dinajpur.	2 rooms, single-seated each.	Ditto.
19. Bochaganj Inspection Bungalow, Bochaganj, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
20. Ruhea Inspection Bungalow, Ruhea, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
21. Lahiri Inspection Bungalow, Lahiri, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
22. Pirganj Inspection Bungalow, Pirganj, Dinajpur.	Ditto	Ditto
23. Haripur Inspection Bungalow ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
24. Ranishankail Inspection Bungalow, Ranishankail, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
25. Nekkord Inspection Bungalow, Nekkord, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
26. Boda Inspection Bungalow, Boda, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
27. Debiganj, Inspection Bungalow, Debiganj, Dinajpur.	Ditto ...	Ditto.

The district is served by Bangladesh Railways. The broad gauge main line runs north and south through the area lying in the east of the district between Hili and North Parbatipur. It was first opened to traffic on a metre gauge line in 1877, forming a part of the Northern Bengal State Railway, which was constructed as a famine relief measure. As a consequence to the construction of the Hardinge Bridge over the Lower Ganges (Padma) the Metre Gauge line between Shakole (near Sara) and Santahar was converted to broad gauge in 1914 and subsequently this conversion was extended up to Parbatipur in July, 1924.

A meter gauge single line branches off from Parbatipur to wards the east to Lalmonirhat *via* Rangpur, and another towards the West to Biral *via* Dinajpur. These branch lines were also constructed as famine relief measure by the same Northern Bengal State Railway and opened for traffic in 1878 and 1884 respectively. The Dinajpur-Ruheha section was opened in 1928. In 1965 altogether there were 110 miles of railway lines in the district of Dinajpur.

The total mileage of railways in the district with names of main stations on the lines are given below:

Name of the station.	Length of railways.		Name of the main stations on the line, in the district.
	Broad Gauge.	Metre Gauge.	
Santahar-Parbatipur line (main-line).	27·59	...	Hili, Dangapara, Charkai, Phulbari, Bhawanipur, Parbatipur, Parbatipur North.
Parbatipur-Birol Line (branch line).	30·03	...	Manmathapur, Chirirbandar, Kaugaon, Dinajpur, Kanchon, Birol.
Dinajpur-Ruheha Line	47·50	...	Bajnahar, Mungalpur, Mollapara, Setabganj, Pirganj, Bhomradaha, Shibganj, Thakurgaon Road, Akhanagar, Ruheha.
Parbatipur-Lalmonirhat (branch-line).	5·00	...	Kholahati.

**Water
Communication.**

At one time, bulk of the commerce of the district was carried by means of the rivers and *khals* during the rainy season and a considerable export of grain used to take place by river routes. The Atrai has in recent times silted up, and is now only navigable for country boats of any size during the height of the rainy season, and even then for a comparatively short distance up stream. This silting up of the Atrai began since the earthquake of 1897 and there is reason to suppose that the level of portion of its bed must have been raised then.

Canals.

There were only two navigable canals in the district. Of these, the Malijal was a canal some 6 or 7 miles long connecting the Atrai and the Dhepa a little above Birganj. It is said to have been originally constructed by Muslim Chief, Sadat Ali, and to have carried a considerable volume of water, till in 1786-87 the Tista, which originally flowed down the channels of the Karatoya and Atrai, changed its course and made its way in a more easterly direction into the Brahmaputra. Since that time there has been comparatively little water in this canal, though without its help the Dhepa would be a much smaller river than it is. Another canal worthy of mention is the Ramdhara, which Raja Ramnath constructed to connect his country-seat of Govindanagar and Prannagar, so that the transport of the family idols from one place to the other might be facilitated. This is now no longer navigable, except perhaps for small boats in the height of the rains. In and near the town of Dinajpur, were several canals dug for drainage purposes. The principal of these is the Ghagra constructed by Raja Ramnath to connect the Gabura, a small branch of the Atrai, and the Kachai stream. The united streams of the Ghagra and the Kachai after their junction on the east of the town were called the Ghagra and flowed into the Punarbhaba at a point southwest of the present maidan in Dinajpur town. In 1878 this outlet into the Punarbhaba was blocked up, and a fresh channel was cut for the Ghagra which finally joined the Punarbhaba at Ghugudanga, six miles south of the town. The object was to prevent the water of the Ghagra being held up by the river when the latter was in flood and flowing into the town. This so-called canal is now little better than a ditch and is not navigable.

Boats.

The inhabitants of Dinajpur have little natural aptitude for boating, and amongst them the instinctive water-manship which seems to be born in the people of the district further east, is unknown. As might be expected, their boats are somewhat clumsy and primitive. To begin with, we have the *donga* or small dugout, a cranky little craft chiefly used by fishermen.

Next in size are the *saranga* or full sized dugout, the boat in general, is used for all purposes. This is sometimes enlarged by side planks and roofed with bamboo matting and is used for carrying passengers and cargo. These dugouts are made of *simul* and *jarul* trees and are the only boats made in the district. A somewhat larger boats generally used for fishing is the *dinghi*, also known as *naotakhta*, as being made with nine planks on each side. The boat most generally used for carrying passengers and cargo is the *kosha*. It is a plank built boat long and narrow in shape and has a certain grace and symmetry of its own. It is made in various sizes and constructed to carry between 20 and 50 maunds of cargo while the larger size called *hat kosha* carries up to 200 maunds.

The district was connected with Dacca by air service, **Air Service.** which ran between Thakurgaon and Dacca. The PIA operated three flights in a week between these two places.

In 1861-62, the earliest year for which statistics are available, **Postal Services.** the number of letters, parcels, books, etc., carried by the post offices was 63,028. In 1870-71 this number increased to 1,57,701. In 1862, a tax called the Zamindari *Dak* Cess was introduced. This was for the maintenance of *Dak* runners for the conveyance of papers, letters, packets, etc., between the thana headquarters and the district and subdivisional offices. This continued to be levied from the zamindars till 1906, when it was finally abolished and the work taken over by the postal department. The number of postal articles delivered in 1909-10 was 16,83,448. The number of post office savings bank deposits in 1909-10 was 4,895 and the amount deposited was Rs.63,300. The value of the money-orders issued in the same year was Rs.20,81,000 and of those paid Rs.6,79,000.

According to the Census Report (1961), there were one head office, 110 branch offices and 32 sub-offices in the district. Of the total number of sub-offices, 10 were combined offices where both post and telegraph services were offered.

Telephone exchanges exist at Dinajpur, Phulbari, Panchagarh, **Telephone Service and Public Call Offices.** Parbatipur, Setabganj and Thakurgaon. In 1967, there were 298 main telephone lines and 110 extension lines.

To make telephone services available to the people of the district at large, a number of public call offices have been opened. There are, at present, 19 public call offices situated all over the district. A list of these public call offices with the

names of their parent exchange offices to which they belong is given below:

Public Call Offices.		Parent Exchanges Offices.	
1. Atwari	Thakurgaon.
2. Baliadanga	Do.
3. Chagaras	Do.
4. Ruhea	Do.
5. Thakurgaon	Do.
6. Birampur	Phulbari.
7. Phulbari	Do.
8. Birol	Dinajpur.
9. Birganj	Do.
10. Chirir Bandar	Do.
11. Dinajpur	Do.
12. Kaharole	Do.
13. Rajganj	Do.
14. Haripur	Setabganj.
15. Pirganj	Do.
16. Ranisankail	Do.
17. Setabganj	Do.
18. Panchagarh	Panchagarh.
19. Tetulia	Do.

CHAPTER VIII

INDUSTRIES, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Dinajpur is primarily an agricultural district and has not made great strides in industry. The Cottage industries, such as silk weaving, preparation of metal articles, and cloth weaving hardly exist in this district. Handloom weaving is found in a few villages. There are weavers at Ranibandar, north of Chiribandar, but their output is small. An indication of general apathy of the people towards industry can be realised from the fact that even pots for *gur* and ordinary household purposes and cart wheels are made by seasonal tradesmen visiting this district from outside. The weaving of cotton and *gur* making industries were decaying till the time of Partition in 1947.

Introduction,

There are a few industries based on agriculture. Those engaged in these industrial pursuits are paddy huskers and pounders, who are mostly women; earth cutters; fishermen and fish dealers; grain and pulse dealers; and grain parchers. There are basket and mat makers, cotton weavers, jute spinners and jute weavers and potters. Besides rice husking, women take an important share in basket and mat making, grain dealing and parching, and *gur* making.

A few agriculture based industries.

Large scale manufacturing industry was practically non-existent. From the beginning of the second decade of the present century till Partition of the Sub-continent in 1947, the rate of industrial progress in the district had not been significant. Within the meaning of the Factories Act, there was only one factory, a Jute press at Raiganj, worked by power. The number of workers was between 50 and 100. There was a small jute press at Khansama. There were two oil processing plants, one at Pulhat in Dinajpur town and the other at Parbatipur, employing some 10 and 30 hands respectively. There were a few other oil mills. A candle and pencil factory was started at Dinajpur. The candles were of inferior quality. The number of rice mills working now in Dinajpur is 110. These are mostly found by the side of railway stations, Hili has 14. Before Partition, Marwari proprietors predominated. Most of these mills were small plants, employing 30 to 60 labourers when in full work and producing 20,000 to 30,000 maunds of rice a year in Pre-partition period. Work is seasonal from December to June, but the season and the output vary with the local crop of the year. In the past, Hindustanis and locally domiciled "Bunas" or Santhal coolies pre-dominated among the labour force. But in the Ruhea area local Bengalis were employed in good number.

Slow rate of industrial progress.

Old time industries.

To appreciate the reasons for industrial backwardness of Dinajpur, one has to view it in the perspective of the past. Mr. Buchanan Hamilton's account of industries during the thirties of the 19th century will give us a fair and comparative idea in this respect. Its gist is given below.

Manufacture of cane and bamboo products, of cloth, sugar and indigo, of oil products, milk products, tobacco and alcoholic products and of metal products, paper making, ornament making, leather work, carpentry, pottery, blacksmithy, bricks and tile making were kinds of local industries, which engaged people including women in some cases. Ornaments like rings, made of shellac were made by the Hindus. The Shankaries made bracelets and *churies* of conch-shell. Garlands, and artificial flowers or ornaments made of jute cork (sola) were made by malakars. There were 200 Shankari families and 300 Malakar families in these trades. *Jhuri, dali, kula, chaloni, Pinjora, Jharu, mat, and umbrella sticks* were bamboo or cane products made by artisans, consisting of 1,000 to 1,200 families in the district.

In leather work, *muchies* and *chamors* mostly of low class Hindus, and tanners and saddlers were engaged. Others made shoes and leather suit-cases.

Some specialised workers prepared tobacco for pipes. Another class of low caste Hindus prepared spirituous liquors. In Ranishankail area oil was produced and part of it was exported.

In carpentry, a good number of persons such as joiners, cabinet makers, carvers of all kinds, produced durable wooden goods. Ordinary workers made agricultural implements. Carpenters who made houses, wooden doors, shutters, posts and beams, palanquin, *khat*, chair, spinning-wheels, wooden sandals and (*kharam*) ploughs were well off.

Indigo and paper making industry disappeared later. It is interesting to note that the pattern of local industry has not changed much through the years.

Large scale industries.

An account of large-scale industries, existing now in the district is given below.

Power.

In power industry, there are only two units : the Dinajpur Electric Supply, managed by the BWAPDA and M. Gausia, Electric Supply at Parbatipur, a private company. The Railways have their own electrical system for Railway premises. The *Setabganj* and the *Thakurgaon* sugar mill premises are electrified by their own electric dynamos..

The Setabganj Sugar Mills Ltd., a private limited company **Sugar Mills.** was established in 1933-34. The mill is the oldest of its kind in the district. The annual capacity of the mill on an average for the last ten years varies from 6,000 to 7,000 tons as against the anticipated 10,200 tons a year. The products are sugar and molasses. The actual output during 1965-66 was 6,390 tons, the annual average for the previous four years being 7,100 tons. For the manufacture of sugar, raw materials, described below are used. These are partly procured locally and partly imported.

The kind and quantity of raw materials consumed in the mill in 1965-66 are stated below :

Items of raw materials.	Quantity used in 1965-66.
Sugarcane	19,85,000 maunds.
Sulphur	1,661 maunds.
Lime	3,687 maunds.
Caustic Soda	4,500 lbs.
Soda Washing	1,385 lbs.
Filter Cloth	1,751 yds.
Gunny Bags	64,080 pieces.

The sugar produced is partly sold in open market and partly distributed through the Government. There are 87 skilled labourers and 574 unskilled labourers with 407 other staff. 76 per cent. of the workers are inhabitants of the district and 24 per cent. are from outside.

The Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Ltd., is a public company under the managing agency of the B.I.D.C. It was started in the year 1958 with a production capacity of 10,000 tons per annum. In 1965 the capacity of the mill was raised to 15,000 tons per annum. Sugar is a principal product of the mill and molasses is the by-product. The output during the year 1965-66 was 11,809 tons which was less than the capacity production. The annual average output of the previous four years slightly exceeded this quantity. The market of its products is confined to the districts of Bangladesh and export outside the country is nil. The mill has 450 skilled labourers, 500 unskilled labourers and 450 permanent employees. 80 per cent. of the workers in the mill are inhabitants of the district and the rest 20 per cent. come from outside the district.

The raw materials consumption of the mill during 1965-66 was 1,51,297 tons. The annual average of the previous four years is almost the same.

The Panchagarh Sugar Mill at Panchagarh, is under construction. It is a BIDC sponsored project.

Small Industries. In the following table, an account of small industries of the district as revealed in the survey of Small Industries conducted by the BSIC in 1962-63 is presented. Those establishments reported working in the year 1961 were included and the other information in the table also is for the same year. The data is presented under 8 broad groups of industries. The table presents both group-wise and industry-wise statistics. The figures relating to the district as a whole is given at the end of the table.

Note—For the purpose of this survey "small industry" has been defined as "an industrial establishment or unit which is run mainly by hired labour and not using mechanical motive power for any operation", or, as "an industrial establishment or unit using mechanical motive power but does not normally employ more than 50 workmen and whose land, building and machinery do not exceed Rs.2,50,000 in value in either cases".

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry.	No. of unit.	Value of fixed Investment in rupees.	Value of Investment in Machinery in rupees.	Value of persons employed.	Value of raw materials consumed in rupees.	Value of goods produced in rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(a) Agricultural and Food Products.							
1	Rice Mill	110	45,61,706	21,41,081	1,712	3,27,91,234	38,19,224
2	Other Grain Mill	38	23,31,606	12,22,882	433	94,32,071	1,14,66,535
3	Dal Mill	9	4,25,082	1,82,700	96	9,19,749	11,36,912
4	Ice Factory	2	39,406	30,346	15	2,745	23,500
5	Bakery	36	1,14,064	15,730	331	5,38,846	7,86,925
6	Confectionery	1	180	100	9	9,850	13,100
7	Flour Mill	5	1,19,405	65,650	37	2,06,261	2,80,154
8	Jute Baling	13	1,83,600	4,85,008	259	33,81,218	43,94,963
9	Sweet-meat	19	31,165	..	122	2,44,865	3,44,426
	Class Total	233	78,06,214	37,06,989	3,014	4,75,25,939	5,67,65,738
(b) Cane, Bamboo and Wood Products.							
10	Wooden furniture	23	83,700	21,360	175	2,16,939	3,13,713
(c) Glass and Ceramics.							
11	Cement Products	1	8,700	Nil.	4	4,660	7,660
(d) Leather, Rubber and Plastic Products.							
12	Foot wear	12	91,670	5,870	56	87,750	2,12,643
13	Hides and Skins	1	340	Nil	6	4,520	7,000
	Class Total	13	92,010	5,870	62	92,270	2,19,643

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry.	No. of unit.	Value of fixed Investment in rupees.	Value of Investment in Machinery in rupees.	Number of persons employed.	Value of raw materials consumed in rupees.	Value of goods produced in rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(e) Metal Works.							
14	General Engineering	3	2,37,125	1,19,700	72	16,610	42,827
15	Jewellery	17	60,500	7,700	92	2,83,561	4,36,478
16	Printing Press	17	1,60,258	1,33,665	96	60,119	2,04,971
17	Repairing of Rickshaw and Automobiles.	2	2,378	228	8	1,100	6,700
18	Tin container	1	5,500	5,000	8	16,640	46,080
19	Trunk and Suitcase	4	550	200	13	16,740	26,916
	Class Total	44	5,66,311	2,66,493	289	3,94,770	7,63,972
(f) Paper and Paper Products.							
20	Book Binding	4	2,100	185	14	8,938	32,100
(g) Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Cosmetics.							
21	Hair Oil	1	30,000		9	7,428	28,254
22	Medicine	2	1,56,775	95,650	36	63,815	1,24,658
23	Perfumery	1	5,550		9	15,000	36,000
24	Soap Factory	5	85,736	2,775	70	4,08,447	5,88,530
	Class Total	9	2,78,061	90,425	124	4,94,690	7,77,452
(h) Textile Industries.							
25	Handloom	10	38,074	18,004	108	95,368	1,76,875
26	Readymade Garments	2	1,400	640	13	14,170	19,470
27	Tailoring	32	64,157	29,181	115	10,176	2,28,248
	Class Total	44	1,03,631	47,825	236	1,19,714	4,24,593
	District Total	371	89,40,727	41,47,147	3,918	4,88,57,920	5,93,04,871

Dinajpur district with 371 small industrial units has 0·14 unit per square mile; with 3,918 workers employed (in all the units), the number of worker employed in each unit on an average is 10·5 and the number of worker per 1,000 population in the district is 2·22 only. The value of fixed investment per worker is Rs. 2,285·47; the value of investment in machinery per unit is Rs. 11,178·35 and the value of per unit consumption of raw materials is Rs. 1,31,692·19.

In the group of Agriculture and Food products, 9 types of industries (stated in the above table) have a total of 233 units. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 33,503; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 15,909; that of raw materials consumed is Rs. 2,03,974 and that of goods produced is Rs. 2,43,629. The number of workers employed in each unit of industry on an average is 13.

In the next group the number of wooden furniture industry is 23. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 3,639; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 928; that of raw materials used is Rs. 9,432 and that of goods produced is Rs. 13,640. The number of workers employed in each unit on an average is 7.

In the group of Leather, Rubber and Plastic products, the footwear and the hides and skin industry has a total of 13 units. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 7,077; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 451; that of raw materials consumed is Rs. 7,098 and that of goods produced is Rs. 16,896. The number of workers employed in each unit on an average is 5.

In the group of metal works, the 6 types of industries (stated in the above table) have a total of 44 units. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 12,872; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 6,057; that of raw materials consumed is Rs. 8,972, and that of goods produced is Rs. 17,363. The number of workers employed in each unit on an average is 7.

In the group of Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Cosmetic industries, the 4 types of industries (stated in above table) have a total of 9 units. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 30,896; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 10,936; that of raw materials consumed is Rs. 54,963 and that of goods produced is Rs. 86,272. The number of workers employed in each unit on an average is 14.

In the group of Textiles, the three types of industries (stated in the above table) have a total of 44 units. The average per unit value of fixed investment is Rs. 97,645; that of investment in machinery is Rs. 1,087; that of raw materials consumed is Rs. 2,721 and that of goods produced is Rs. 9,650. The number of workers employed in each unit on an average is 5.

Cottage Industries.

Cottage industry plays a vital role in the rural economy of an agricultural district like Dinajpur where, in the off-season people can normally engage themselves in such work. Traditional handicrafts of national importance and heritage mostly exist as cottage industries. Notable among them are the cottage units producing pottery, handloom products and cane and bamboo products. Both males and females work in cottage industries.

A survey of cottage industries undertaken by the BSIC in 1962 shows that there are 7,987 units of cottage industries in Dinajpur. *Biri* manufacturing (which is now almost non-existent due to want of *Biri* leaf produced in India), and paddy husking at home are not included in this account. Cottage industrial units which were in operation in the year 1962 were included in the survey, while those which were established in the same year and started their production afterwards were excluded. The Survey was conducted under 8 broad sectors and different industries according to their kind of products were included under each sector. The table below presents both industry-wise and sector-wise figures on various heads. The figures relating to the district as a whole, are given at the last line of the table.

Note—For the purpose of this survey, “Cottage Industry” has been defined as “an industry which is carried on wholly or mainly by the members of a family either as a wholetime or as a part-time occupation”.

Type of Industry.	Value of fixed investment (in rupees).		Number of persons engaged.			Value of raw materials consumed (in rupees).	Value of goods produced (in rupees).
	No. of investment units.	3	Hired.	Family worker.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(A) Agriculture and food products.							
1. Bakery ..	99	1,17,546	82	197	279	3,19,600	4,21,520
2. Gur making ..	115	40,278	246	214	460	4,76,760	5,81,960
3. Oil mill (Ghani) ..	2,203	5,51,562	2,621	4,505	7,126	36,65,640	46,55,800
4. Sweetmeat ..	740	5,44,164	641	1,611	2,252	42,25,080	57,65,840
Sector Total ..	3,157	12,53,550	3,590	6,527	10,117	82,87,080	1,14,25,120
(B) Cane, Bamboo and Wood Products.							
1. Bamboo Products ..	1,003	1,23,349	1,197	2,548	3,745	4,97,160	13,44,120
2. Cane products ..	33	8,483	49	66	115	62,480	93,360
3. Other Wood Products ..	82	49,731	49	214	263	2,24,880	3,34,720
4. Wooden furniture ..	214	65,102	216	477	693	10,42,280	12,61,280
Sector Total ..	1,332	2,46,665	1,511	3,305	4,816	18,26,800	30,33,480
(C) Glass and Ceramics.							
1. Pottery ..	543	1,10,674	317	1,233	1,550	4,84,640	9,46,280
(D) Leather, Rubber and Plastic Goods.							
1. Hides and skin curing ..	33	21,372	..	115	115	1,80,840	2,43,320
2. Other leather products ..	49	43,566	17	82	99	1,41,400	1,87,400
Sector Total ..	82	64,938	17	197	214	3,32,240	4,30,720

Type of Industry.	Number of persons engaged.					Value of raw materials consumed (in rupees).	Value of goods produced (in rupees).
	No. of investment units. (in rupees).	Value of fixed investment (in rupees).	Hired.	Family worker.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(E) Metal Works.							
1. Blacksmithy ..	559	1,87,087	600	1,496	2,096	9,03,560	14,21,080
2. Goldsmithy ..	477	2,06,158	300	904	1,204	24,56,120	29,28,280
3. Tin container ..	148	1,16,757	32	247	279	1,55,840	2,80,120
Sector Total ..	1,184	5,10,002	932	2,647	3,579	35,15,520	45,29,480
(F) Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Cosmetics.							
1. Lime ..	16	164	..	32	32	5,280	8,560
2. Ayurvedic medicine ..	16	1,31,520	..	66	66	55,880	1,54,52
Sector Total ..	32	1,31,684	..	98	98	61,160	1,63,080
(G) Textile Industries.							
1. Jute Products ..	112	31,565	..	625	625	1,34,800	2,84,760
2. Printing of cloth ..	16	658	..	16	16	3,960	10,520
3. Ready Made Garments ..	33	18,643	49	33	82	1,54,520	1,90,720
4. Tailoring ..	1,332	8,53,187	2,691	2,302	4,993	44,52,600	59,69,680
Sector Total ..	1,493	9,04,053	2,740	2,976	5,716	47,45,880	64,55,680
(H) Miscellaneous Industries.							
1. Art and printing ..	49	11,508	33	82	115	84,160	1,38,080
2. Doll making ..	49	31,729	..	164	164	32,880	65,120
3. Photo Binding ..	66	7,513	..	132	132	1,38,760	2,042
Sector Total ..	164	50,750	33	378	411	2,55,800	4,07,720
District Total ..	7,987	32,72,316	9,140	17,361	26,501	1,94,99,120	2,74,91,560

Dinajpur district with 7,987 cottage industries has 3·1 units per square mile; with 26,501 workers employed (in all the units), the number of worker employed in each unit on an average is 3·5 and the number of workers per 1,000 population in the district is 15·5. The value of production per worker is Rs.1,037·4 and the value of fixed investment per worker is Rs.123·5.

A brief account of the major local cottage industries is given below.

Description of important Cottage Small Industries.

The number of professional weavers is very small. Few of them are entirely dependent on weaving for their livelihood. A kind of coarse cloth (*phota*), of jute and cotton mixed is manufactured for home consumption. Women of the cultivating classes commonly wear clothes of this type. The professional weavers are both Hindus and Muslims. The principal product is a coarse but lasting cotton cloth, made with imported yarn, little superior to '*phota*' and inferior to imported foreign cloth. There is little demand for such cloth now. The principal weaving centres are at Baliadangi, Chirirbandar and Itahar where cloth of finer quality is woven for use as mosquito net etc. The loom in use is old handloom. No serious attempt has been made to improve the methods of weaving. As agriculture is found to be more lucrative now, people's interest in weaving has declined.

Weaving.

The Swadeshi Movement for the encouragement of indigenous industry was never active in Dinajpur, as the indigenous cloth, was not popular amongst the people.

There are several stages in the process of cotton thread manufacturing, e.g., the women free the cotton from the seed by the usual hand machine and then they beat it with the bow, and spin it with a small wheel that is turned by the hand. All the implements are extremely crude. The preparation of cotton thread is a principal manufacture, and occupies the leisure hours of the majority of the farmer's wives. Before Partition (1947) even the women of the Brahmins employed themselves in this industry.

Cotton thread manufacturing.

The manufacture of *gur* from sugarcane is carried on an extensive scale, almost throughout the district. The crushing of the cane and boiling of the juice to make the *gur* are done by the cultivators themselves. The wooden crushers formerly used for crushing the cane have been entirely given up. Iron crushers are now used for crushing the cane. The cultivators hire them in the crushing season. These are generally 3-roller

Gur manufacturing.

machines. In a few cases 2-roller machines are found in use. A greater quantity of juice can be extracted by the use of the the former. The juice comes to about 60 per cent. of the weight of the cane. The usual practice is for several families to combine to hire a machine together. It reduces the cost and ensures a sufficient supply of cane to keep the machine fully employed. It is worked by a pair of bullocks, walking in circle. The juice is boiled in big shallow iron pans, the refuse of the cane, after it has been squeezed dry, being used as fuel. The finished product is a dark brown, thick kind which is poured into earthen jars, where it is allowed to solidify. Most of the *gur* is consumed locally. This kind of raw sugar is a significant article of diet amongst the people of the district, and is largely consumed in the form of sweetmeats. It is made on a commerial scale in Birganj and Pirganj thanas, and is exported to Faridpur, Dacca and other districts of Bangladesh by boat and to Rajshahi by cart.

Mat and basket making.

The mats and baskets, in general use, all over the district are mostly made by Doms and in some cases by a few Santhals. The kind of matting known as *chatai* used for wall, ceilings, floors of houses, compound fences, boat roof and cart covers is made of lengths of split bamboo woven crosswise. It is cheap and serviceable. Baskets are made of split bamboo. Cane is sometimes used for finer work. It is of many kinds, and very useful as a daily necessity. For different use, different kinds are used such as for carrying earth or manure, fruits and vegetables for washing rice, etc. The finest examples of the works of Doms are the large closely woven baskets used for storing gram, and the hemispherical baskets of different sizes, called the *dons* universally used as grain measures. Small stools (*mora*) and earth covers (*chhai*) of matting and bamboo are also made by these people. In Ranishankail thana grass matting is made on a considerable scale for sale. *Jhuri*, *Dala*, *Kula*, *Chcloni* and *Pinjora*, are some of the common bamboo products in domestic use.

Rice husking.

Rice husking was at one time a fairly important cottage industry, when large quantities of cleared rice were prepared by local grain dealers at the principal grain marts for export elsewhere. The methods of husking employed is primitive found in every cultivator's household, in which *dhenki* or pounder, a heavy wooden beam, worked with foot, plays an important part. This method is too familiar to need description. The workers are women. The system is crude, tedious, and expensive, and the rice produced is by no means free from impurities. The paddy is sometimes boiled before husking and

sometimes simply dried in the sun. The time taken for a person to husk a maund of rice is about 2 hours. Of late, this industry has greatly declined in importance, as now-a-days rice is most commonly exported unhusked. The old method of husking with *dhenki* is falling in disfavour due to the arrival and introduction of husking machines. Husking through machine is done much cheaper.

The following minor industries are briefly mentioned here.

A good deal of coarse gunny cloth is woven from jute in Baliadangi and Atwari thanas. Formerly these were exported to Calcutta in the form of bags. Earthenware utensils of various kinds and well-rings are manufactured by potters for local use. There is little beauty or finish about these wares and no export trade exists in them. Agricultural implements, cooking utensils, tools and other articles used in various handicrafts are manufactured by blacksmith to be found in every large village. Silk cocoons are reared on a very small scale in Birganj and Khansama areas. The cloth woven from these is of tolerable quality but there is no trade in this material.

Other industry.

The earliest reference to the prevalence of banking system in the district is in the administration of the district when Mr. George Hatch in the year 1787 was the Collector of the district under the East India Company. It appears that it was the practice to transmit sums of money on Government account from Dinajpur to Murshidabad and other places by means of *hundis* issued by private bankers stationed at the places where the amounts were sent. The rate of discount was 3 per cent. These bankers were known as 'shroffs.' The fact that these bankers transacted business for the Government of the day naturally leads to the conclusion that private banking was well established at that time. These bankers must have provided capital for the trade in various commodities exported from the district and imported into it. From an account of Mr. Buchanan Hamilton we come to know of the banking system of his time (1833) as existing in the district. The gist is given below.

History of indigenous banking.

The bankers were confined to the main town, where there were seven houses, whose principal business consisted of granting bills of exchange for money. They were chiefly employed by the landlords in keeping accounts of their rents, in paying revenue and in remitting surplus. The money which was necessary for purchasing the exports was mainly sent through

these houses. Bills were never discounted by these banker, but they occasionally lent money to the landholders in need of money. They charged one per cent a month as interest. The traders were financed mostly by the *saudagars* and *mahajans*. The former did business with a large capital and owned vessels for transport of merchandise, while the latter had moderate capital of Rs.2,000 to 25,000 and hired vessels as occasions demanded. There was a very rich merchant family to which belonged the well known banker Baidya Nath Mondal who had transactions with two very rich houses of Patna and Burdwan. There were seven rich bankers called Kuthiwalas in Murshidabad with their agents at important places; they were all of the swal sect some of whom settled in Dinajpur. They imported European woollens, pepper, spices, cotton shawls, metal and hardware and exported ginger and turmeric but their principal business was "granting bills of exchange for money". During the Muslim rule, the revenue collected from the Zaminders at various places was usually remitted to Murshidabad through these bankers.

**Modern
Banking.**

A majority of people of the district who include mostly rural people, are not yet quite banking minded. However, commercial banking is expanding in the district. Commercial banks have been set up even in the interior, in small stations of the district. This is due to general impetus of development in all spheres of life. Most of these banks are branches of larger banks, their head offices being in Dacca or Karachi.

Before Partition, in 1946, the number of non-scheduled banks was 9. This number declined to 6 in 1947. In the district, at present there are 26 branch banks of 10 Scheduled banks. There are also two non-scheduled banks in the district. In the list below the names and location of banks are given.

Sl. No.	Name of the bank.	Name of the place.
1	Agricultural Development Bank of Bangladesh	Dinajpur.
2	Australasia Bank Ltd.	Do.
3	Commerce Bank Ltd.	Do.
4	Eastern Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Do.
5	Eastern Banking Corporation Ltd.	Do.
6	Muslim Commercial Bank Ltd.	Do.
7	Ditto	Setabganj.
8	National Bank of Bangladesh	Dinajpur.
9	Ditto	Thakurgaon.
10	Ditto	Parbatipur.
11	Ditto	Pachagarh.

Scheduled Bank
branches up to
June, 1969.

Sl. No.	Name of the bank.	Name of the place.	
12	National Bank of Bangladesh	.. Birganj.	
13	Ditto .. ..	.. Pirganj.	
14	Ditto .. ..	.. Setabganj.	
15	Habib Bank Ltd. ..	.. Dinajpur.	
16	Ditto .. ..	.. Thakurgaon.	
17	Ditto .. ..	.. Panchagarh.	
18	Ditto .. ..	.. Parbatipur.	
19	Ditto .. ..	.. Setabganj Sugar Mills, Dinajpur.	
20	Ditto .. ..	.. Phulbari.	
21	United Bank Ltd. ..	.. Parbatipur.	
22	Ditto .. ..	.. Thakurgaon.	
23	Ditto .. ..	.. Charkai.	
24	Ditto .. ..	.. Dinajpur.	
25	Ditto .. ..	.. Chirir Bandar.	
26	Standard Bank Ltd. ..	.. Dinajpur.	
1	Dinajpur Industrial Bank Ltd. ..	Dinajpur.	Non-scheduled Banks up to June 1969.
2	Dinajpur Trading and Banking Co., Ltd.	Do.	

The district being primarily agricultural, imports and exports are confined mostly to agricultural commodities. Dinajpur as a surplus district, is an important exporter of rice. The chief articles of trade are rice and jute. Fairly accurate figures are available for jute, which is exported almost entirely by rail. As regards rice, the trade is partly carried by rivers in country boats. This escapes registration.

* Independence, Dinajpur district had a surplus of rice available for export between 20 to 30 lakh maunds annually, which was about one-fourth of her total rice production. Export of rice to other parts of East Pakistan takes place mainly through rail and road and to some extent by boat. Because of rail and road transport, rice movement takes place throughout the year, although a study made in 1951 indicated the movement between the months of May and August as slightly more than in other months. The godown capacity of the rice mills in the district in 1951 was about 10 lakh maunds, which then was the highest of all the districts in East Pakistan. Before Independence, Dinajpur rice was exported to Bihar and other parts of India. In 1951, rice from this district was exported by Railway mainly to Kushtia, Rangpur, Khulna, Faridpur, Mymensingh and Dacca districts. At that time the district had a net work

*'Marketing of Rice in East Pakistan' by A. Farouk (Ph. D. thesis Dacca University, 1954, unpublished).

of 106 'hats' or periodic village markets, mostly held twice a week. The total assemblage of rice on a market day in all these 'hats' was about 25 thousand maunds, of which four-fifths was in the form of paddy and the rest was in the form of rice. 95 per cent of the rice assembled in Dinajpur markets was parboiled and a very small portion only was unboiled."

The bulk of the trade is by rail, but trade by boat is still considerable. The principal trade in rice is carried on at Pulhat areas and at several centres in the south; in both the sites there exist several large grain *golas*. Most of them are situated on the banks of the rivers. These marts are called *bandars* the original meaning of which is port. This indicates that in early days centres of trade were situated on rivers the Atrai, the Punarbbat and the Korotea, water transport being the only importance means of communication. These marts export rice southward by boat, as well as by rail to the nearest Railway stations. The trade in paddy is handled by small operators and middlemen. Some of these middlemen purchase the surplus stock of villagers in the villages, and sell their purchase at the hats or markets in the district to bigger operators. Some of these bigger operators either themselves export the commodities or sell them to big financiers who arrange export in bulk. To ensure regular supply of the commodities, it is not uncommon on the part of businessmen to advance some money to the agents or growers.

Jute trade.

Khansama, Ruhea, Sibganj and Lahirihat are the principal marts from which jute is exported. A certain portion of the bales from Khansama are machine made. Elsewhere all the baling is done by hand or by simple hand worked presses. The Jute is collected in the villages by *beparies* or middlemen, who again sell it to the *mahajans* at the collecting centres. From Khansama jute is carried by cart to Nilphamari and Darwani Railway stations. It is sent to Narayanganj, Dacca, Gaibandha, Chittagong and Chaina ports.

Paddy trade and types of market functionaries.

Beyond the rail side or river side localities there is no distinct merchant class. The paddy and jute trade in the interior is carried on by the Jotedar-cultivator class who deal on very small margins, and usually in very small quantities. Sometimes, a *dalal* from a mill may be found buying paddy direct in a hat, but such is unusual. There is a surprising knowledge of prevailing prices of commodities at different places among the intelligent jotedars of Dinajpur in the south-east side. The boatmen and agents from other districts who

come up the rivers buy or hold back as the price fluctuates. The greater part of the paddy has been sold by actual cultivators by the month of *Baishakh*. From *Mogh* to *Baishakh* all *hats* and *banders* are full of paddy. Big business is done by big dealers, who are concerned with export trade. Jute is mostly sold between *Bhadra* and *Kartick*. There are innumerable 'mudis' or small shopkeepers who are mainly engaged in retail trade and are found in every nook and corner of the district.

Mustard seed is exported by road and rail. Chillies are exported to the eastern districts. Other items of exports besides, rice and jute are potatoes, chillies, betel leaves, poultry, cattle, mangoes, liches, and eggs. The exports of these, however, are not quite certain. These except mangoes and liches are mostly consumed within the district. But in favourable years if there be surplus, these are exported. Salt is an important item of import. Other noticeable imports are kerosene oil, refined sugar, *gur*, piece goods, etc.

Trade in other commodities.

To appreciate the change in the composition, volume and direction of trade and commerce at present, it will be relevant to put an account of the past in this regard. Buchanan Hamilton wrote in 1833 about movement of paddy, mustard seed, oils, betel-nut, cocoanut, ginger, sugar, cotton cloths and indigo, etc., in the district and from different stations of the district to other districts.

Trade and Commerce during 1833.

The mustard seed was imported from Rangpur, the oil was sent to Murshidabad and Narayanganj. Most of the betelnut came from the southern districts of *Banladesh*, but a large proportion also came from the Rangpur district. The cocoanut was imported from *Dacca* and *Kushtia*. Tobacco was not raised in a quantity sufficient to meet the demand of the district, yet a little was exported. The reason was, that the commodity was very cheap in the northern parts of Rangpur, and came to this district in such quantities, as to allow export. Ginger and other seasonings such as turmeric, capsicum, onions and garlic were exported. Most of the salt that was consumed in this district came from Narayanganj, which was the chief mart for the *Chittagong* salt. The bamboo and bamboo mats were chiefly exported. A little of fine cotton, which was grown in the south-eastern part of this district was sent to *Natore*. The raw silk mentioned as an article of export was entirely the produce of the south-eastern part of the district and was exported to Rangpur. Sugar or extract of sugar-cane. *i.e.*, molasses was sent to Narayanganj. These

were mostly exported by the manufacturers. From all these it would appear, that the chief inter-course, which this district has in commerce is with Narayanganj.

*Trade during
1936-39.*

The volume of exports and imports hundred years later during 1936-39 was different and the district had a net surplus of rice, paddy and jute and a net deficit of gram, pulse and basic necessities such as kerosene oil, mustard seeds, etc.

The figures supplied by the East Bengal Railway as contained in the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in Dinajpur District (1934-40) shows that in 1936-37, the district exported, 2,42,809 maunds of paddy and 19,63,869 maunds of rice. Paddy was principally sent from Dinajpur station to east of Parbatipur, and to south of Hili, and the husked rice was sent from all the above stations. Three-fourths of the Hili rice was grown in Dinajpur and paddy grown in Dhamoirhat and Patnitola (now in Rajshahi district) thanas was sent to Jaypurhat, Jamalganj and Akkelpur. Before the introduction of railway, paddy was carried off down the rivers the Kulik and the Nagar (flowing into the Mahananda), the Punaarbhaba, and the Atrai. Nitpur on the Punaarbhaba, Raiganj on the Kulik, Kalikamora on the Tangan; Samjhia, Chandganj, Kumarganj, Patiram and Rangamati on the Atrai, Hili as a mart on the Jamuna, and Ghoraghat on the Karatoya, were the largest exporting stations. The export of grain continued down the rivers, particularly from places in the south and west; at a distance from the Railways. According to figures collected from the dealers of these areas 2,00,000 maunds of paddy and 50,000 maunds of rice were exported from Kantabari and Nazirpur down the Atrai; and 5½ to 6 lakh maunds of paddy from the ghats on the Punaarbhaba within Porsha and Tapan thanas to the far north at Kardaha. There was also a big export trade down the Tangan from such places as Sihol and Kalikamora. Altogether, the river borne paddy export amounted to roughly 10 lakh maunds in a year.

The various railway stations used to draw paddy grown within a radius of some five miles; but the leading export centres had a bigger pull. Thus Hili used to draw paddy grown throughout police-stations Nawabganj and Ghoraghat and away west to Balurghat and even Sapahan and north to Tapan and the South of Kumarganj; Dinajpur used to draw paddy mainly from the south to as much as 20 miles away. The produce of Porsha Police-station, on the contrary, was mostly exported by boat down the Punaarbhaba and the Mahananda.

According to statistics compiled by the East Bengal Railway during 1936-39, the district in 1936-37, exported over 12 lakh maunds of goods. In the following two years, however, the quantity dropped to under 7 lakh maunds. The jute crop of 1938 was decidedly poor in the north of the district. The railway figures from stations in the district did not show whole of the districts' exports. There was, however, very little export of jute by river, for the south of the district was at a distance from the railways. Bhusir Bandar, which once exported jute down the Atrai, has now lost all importance, because of the railway. The principal jute exporting station was Dinajpur itself.

Gram and pulses were used to be exported from Kaliyaganj, while Dinajpur, Hili and Parbatipur were the chief centres of import, the grain mainly coming from Bihar. Kaliyaganj and Raiganj were the only places exporting any appreciable quantity of oil seeds. Other rail exports were bamboo for paper, from the centre of the district, chillies from Kaliyaganj and Dalimgaon, onions from Dalimgaon and sugar and molasses from Setabganj. There was a big trade in *gur* carried mainly by boat. Within the district it went down to the Punarbhaba from Kaharole for sale at Gangarampur and neighbourhood. In the south, Nazirpur was a great *gur bandar*. The *gur* prepared from local sugarcane of the place was sent down the river to other districts to the tune of 75,000 maunds a year.

The Railway used to bring in bulk the commodities required for ordinary consumption. Kerosene, sugar, cloth, salt, flour, and hardware of all sorts have to be brought from outside. For such commodities Dinajpur was the chief centre of distribution, followed by Hili, Raiganj, Parbatipur and Thakurgaon. The country boats which carried paddy or *gur* used to bring salt, iron, boiling pans, enamelware but the greater part was brought by rail.

In the year 1968, approximately 4,44,046 mds. of rice and 34,133 mds. of paddy were sent outside the district. These passed through three big railway stations, viz., Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh. Most of the rice which is exported through these railway stations, goes to Dacca, Faridpur, Noakhali, Jessore, Rajshahi, Kushtia and a small portion goes outside the country through Chalna and Chittagong ports. The inward movement of rice and paddy to the extent of 22,227 and 1,098 mds. respectively to Dinajpur, Takurgaon and Panchagarh in 1968 either came from the interior of the district itself or from Mymensingh, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Kishoreganj and Dacca.

Recent Exports
and Imports of
rice and paddy.

Jute.

During 1968 the districts' export of jute was 1,45,000 mds. only. This figure was for the three Railway stations, viz., Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh. The district's total, as a whole, would certainly exceed the above figures. The outward movement of raw jute, is towards the jute manufacturing centres of Narayanganj and Khulna. Jute inflow in the Dinajpur and Thakurgaon stations was from Ruhea, Pirganj, Mangalpur, Bajnahar and Setabganj.

Pulses.

In the year 1968 the export of pulses was nil. On the contrary, Dinajpur Railway Stations alone received in the same year, 11,481 mds. of pulses from Natore, Santahar, Iswardi Rajbari, Basudebpur, Kushtia, Sirajganj and Goalundo. Similarly, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh received 7,395 mds. of pulses from Iswardi and Saidpur in the same year.

Other Commodities.

Chillies green and dry, sugarcane, cattle and *gur* are at present exported by the railways. In the year 1968, 12,564 mds. of potato were sent to Dacca, Rangpur, Ishawrdi, Kushtia and Gaibandha, 20 mds. of Chillies (dry) to Setabganj, 139 mds. of Sugar to Badarganj, Kamarkhali and 200 mds. of Sugarcane to Setabganj and a large number of cattle was sent to Saidpur from Dinajpur. There is a big trade in *gur* prepared from local sugarcane. 1,174 maunds of Chillies(green), 1 120 maunds of Chillies (dry) and 4,905 maunds of onion were imported from Goalundo, Rangpur, Khulna, Dacca, Bogra, Chandpur and Joypurhat in the same year.

The district also exported fish, firewood, cow-hides, mango, wheat, eggs, tomato and imported salt, kerosene oil, piece-goods, tobacco, *patal*, betel-leaves and betelnuts, iron and steel materials, leather and rubber goods.

The table below shows the inward and outward movements of some of the important commodities, through some of the main railway stations during the year 1968.

Trade Centres.

The traditional venue in which all trade and commerce seem to be carried on in this district are the *bazars* where daily and *hats* where mostly twice a week, all those from the neighbourhood who wish to buy and sell, assemble and dispose of their commodities retail and wholesale. A large number of *hats* and *bazars* exist throughout the district. In most of the *hats* and *bazars*, business takes place for a few hours beginning from afternoon and continuing for 2 or 3 hours after dusk.

The market usually consists of several permanent shops and an open space close to them, where vendors from the neighbouring villages and petty traders from a distance sit to dispose of their wares. This open space is often provided with temporary sheds with sheet-iron over its roofs, to protect the vendors from sun and rain. *Farias*, *beparies*, wholesalers and retailers are the functionaries of the market. A visitor to one of these market places will see a large variety of country produce, such as, rice, fish, *gur*, tobacco, mats, earthen pots, various preparations of milk exposed for sale; cotton, salt, piece goods and cheap cutlery being heaped up to attract buyers. Here the cultivators from the surrounding villages, when not too busy with agricultural operations, meet and talk about prospects of the next harvest. There are at present 217 markets in the district. Their number has increased with the rise in population.

All the *hats* are not of the same importance. Some are small gatherings of a hundred people at the most, and only mustard oil, few vegetables and a little *pan* and cheap cigarettes are available. At others the gathering is more than thousand and the kinds and volume of commodities dealt in are many and large. Here paddy is bought by the innumerable small dealers, who sell them to the rice mills, or to the mill agents; jute is bought by the dealers from railside, and kerosene, mustard oil, cloth, umbrellas, groceries, and the varied articles are sold by *mudi* shops. Paddy, jute and *gur*, are taken from distance of several miles, and brought by the growers themselves, or by some enterprising cultivators who have the necessary cart and money to purchase from the neighbours in the village. Locally made pots are carried by hawkers from *hat* to *hat*. There are many small cloth dealers, who, in addition to mill cloth, sell the hand woven cloth of Kushtia in the south-east, and the special strong cloth, woven in the Santhal Parganas, which the Santhals still prefer. The dealers may often be met on the road carrying their ware on the back of a small packpony.

Details of the commercial activities and transactions of important commodities in 87 hats in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision and 44 hats in Thakurgaon subdivision, where generally more than 1,000 persons assemble on a hat day are stated below:

Name of the hat (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each hat day.	Hat days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Bochaganj:		
1. Ansar	.. Jute (150), Rice (800), Potato (75), Paddy (450), Onion (50), Fowls (1,300 Nos).	Sunday and Wednesday.
2. Rampur Hat	.. Jute (100), Rice (500), Paddy (50) Potato (100), Gur (50).	Thursday and Sunday.
3. Setabganj	.. Jute (4,000), Rice (1,00,000), Paddy (1,00,000), Potato (1,000), Onion (1,500), Gur (2,000), Mustard Seed (1,000), Turmeric (150), Molasses (15,000), Betelnut (600), Tobacco (1,000), Pulses (20,000), Chillies (1,000), Cattle (4,500 Nos.) Goats (2,000), Hides and Skin (25,000 Nos.), and Fowls (1,000 Nos.).	Monday and Friday.
4. Mollapara	.. Jute (75), Rice (600), Paddy (400), Potato (50), Chillies (50), Fruits (25 Nos).	Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday.
5. Pular Hat	.. Jute (150), Rice (750), Paddy (500), Potato (75), Onion (50), Chillies (50), Gur (50).	Saturday and Tuesday.
6. Meherpur Hat	.. Jute (100), Rice (15,000), Paddy (1,500), Onion (100), Potato (100), Gur (250), Chillies (100).	Tuesday and Saturday.
Under P.S. Phulbari:		
7. Phulbari Hat	.. Jute (1,000), Rice (25,000), Paddy (23,500), Potato (250), Chillies (150), Onion (250), Turmeric (50), Gur (25), Brinjal (200), Molasses (100), Mustard seed (200), Pulses (8,000), and Fowls (150 Nos).	Monday and Friday.
8. Khayer Bari Hat	.. Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chillies (50), Onion (100), Turmeric (30), Gur (100), Brinjal (100), and Fowls (50 Nos).	Saturday and Thursday.
Under P.S. Kaharole:		
9. Kaharole	.. Jute (1,000), Rice (5,000), Paddy (10,000), Potato (250), Onion (150), Gur (5,000), Betelnut (150), Brinjal (500), Pulses (5,000), Fowls (100 Nos), Goat (2,500 Nos).	Saturday and Thursday.
10. Gorenhat	.. Jute (500), Rice (5,000), Paddy (10,000), Potato (250), Chillies (200), Pulses (5,000), Onion (150), Cattle head (2,000 Nos.) Goat (1,500 Nos).	Wednesday and Sunday
11. Jainandahat	.. Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,000), Jute (350), (Onion 100), Gur (100), Potato (250), Chillies (100), Brinjal (250), Jute (150).	Wednesday and Sunday.
12. Bobya	.. Jute (150), Rice (800), Paddy (500), Onion (50), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Brinjal (200), Gur (100).	Thursday and Monday.

Name of <i>hat</i> (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each <i>hat</i> day.	<i>Hat</i> days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Birganj:		
13. Jharbarihat	Jute (200), Paddy (1,000), Rice (2,500), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Onion (250).	Thursday and Saturday.
14. Kabirajer Hat	Jute (1,000), Rice (1,800), Paddy (2,500), Potato (250), Onion (150), Garlic (50), Brinjal (400), Tomato (500), Chillies (200), Gur (200), Molasses (100), Mustard seed (500), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Wednesday and Sunday.
15. Birganj Hat	Jute (350), Rice (5,000), Paddy (2,500), Betelnut (200), Chillies (100), Potato (250), Gur (200), Ginger (50), Pulses (350), Mustard seed (250), Fowls (200 Nos.).	Sunday and Wednesday.
16. Hablu Hat	Jute (100), Paddy (500), Rice (1,000), Potato (50), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Onion (200).	Friday and Monday.
17. Golapganj	Jute (1,000), Paddy (7,500), Rice (15,000), Potato (250), Ginger (250), Chillies (250), Pulses (5,000), Cattle (4,500 Nos.), Onion (500), Gur (300), Betelnut (200), Mustard seed (250), Tobacco (100), Turmeric (50), Goats (1,000 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.
18. Sanka Hat	Jute (100), Paddy (500), Rice (1,000), Potato (50), Ginger (25), Pulses (1,500), and Gur (100).	Tuesday and Saturday.
19. Boroliahat	Jute (100), Paddy (500), Rice (1,000), Chillies (100), Potato (100), Onion (100), Betelnut (50), Fowls (25 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.
Under P.S. Khansama:		
20. Khansama Hat	Jute (500), Rice (3,000), Paddy (2,500), Potato (200), Turmeric (20), Onion (100), Chillies (150), Brinjal (100), Gur (150).	Sunday and Saturday.
21. Ramkala Hat	Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000), Ginger (50), Potato (150), Onion (100), Chillies (100), Gur (200), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Tuesday and Saturday.
22. Pakerhat	Jute (250), Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,000), Potato (250), Onion (100), Cattle head (4,000 Nos.), <i>patal</i> (200), Gur (100), Ginger (50), Chillies (200), Turmeric (50), Fowls (200 Nos.).	Tuesday and Saturday.
23. Kuthirhat	Fowls (100 Nos.), Brinjal (100), Onion (100), <i>Patal</i> (50), Gur (100), Chillies (100), Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000).	Monday and Thursday.
24. Joyganj	Jute (3,500), Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,000), <i>Patal</i> (100), Onion (100), Chillies (100), Fowls (50 Nos.), Gur (150).	Sunday and Thursday.
25. Kuchinia	Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (800), Chillies (100), <i>Patal</i> (200), Onion (100), Tobacco (200), Ginger (60), Turmeric (30).	Tuesday.
Under P.S. Biral:		
26. Kashidangahat	Jute (150), Rice (1,350), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Onion (100), Gur (100), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.
27. Bahabuldighi	Jute (200), Rice (500), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chillies (50), Onion (50), Brinjal (100), and Gur (100).	Monday and Friday.

Name of hat (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each hat day.	Hat days.
1	2	3
28. Kaliganj	Jute (150), Rice (1,300), Paddy (12,000), Potato (100), Chillies (250), Onion (100), Gur (100), Fowls (250 Nos.)	Saturday and Thursday.
29. Dhulkurjhari Hat	Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chilli (100), Gur (100), Fowls (100).	Saturday and Thursday.
30. Dewandighi	Jute (100), Rice (1,250), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (100 Nos.)	Friday and Monday.
31. Tatlungir Hat	Jute (50), Rice (1,250), Tobacco (250), Gur (150), Betelnut (200), Onion (75), Paddy (1,000), Brinjal (200), Potato (100), Chillies (50), and Fowls (100 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
32. Biralhat	Jute (1,000), Rice (1,800), Paddy (2,500), Potato (250), Onion (150), Gur (200), Molasses (100), Garlic (50), Brinjal (400), Tomato (500), Chillies (200), Mustard seed (500), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Sunday and Wednesday.
33. Mangalpur	Jute (400), Rice (1,750), Paddy (1,000), Patal (200), Chillies (100), Onion (100), Gur (200), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Friday.
Under Parbatipur P.S.:		
34. Parbatipur Puran Bazar.	Jute (1,000), Rice (2,500), Paddy (2,500), Potato (1,000), M. Seed (1,000), Pulses (10,000), Chillies (500), Patal (1,000), Gur (500), Molasses (500), Ginger (100), Betelnut (500), Betel leaves (15,000), Goats (4,000 Nos.), Hides and Skins (2,000), Fowls (250 Nos.).	Saturday and Tuesday.
35. Parbatipur Nutun Bazar.	Jute (750), Rice (1,000), Paddy (2,500), Potato (500), Mustard seed (400), Ginger (100), Betelnut (200), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Friday.
36. Ulipur Hat	Jute (150), Rice (750), Paddy (500), Potato (100), Patal (100), Gur (150), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
37. Adamdighi	Jute (250), Rice (1,000), Paddy (500), Potato (1,000), Chillies (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
38. Bhowbanipur	Jute (100), Rice (15,000), Paddy (13,500), Potato (1,500), Chillies (200), Gur (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Monday and Friday.
39. Haldibarihat	Jute (160), Rice (1,600), Paddy (1,400), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday.
40. Benir Hat	Jute (200), Rice (1,200), Paddy (800), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday.
Under P.S. Ghoraghat:		
41. Ghoraghat	Jute (1,000), Rice (2,000), Paddy (1,500), Potato (350), Onion (200), Pulses (2,500), Patal (200), Betelnut (100), Turmeric (50), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.
42. Dugdughi	Jute (450), Rice (2,250), Paddy (2,000), Potato (200), Onion (125), Patal (150), Fowls (100 Nos.), Chillies (100), Brinjal (150), Goat (1,000 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
43. Raniganj	Jute (500), Rice (2,250), Paddy (1,000), Potato (500), Onion (600), Pulses (3,500), Betelnut (200), Turmeric (100), Fowls (30 Nos.), Chillies (250), Brinjal (100), Goat (3,500 Nos.).	Thursday and Monday.

Name of hat (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each hat day.	Hat days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Hakimpur :		
44. Panshurgar Hat	Jute (200), Rice (1,000), Paddy (500), Potato (200), Onion (150), Pulses (2,500), Betelnut (200), Fowls (50 Nos.), Chillies (200), Brinjal (1,000), Goat (3,500).	Friday and Monday.
45. Katla Hat	Jute (200), Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,200), Potato (200), Onion (200), Chillies (150), Brinjal (250), Pulses (3,500), Betelnut (250), Mustard seed (200), and Fowls (100).	Monday and Friday.
46. Birampur	Jute (1,000), Rice (4,500), Paddy (300), Potato (200), Onion (150), Chillies (250), Pulses (5,000), Brinjal (250), Betelnut (200), Mustard seed (200), Molasses (100), Gur (250), Goat (2,500 Nos.), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Tuesday and Saturday.
47. Hili Hat	Jute (1,000), Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,000), Potato (200), Onion (150), Turmeric (50), Chillies (200), Molasses (100), Gur (250), Betelnut (150), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Sunday and Thursday.
Under P.S. Nawabganj :		
48. Aitabganj Hat	Jute (750), Rice (1,200), Paddy (1,500), Potato (250), Onion (150), Betelnut (500), Turmeric (50), Fowls (5,000 Nos.), Chillies (250), Brinjal (100).	Tuesday and Saturday.
49. Nandanpur Hat	Jute (100), Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,000), Potato (100), Betelnut (100), Chillies (80).	Saturday and Tuesday.
50. Rambhadrapur	Jute (70), Rice (3,500), Paddy (3,000), Potato (50), Betelnut (100), Chillies (50).	Saturday and Thursday.
51. Raghobendrapur	Jute (100), Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,500), Potato (70), Onion (100), Betelnut (100), Chillies (75).	Saturday and Tuesday.
52. Nawabganj (Pakistan) Hat.	Jute (150), Rice (9,200), Paddy (5,000), Potato (100), Onion (100), Betelnut (200), Mustard seed (250), Turmeric (50), Chillies (100), Brinjal (200).	Tuesday and Saturday.
53. Beparitala Hat	Jute (500), Rice (3,000), Paddy (2,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100).	Sunday and Wednesday.
54. Bizulhat	Jute (100), Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,000), Potato (100), Chillies (50), Tobacco (200).	Friday and Monday.
55. Daudpur Hat	Jute (1,000), Rice (20,000), Paddy (25,000), Potato (250), Onion (25), Tobacco (450), Mustard seed (350), Betel leaves (10,000), Brinjal (200), Chillies (150), Gur (250), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.
56. Matihara Hat	Jute (50), Rice (2,500), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Onion (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Tuesday and Saturday.
57. Bhaduria Hat	Jute (100), Rice (4,500), Paddy (3,000), Potato (50), Onion (100), Brinjal (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
58. Mogarpara Hat	Jute (75), Rice (3,000), Paddy (2,500), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Monday and Tuesday.
59. Moharajpur Hat	Jute (70), Rice (2,000), Paddy (1,500), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Potato (100), Onion (150), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.

Name of hat (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each hat day.	Hat days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Chirirbandar:		
60. Bhushir Bandar ..	Jute (250), Rice (4,000), Paddy (4,500), Potato (150), Pulses (5,000), Chillies (150), Gur (200), Tobacco (500), Fowls (100 Nos.), Brinjal (100).	Friday and Tuesday.
61. Ranir Bandar ..	Jute (150), Rice (3,500), Paddy (2,500), Potato (125), Pulses (2,500), Chillies (100), Gur (300), Tobacco (350), Fowls (100 Nos.), Brinjal (100).	Monday and Thursday.
62. Nasaratpur Hat ..	Jute (150), Rice (3,000), Paddy (1,800), Potato (125), Chillies (100), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Thursday.
63. Ghantagar Hat ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,800), Paddy (1,000), Potato (150), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (50 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
64. Dangar Hat ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,500), Paddy (750), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100).	Tuesday and Friday.
65. Binakurihat ..	Jute (300), Rice (3,500), Paddy (2,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100).	Tuesday and Friday.
66. Baidesherhat ..	Jute (50), Rice (750), Paddy (800), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100).	Monday and Thursday.
67. Chirirbandar ..	Jute (200), Rice (8,500), Paddy (10,000), Potato (200), Pulses (3,500), Chillies (100), Tobacco (350), Brinjal (100).	Sunday and Thursday.
68. Beltali Hat ..	Jute (50), Rice (3,000), Paddy (2,000), Potato (100), Chillies (50), Gur (100).	Sunday and Thursday.
69. Bolaibazar ..	Jute (75), Rice (2,800), Paddy (2,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Fowls (100 Nos.).	Monday and Friday.
70. Kutubdanga ..	Jute (175), Rice (4,600), Paddy (4,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Gur (100).	Wednesday and Saturday.
71. Kaliaganj Hat ..	Jute (200), Rice (2,500), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Tobacco (200), and Chillies (100).	Friday and Monday.
72. Jorgachi Hat ..	Jute (50), Rice (1,600), Paddy (1,000), Potato (60), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (100).	Wednesday and Saturday.
73. Pannath Hat ..	Jute (50), Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,000), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Tobacco (150).	Monday.
Under P.S. Kotwali:		
74. Rail Bazar ..	Jute (500), Rice (15,000), Paddy (5,000), Potato (750), Pulses (15,000), Chillies (250), Fowls (500 Nos.), Onion (350), Ginger (100), Mustard seed (100), Turmeric (50), Cattle (10,000 Nos.).	Sunday and Thursday.
75. Gopalganj ..	Jute (75), Rice (750), Paddy (500), Chillies (100) ..	Monday and Friday.
76. Ramdobihat ..	Jute (100), Rice (750), Paddy (500), Chillies (100), Ginger (50).	Monday.
77. Raniganj Hat ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,700), Paddy (1,500), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Vegetables (100), Ginger (50).	Sunday and Thursday.
78. Jhan Jhirabat ..	Jute (50), Rice (1,200), Paddy (1,400), Potato (100) ..	Tuesday.

Name of <i>hat</i> (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each <i>hat</i> day.	<i>Hat</i> days.
1	2	3
79. Madubpurhat ..	Rice (1,000), Paddy (600), Potato (150), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Onion (100).	Saturday.
80. Shahebganj Hat ..	Jute (150), Rice (1,000), Paddy (600), Pulses (150), Chillies (100), Onion (100).	Sunday and Wednesday.
81. Fashiladanga ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,750), Paddy (1,500), Pulses (250), Chillies (100), Onion (100).	Friday and Monday.
82. Ghugudanga ..	Jute (75), Rice (1,000), Paddy (800), Pulses (100), Chillies (100).	Monday and Friday.
83. Sikderganj ..	Jute (50), Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,300), Potato (100), Chillies (100).	Tuesday and Saturday.
84. Khanpur Hat ..	Jute (75), Rice (1,000), Paddy (750), Potato (450), Chillies (100).	Monday and Friday.
85. Shahebdanga ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (200), Potato (200), Chillies (100).	Wednesday and Saturday.
86. Panchkurhat ..	Jute (175), Rice (1,000), Paddy (800), Potato (100), Chillies (100), Onion (100).	Saturday.
87. Thakurain Hat ..	Jute (50), Rice (500), Paddy (800), Potato (150), Chillies (100), Gur (100), Fowls (100), Onion (100).	Saturday.
THAKURGAON SUBDIVISION		
Under P.S. Thakurgaon:		
88. Thakurgaon ..	Rice (25,000), Paddy (25,000), Pulses (13,500), Potato (1,850), Onion (500).	Monday and Friday.
89. Shibganj ..	Jute (600), Rice (10,000), Paddy (5,500), Pulses (12,000), Potato (500), Onion (200), Mustard seed (75).	Monday and Thursday.
90. Forabari Hat ..	Jute (100), Rice (1,000), Paddy (900)	Sunday and Thursday.
Under P.S. Baliadangi:		
91. Lahirirhat ..	Jute (9,000), Rice (18,000), Paddy (20,000)	Monday and Friday.
Under P.S. Panchagar:		
92. Rajnagar Hat ..	Jute (15,000), Rice (12,000), Paddy (25,000), Chillies (5,000), Mustard seed (5,000), Gur (3,000), Betelnut (2,000).	Sunday and Thursday.
93. Haribasha Hat ..	Rice (5,000), Paddy (10,000)	Tuesday and Friday.
94. Tunir Hat ..	Rice (2,000), Paddy (1,500), Chillies (50), Mustard seed (50).	Thursday and Friday.
95. Jagdalhat ..	Jute (400), Rice (2,000), Paddy (1,500)	Wednesday and Saturday.
96. Maharajer Hat ..	Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,800), Potato (100)	Wednesday and Saturday.
97. Amorkhana Hat ..	Rice (2,500), Paddy (2,000), Mustard seed (60)	Friday and Saturday.

Name of <i>hat</i> (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each <i>hat</i> day.	<i>Hat</i> days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Pirganj:		
98. Fakirganj Hat	Rice (8,000), Paddy (800)	Tuesday.
99. Dhonor Hat	Rice (10,000), Paddy (9,000), Mustard seed (60)	Sunday and Wednesday.
100. Nashibganj Hat	Paddy (8,000), Rice (8,000), Cow (40,000), Goat (1,500 Nos.)	Thursday.
101. Pirganj Hat	Jute (20,000), Rice (20,000), Paddy (15,000)	Sunday and Wednesday.
Under P.S. Ranishankail:		
102. Ranishankail	Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000)	Wednesday.
103. Umnadangi Hat	Rice (800), Paddy (800)	Tuesday and Friday.
104. Gazirhat	Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000)	Monday and Thursday.
105. Banglagar Hat	Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,000)	Monday and Tuesday.
106. Routhnagar Hat	Rice (2,000), Paddy (1,500)	Tuesday and Friday.
107. Nekmard Hat	Rice (55,000), Paddy (50,000), Cattle (6,000 Nos.)	Sunday.
108. Katihar Hat	Rice (30,000), Paddy (30,000)	Saturday and Wednesday.
Under P.S. Debiganj:		
109. Debiganj Hat	Rice (2,000), Paddy (2,000)	Tuesday and Saturday.
110. Luxmir Hat	Rice (2,000), Paddy (2,000)	Tuesday and Saturday.
111. Bhowlaganj Hat	Rice (2,200), Paddy (2,500), Cattle (800 Nos.), Goat (300 Nos.)	Sunday and Wednesday.
112. Jagannath Hat	Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,200), Cattle (1,000 Nos.), Goat (500 Nos.)	Sunday and Wednesday.
113. Kaliganj Hat	Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000)	Tuesday and Saturday.
114. Saldanga Hat	Rice (1,500), Paddy (1,300), Cattle (800 Nos.), Goat (300 Nos.)	Monday and Friday.
Under P.S. Atwari:		
115. Faria Hat	Rice (1,800), Paddy (2,000)	Monday and Friday.
116. Fakirganj Hat	Paddy (10,000), Rice (9,000), Jute (500), Cow (5,000 Nos.), and Goat (1,500 Nos.)	Sunday and Thursday.
117. Dungdungir Bazar	Rice (2,500), Paddy (2,200), Mustard seed (60)	Monday and Friday.

Name of hat (Thanawise).	Commodities in quantity assembled, in maunds, on each hat day.	Hat days.
1	2	3
Under P.S. Haripur:		
118. Jadu Rani Hat	.. Paddy (15,000), Rice (20,000), Cattle (5,000 [Nos.], and Goat (2,000 Nos.).	Tuesday.
119. Dhirganj Hat	.. Rice (1,000), Paddy (700) .. ..	.. Saturday.
120. Kaliganj Hat	.. Paddy (900), Rice (800) .. ..	.. Thursday.
Under P.S. Tetulia:		
121. Tirnai Hat	.. Rice (4,000), Paddy (3,500), Potato (200), Chillies (50).	Monday and Friday.
122. Buraburi Hat	.. Rice (3,500), Paddy (3,000) .. ..	.. Saturday and Thursday.
123. Paglir Hat	.. Rice (5,000), Paddy (4,500), Onion (60), Chillies (65).	Sunday and Thursday.
124. Tetulia Hat	.. Rice (3,500), Paddy (4,000) .. ..	.. Friday and Monday.
125. Bhajanpur Hat	.. Jute (10,000), Paddy (8,000), Rice (20,000), Cattle (10,000 Nos.) and Goat (6,000 Nos.).	Sunday and Thursday.
126. Shalbahana Hat	.. Jute (700), Paddy (10,000), Rice (8,000), Pulses (2,500), Onion (200), Mustard seed (90), Cattle (9,000 Nos.) and Goat (4,000 Nos.).	Wednesday and Saturday.
Under P.S. Boda:		
127. Baman Hat	.. Rice (850) and Paddy (800) .. ..	.. Tuesday and Saturday.
128. Moveya Hat	.. Rice (1,000), and Paddy (950) .. ..	.. Saturday and Tuesday.
129. Futkibari Hat	.. Rice (1,200), Paddy (1,100) .. ..	.. Saturday.
130. Boalmari Hat	.. Rice (1,000), Paddy (1,000) .. ..	.. Monday and Friday.
131. Kaliganj Hat	.. Rice (700), Paddy (800) .. ..	.. Sunday and Wednesday

Fairs and Melas. Fairs and *melas*, in the past, were religious-cum-social gatherings and were held mostly on the occasions of Hindu festivals and on a few occasions of Muslim festivals. Commerce was incidental. The *mela* at Kantanagar was held on the occasion of the *Rash Purnima* and on that day, the image of *Kanta Jin*, who was regarded by the Hindus as the "Patron saint" of Dinajpur town, was taken to Kantanagar. *Alowa Khaowa mela* also started at the same time. The *Nekmard mela*, which was held in the vicinity of the tomb of a *Pir*, is stated to have a religious origin. The *Nekmard mela* was of great antiquity and from the account of Buchanan

Hamilton it is known to date from long before the British days. Alowa Khaowa *mela* is also an old one and at present is reputed to be the greatest cattle fair in the district. At this fair, cattle are bought not only by the people of Dinajpur but also by inhabitants of other northern districts and also of Dacca and Mymensingh. Before Partition (1947), ponies having a good market here, were available in large number. In the south, the leading *mela* was held at Dhaldighi (now in India). It was held on the south side of the celebrated tank near Gangarampur. The *mela* which began in 1855 was managed by a family of *fakirs*. The *mela* had grown much in importance in the last fifty years. Other *melas* worthy of mention were held at Haripur and Chintaman.

Nowadays fairs and *melas* are held more with a commercial purpose rather than with any religious objective. On such occasions large assembly of people takes place and traders utilise this opportunity to dispose of their goods. Such *melas* serve to boost business of the small traders and village hawkers. The special feature of a *mela* is that it combines entertainment with business. In fine, fairs and *melas* play no less important a part in the lives of the people, for here, the people come "to buy cattle, to make purchases of expensive and lasting articles like bell-metal, utensils, and also to buy such articles as cloth and shoes as he may buy in the hat, but will here find in greater variety".

A list of fairs and *melas* as in 1966 is appended below:

Name of fairs and <i>melas</i> .	Location, name of P.S.
1. Gosta	Kotwali.
2. Bolla Kalir <i>Mela</i>	Do.
3. Rasiganj Belbari	Do.
4. Pak-Cheradangi <i>Mela</i>	Do.
5. Kamal Dighi	Chirirbandar.
6. Paschim Saitara Baruni	Do.
7. Phulpur Ram Navami	Do.
8. Raipur Durgapur Kutub Danga Kalir <i>Mela</i> .	Do.
9. Paikan Phulpur <i>Mela</i>	Do.
10. Habibpur Sree Panchami	Parbatipur.
11. Deul <i>Mela</i>	Do.
12. Parbatipur College <i>Mela</i>	Do.
13. Jasai L.M. High School <i>Mela</i>	Do.
14. Jamaleswari Chaitra Sankranti	Hakimpur.
15. Birampur College <i>Mela</i>	Do.

Name of fair and <i>melas</i> .		Location, name of P.S.
16.	Katla <i>Mela</i>	Nawabganj.
17.	Tarpanghat Baruni	Do.
18.	Mugarpara Baruni	Do.
19.	Mondal Belghat <i>Mela</i>	Do.
20.	Dhukur Jhari	Birol.
21.	Darail Dangi	Do.
22.	Mangalpur	Do.
23.	Kali Dhem Dhem	Birganj.
24.	Jindapir <i>Mela</i>	Do.
25.	Soaka Piner <i>Mela</i>	Do.
26.	Rashu Kabir <i>Mela</i>	Do.
27.	Mollapara High School <i>Mela</i>	Bochaganj.
28.	Chintamon <i>Mela</i>	Phulbari.
29.	Barai <i>Mela</i>	Do.
30.	Phulbari College <i>Mela</i>	Phulbari.
31.	Hajiganj <i>Mela</i>	Do.
32.	Mukhtar <i>Mela</i>	Thakurgaon.
33.	Ruhba Azad <i>Mela</i>	Do.
34.	Salondar U.C. <i>Mela</i>	Do.
35.	Bagor Bari Baruni	Debiganj.
36.	Kantangar Rash <i>Mela</i>	Kaharole.
37.	Gorkai Shiba Ratri	Ranishankail.
38.	Nekmord Shahid Urosh Sharif <i>Mela</i>	Do.
39.	Lila <i>Mela</i>	Atwari.
40.	Atwari Thana Council <i>Mela</i>	Do.
41.	Boalmari Baruni	Do.
42.	Pirganj College <i>Mela</i>	Pirganj.

Weights and measures.

The weights vary in almost every market, and are different in the same market for different kinds of goods. Rice, for instance, is sometimes sold by one weight and bought by another. Whatever may be the weight of the seer, it is divided into 16 *chhataks*, and five seers form one *posari*, and eight *posari* one maund. There is no higher denomination of weight, nor indeed in general is there any scale that can weigh more than one *posari* at a time. The only exception is, that the sugar manufacturers have large scales suspended from a beam, and can weigh at a time one or two maunds of extract of molasses, but even this is attended with much trouble. Due to Government purchase of paddy since the Second World War and due to increase in trade with other areas in recent years, standard weights are gradually becoming more known to people.

CHAPTER IX

PUBLIC HEALTH

The district of Dinajpur has at all times been notorious for unhealthiness. In 1807, Buchanan Hamilton, speaking of natural checks on the increase of population, wrote, "the grand check, however, to the excess of population is disease, which makes ample room, and fever annually sweeps away immense numbers, although I do not think that any means would ever render Dinajpur a country remarkably salubrious, yet I am persuaded that the excessive prevalence of fever is more owing to poverty and to the want of stimulating diet and of comfortable lodging and clothing, than to any extraordinary degree of malignity in the air; and the great poverty of the natives is no doubt chiefly attributed to their improvidence, especially in indulging in early marriages, by which they have been involved in debt. The fevers are often of the remittent kind and end fatally in a few days; but more commonly they end in agues, or commence under that form and are accompanied by enlargement of the spleen and dro sical swellings, which carry off the sufferer after long confinement. In fact there were few who escape with less confinement than one month in a year, and the whole are a sickly, poor-looking people". Major Sherwill, the Revenuc Surveyor, writing in 1863, emphasises the dread in which the district was held by strangers. "The climate", he records, "was very unhealthy, and justly held in great dislike by strangers, including Bengalies, on account of its insalubrity. When the movement of the Second Division Revenue Survey, was ordered into Dinajpur, many of the oldest and best native Bengali Surveyors resigned, rather than face the dangers of so dreaded a climate. In the sessions of 1857-58 and 1958-59, this survey was nearly disorganized by sickness. As many as 13 surveying parties were unfit for work at the same time and almost all were sick from the effect of fever, which is the prevailing epidemic. The villagers have a sickly appearance, and many are annually carried off by fever and cholera. Natives are more easily affected by the climate than Europeans, which is probably attributable to the freer mode of living of the latter, which enables them the better to withstand its baneful effects, also to the greater exposure of natives to the night air". This unhealthiness was to a great extent attributable to malaria. Major Rogers of the Indian Medical Service, who was selected by the Government in 1904 to make a special enquiry into the causes of the prevalence of fever in the Dinajpur District, found that the most usual type of fever was the malignant tertian, common to the subcontinent. He also found the qurtan type,

Public Health in
early times.

which was said to have been most common in the Duars, and which was usually of a chronic nature, and ended fatally after several months of sickness. According to this authority, the district Dinajpur was the home of the terrible kala-azar of Assam. During the course of his enquiry in 1904, he found traces of this disease, which was characterised by a great enlargement of spleen, accompanied by general wasting and darkening of the skin, still surviving in the district. Other common types of fever were simple, tertian, quotidian, and remittent. This unhealthiness of the district in the beginning of the twentieth century is also reflected in the population figures.

Hunter recorded in 1876 "the villagers had sickly appearance, and many are annually carried off by fever and cholera. The unhealthy period of the year for strangers begins about the middle of March, with the hot weather when they are liable to get diarrhoea, fever, or cholera. Natives generally suffer in September and October, at which time very few escape fever. When they sicken, they are attended by their own doctors, or Kabirajes, in whose skill and medicines they place great confidence."

According to the Statistical Accounts of W.W. Hunter in 1871 the total number of *indoor patients treated in the hospital* was 212 of whom 153 were cured or relieved; 9 were not improved or they ceased to attend, 44 or 20·75 per cent died and 6 remained in hospital at the end of the year. The average daily number of sick was 9·99. The out door patients receiving treatment the same year numbered 2,652, average daily attendance, being 25·44.

In the following year (1872) the statistics of medical relief were as follows:

The Indoor patients' number was 244, of whom 140 were cured or relieved; 56 were not improved, 40 or 16·39 per cent. died; and 8 remained in hospital at the end of the year; average daily number of sick was 8·35. The outdoor patients numbered 2,396; average daily attendance being 35·33. The total income amounted to £236-18s-0d of which £146-12s-0d. was contributed by the Government. The expenditure in the same year was £249-0s-0d.

Vital Statistics.

It is difficult to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion by comparing the vital statistics for any considerable period as the system of registering births and deaths has been changed from time to time. In 1869, the duty of registering deaths in the district was entrusted to the village Chawkidars or watchmen.

while in Dinajpur town this work was performed¹ by the officers of the municipality. In 1888, the municipal authorities began to register births. In 1892, the mofussil Chawkidars began to register births as well as deaths, while in the town the collection of vital statistics was transferred from the municipality to the police-station.

In 1966, the vital statistics were collected by the village Chawkidars. They report to the Thana Sanitary Inspector at their weekly parades and the latter submit returns to the District Health Officer in whose office the statistics for the district are compiled. At the beginning of 1966 the Zonal office of Malaria Eradication programme has undertaken to collect the birth and death figures from house to house.

In Urban areas, birth statistics are collected from different hospitals and maternity centres and in cases, where the births are not reported to the hospitals, it is the duty of the citizens to report births to the municipality concerned. Registration of deaths are done through different agencies, viz., burning ghat, graveyard, etc. All these figures are collected in the municipality where these statistics are compiled and are ultimately submitted to the Health Directorate.

These statistics, though far from complete, and without any great pretension to accuracy, afford data for gauging the growth of population, for comparing one year with another in the matter of healthiness, as well as for comparing the mortality due to different diseases. Taking the period 1880-1905, it appears that the highest death rate (45·85 per mille) was recorded in 1900, and the lowest (17·62 per mille) in 1884. The highest birth rate (49·36 per mille) was recorded in 1902 and the lowest (27·05 per mille) in 1892, the first year in which the registration of births began throughout the district. The steady tendency of both the birth rate and death rate to rise throughout this period appears to indicate clearly that the increase in the latter is not due to a deterioration in the health of the district, but to more careful registration. The registration of births is very far from perfect. A comparison of the average birth rate per thousand with the average death rate in the ten years from 1893-1902 shows that the death exceeded the births by 4·18 per thousand and even the large amount of immigration would hardly suffice to counter balance such a decrease. In 1947, the total births (exclusive of still births) were 41,171, the ratio being 29·4 per thousand population and the number of deaths registered was 42,051 and the ratio being 30·0 per thousand population. In 1951 the total number of

births registered exclusive of still births was 30,691 with the ratio of 22.5 per thousand population. The total number of deaths was 21,501 and the ratio of deaths per 1,000 was 15.8. In 1961, the total births registered in the district of Dinajpur was 23,001, and the birth rate per 1,000 was 13.4. The total number of deaths was 10,737 with the ratio of death rate per 1,000 at 6.2. In 1964 the total number of deaths was 9,452. The number of deaths is decreasing due to increased medical facilities. It has been seen that the number of births were increasing but at present, birth control measures are responsible for the lowering down of the birth rate in the district.

Principal diseases.

During 1960, the principal diseases found in the district were cholera, small-pox, malaria, kala-azar, dysentery, diarrhoea, palmonary tuberculosis, enteric fever, typhoid fever, rabies and leprosy, etc. It can be mentioned here that the district of Dinajpur had a very bad name for unhealthy climate. The most prevalent diseases were malaria and kala-azar and these two types of diseases were by far the most deadly diseases.

Fever.

During the course of his enquiry in 1904, Major Rogers, I.M.S., found traces of malarial fever which was characterised by a great enlargement of the spleen, accompanied by general wasting and darkening of the skin, still surviving in the district. The disease was found fairly frequently in Ranisankail thana in the north-west of the district. It seems to be gradually disappearing. Other common types of fever are simple tertian, quotidian and remittent. On the average for the ten years (1893-1902) the deaths from fever for the whole district were 33.30 per mille as compared with 3.24 due to all other causes. The lowest average fever death rate 21.84 per mille, was shown against Dinajpur municipality while Ranisankail thana has the highest with 38.59 per mille, Birganj thana with 36.54, and Raiganj and Kotwali thanas with 35.28 each per mille show the next highest average. The thanas of Phulbari, Nawabganj, Thakurgaon and Pirganj, all show average of over 32 deaths per mille from this cause. A comparison of the death rates from fevers in 1888 and 1889, with those in the four years (1906-1909) is greatly in favour of the former. These death rates per mille from 1888 to 1909 are shown against respective years: 27.84 in 1888, 25.74 in 1889, 41.54 in 1906, 39.22 in 1907, 36.70 in 1908, 35.45 in 1909. The decennial average for the years 1899-1908, 37.84 per mille was also higher than that for the years 1893-1902, already quoted. These figures would show that the death rate of the district was worsening instead of improving notwithstanding that the country was getting more opened up and that the use of quinine was more general. It is,

however, clear that the increased death rate was shown due to better reporting and not to an increase in unhealthiness. Major Sherwill said that the north of the district is healthier than the south, as there is less jungle and fewer tanks and marshes. The then Civil Surgeons were generally of opinion that the unhealthiness of the district was due to its waterlogging. By waterlogging it is not meant that the country is subject to periodical floods and inundations. On the contrary, to a superficial observer, the district seems rather dry one, and in cold weather many parts of it resemble Behar rather than Bangladesh. In reality, however, this appearance is deceptive. Not only is the country full of old tanks which, being choked with jungle, form an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes, but even in the height of the dry season water is struck in most parts at a depth of 7 or 8 feet, while in the rains it is very near the surface indeed. This characteristic was especially noticeable in the drought of 1909, when a number of old tanks, most of them completely dried up, were re-excavated as test relief works. The average depth of these tanks when work was started on them was some 7 or 8 feet below the level of the surrounding country. In almost every instance water was struck when 4 or 5 feet had been excavated. In certain parts of the district the water level is much lower and these are generally found to be most healthy localities. Major Rogers in his report speaks of "a remarkable relationship between a high ground water level and high spleen rates and fever mortality of the thanas, and *vice versa*. The reverse holds good of the Ranisankail circle, in which the highest ground water level coincides with the highest spleen and fever rates. Similarly, Dinajpur, Birganj and Thakurgaon thanas show high ground water levels and high spleen and fever rates. The heavy mortality from fevers in this district and specially in Dinajpur town has exercised the minds of the authorities for many years. But only recently systematic attempt have been made to combat the disease. Major Rogers found the system of selling pice packets of quinine at post offices, which was started in 1892, unsatisfactory. The villagers do not visit the post offices in any number, and when they do, seldom think of purchasing quinines. In 1906, on the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon, some of the hospital assistants attached to the charitable dispensaries in the district were instructed to visit weekly markets nearest their dispensaries and distribute quinine to the villagers. The hospital assistant complained that these visits to the market interrupted their ordinary work, and that the villagers showed no eagerness to take quinine from them. In 1908-09 five new dispensaries were opened

by the District Board, and early in 1909, on the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon, a number of primary school teachers were induced to undertake the sale of quinine tablets. As regards Dinajpur town, several schemes for improving its sanitation, by levelling the beds of the *Ghagra* and *Kachai Nalas*, and thereby abolishing the ponds and cess-pools have been mooted from time to time, but have always been abandoned as costly and uncertain in their results. As an alternative measure, an anti-malaria campaign, on the lines of that recommended by Major Ross for Mauritius was started in the town in January 1908. The principle followed was to fill up all hollows of manageable size, to remove rubbish of all sorts from the neighbourhood of the houses to clear ditches and tanks of jungles and to treat small tanks and pools with raw kerosene. An integral part of the campaign was the wide distribution of quinines amongst the inhabitants of the town. In March 1909, Dr. Bentley, a specialist in malaria, visited Dinajpur at the request of the Sanitary Commissioner and made an enquiry similar to that made by Rogers five years before. Like the latter he held that it was little use attempting to destroy the *Anopheles* mosquito, but that the injury done by this insect might be greatly diminished and in time almost entirely done away with, by the systematic use of quinine. Accordingly, while the clearing of jungles and removal of rubbish were continued, redoubled efforts were made to push the distribution of quinine amongst the inhabitants of the town, while destroying the effects produced. The statistics supplied by the Civil Surgeon with his report on the progress of the campaign in 1909 are distinctly encouraging. The ratio of death per thousand from fever during the year, which was not by any means a healthy one, was slightly lower than the average ratio per thousand for the five years from 1904 to 1908, while the proportion of deaths from fever to total deaths was very much lower.

Anti-malaria Scheme.

An Anti-malaria scheme was conducted by the Dinajpur Municipality in 1947. This municipality received government grant to the extent of 50 per cent. of the estimated annual cost. This scheme produced good results in controlling the local incidence of malaria.

Quinine rationing.

Rationing of cinchona products introduced in 1943 under undivided Bengal was also adopted in Bangladesh during 1947. The District Magistrate was requested by the Health Directorate to submit estimates for the requirement of anti-malaria drugs in consultation with the local Civil Surgeon, the District Health Officer, the Subdivisional Officer and Subdivisional Health Officer

and to supervise the list of selling agents and free distributing agents if necessary. The sale of Mepacrine tablets through post offices was arranged immediately after partition of the province in consultation with the Post-Master General, Bangladesh. The monthly quota of half a pound of quinine that was allowed to registered Medical practitioners during the malaria season in undivided Bengal was continued during 1947. In 1947 the estimated mid-year population of the district was 1,398,461 of which 9,454 died of malaria with the ratio of 6·8 per mille. In 1950 deaths from malaria were 5,498 and in 1951 it was 3,333. In 1951 Rs.1,340 was granted to Dinajpur Municipality as anti-malaria grant. The rate of deaths from malaria per mille was 2·4 in 1951. In 1961 the total number of deaths from malaria was 1,648 with the rate of 0·96 per 1,000 population. In 1961 the Public Health Department completed a geographical reconnaissance survey in zone No. 1 in the district of Dinajpur. Intra-domiciliary spray of D.D.T. was carried out in zone No. 1 and 65,994 structures with 288,499, 53,844 rooms were sprayed; the total inhabitants protected were 297,115; 14,771,570 superficial area was sprayed.

The office of the zonal Headquarters of Malaria Eradication programme for Zone No.-1, Dinajpur, was established at Thakurgaon Road in the year 1961 and was shifted to Churipatti, Dinajpur, in the year 1963. The objective of the Malaria Eradication programme is the complete elimination of malaria from the country through total interruption of transmission and elimination of reservoir of ineffective cases and not merely the reduction of malaria cases. This zonal Headquarters is headed by one District Malaria Eradication officer who is in over all charge for the implementation and supervision of all malaria eradication activities in the zone. Under the District Malaria Eradication Officer there is one Pilot Project Officer with the responsibility of integration of malaria eradication with the Health Services in the pilot project area in Parbatipur since 1966. There are one Evaluator, one Health Educator, one Malaria Superintendent, 4 Assistant Malaria Superintendents, 14 Malaria Inspectors, 39 Assistant Malaria Inspectors, 177 Malaria Supervisors, and 55 Mixermen Spraymen, one Senior Microscopist, 22 Microscopists, one Entomological Technician, and 4 Insect Collectors, etc.

Malaria Eradication programme.

The preparatory phase of the programme started in Dinajpur district from January, 1961 and was completed by December of the same year. During this one year period epidemiological, entomological and geographical reconnaissance surveys were carried out in the district.

Attack phase. The attack phase (spraying with D.D.T.) started in Dinajpur district from January, 1962 and it was completed by December, 1964.

The consolidation phase (detection and elimination of remaining cases) started in Dinajpur district in early 1965 and was completed in 1967.

Maintenance phase.

This phase started from 1968 in Dinajpur and would continue as long as malaria persists in the world. Activities of this phase will be taken up by the Health centres of the Directorate of Health Services. Investigation of malaria cases, if there is any, and their elimination would be the main activity during this phase.

A pilot project has been started in Parbatipur from March, 1966 with a view to integrate malaria eradication programme with the regular Health Services. In this project employees of the Health Services are trained in the techniques of malaria eradication and conversely malaria eradication programme personnel are trained in the general preventive medicine. This project, at present, is operating in Parbatipur, Chirirbander and Phulbari police stations and very soon it is to be extended to cover the whole district.

Since inception of this programme in Dinajpur district in 1961 and up to June, 1966 an amount of 800 metric tons of D.D.T. was used for spraying all the houses in the district for several times.

A malarionometric base line survey was conducted in Dinajpur district in 1961 in which the gross parasite rate for the entire district was found to be 13.8 per cent. In 1962 an assessment malarionometric survey in the same district was conducted and the parasite rate was found to have come down to 0.57 per cent. The annual parasite indices for 1963, 1964 and 1965 obtained through surveillance operations were found to be 0.13, 0.07 and 0.008 per thousand population respectively. Results of malarionometric surveys and surveillance are graphically represented in annex. 'A' attached herewith.

Kala-Azar.

Kala-azar has been much prevalent in the district since quite long ago.

In 1947, 11,375 persons died of Kala-azar and mortality rate was 25 per mille as against 17,487 with a death rate of 33 per cent. mortality in 1947. In 1950 the death figure was 1,001 in the district.

At present the horror of this dreadful disease has been eliminated to a great extent. Every year a large number of Kala-Azar patients are treated in the hospitals and the Kala-Azar centres. There has been arrangement for the treatment of this disease in the hospitals, and dispensaries. The total number of special Kala-Azar centres came down from 23 to 5 in 1966. A medical officer of local dispensary is in charge of each of these centres.

In 1960 a sum of Rs. 920.00 was granted to the Medical Officers-in-charge of the Kala-Azar centres as allowances. In 1960 the total number of Kala-Azar cases treated in the centres were 2,251.

Outbreaks of cholera are of yearly occurrence, but are rarely of a very serious nature, and last for a month or six weeks at a time. Cholera

The year 1891 may be mentioned as an exceptionally bad one, when the death figure from this cause reached a total of 6,491, *i.e.*, 4.17 per thousand. The death rate from cholera is very small in comparison with fever or other diseases in the district. In 1947, 368 people died of cholera. The average death rate of cholera per 10,000 population in 1944-48 was .34 in 1948, 0.2 and in 1949, .06. In 1951 the lowest number of deaths was recorded, *i.e.*, 9 with the rate of .00 per thousand. This year the urban area of the district remained free from this disease. The average death rate was 0.25 in 1946-50, 0.12 in 1950 and .00 in 1951. In 1959, 5 persons were attacked and 2 died.

It is hard to say that one part of the district is more subject to such outbreaks than another, but the disease usually seems to follow the course of one of the bigger rivers, the infection being doubtlessly carried by the river water. It is noticeable that in years of deficient rainfall such outbreaks are more marked, and assume more of an epidemic form. The reason why cholera is less prevalent in this district than in many others is probably that the population as a whole get their drinking water from wells in their own compounds, and these are naturally much less liable to contamination than public sources of supply, such as tanks and rivers. These wells are, however, seldom deeper than 12 to 15 feet and in a rainless season they run dry and the people are driven to drink tank or river water. But this problem of getting pure drinking water has been mitigated much with the sinking of tube-wells by the

Public Health Department since 1962. 5,80,710 c.c., of cholera vaccines were received and 595,332 persons were inoculated in the same year.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

The diseases next in importance to cholera are dysentery and diarrhoea which may be classed under one head. The mortality from this is small. In the mango season, a kind of choleraic diarrhoea, caused by eating unripe mangoes, is common enough, but seldom ends fatally. In 1947, 1,156 persons died of dysentery and diarrhoea. In 1949, 780 persons died at the rate of .55 per mille. In 1951, this disease prevailed badly in the district and 1,256 persons died. In 1961, 121 persons died at the rate of 0.07 per 1,000 population.

Small-pox.

Outbreaks of small-pox are fairly frequent, but the type is not violent and does little damage. Cases reported as small-pox are frequently found on investigation to be really chicken-pox. In 1947, the number of deaths occurred in Dinajpur was 307, the highest in the province. In 1949, only 3 persons died of small-pox in the district. The average death rate per 10,000 population in 1944-48 was .43. In 1951, 676 persons died with the rate of 0.49 per 1,000 population and in 1961, person died of small-pox in the district.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is compulsory within the municipal limits. The people now recognize its utility and seldom raise objection to themselves and their children being vaccinated on. In fact, when an outbreak of small-pox occurs they are eager to get the services of a vaccinator. In 1909 when there was a rather severe epidemic, no less than 113,706 vaccinations were performed. In 1941 number of vaccination was 89,050 and in 1951 the number of successful vaccination was 2,93,328 with the ratio of .75 deaths per mille.

B. C. G. Vaccination.

In 1961, 1,77,598 persons were tested and 80,336 persons were vaccinated in Dinajpur.

Leprosy.

Buchanan Hamilton speaks of leprosy being common in his day, and says that one person in a hundred was supposed to be affected with leprosy which constitutes a great public health menace in the northern districts of the province and specially in Dinajpur. This disease is fairly prevalent in the district. To fight out this disease an Italian Catholic Missionary has established a Leper Asylum at Dhanjuri, Dinajpur, in the year 1927 at about 40 miles from Dinajpur. It is a private hospital but receives aid from the Government and the District Council. Formerly, the patients were lodged in puddled clay huts which have all been replaced by brick-built houses. A small

clinic has been built in the middle of leprosarium with dispensary. The treatment of this disease is a long-drawn process. It takes from 6 months to 2 to 3 years. There are four sister nurses and one partime doctor to look after dormitories providing 2 to 3 patients in each room. There the patients prepare their own food and do their domestic works in a family like atmosphere.

The capacity of seats in the hospital is 72. In 1963' 8 patients were admitted and 6 were cured.

During 1965, 86 indoor and 700 outdoor patients were treated in the hospital. The hospital receives private grant in view of the increasing number of the leprosy patients. Government started in 1950 an outdoor leprosy clinic attached to the Sadar hospital, Dinajpur. A Radiologist is incharge of the clinic in addition to his own duty in Sadar hospital. From 1950 to 1961 this clinic treated 2,894 patients. The number of patients treated in this clinic in 1965 was 980.

In 1947, 198 persons died of T. B. at the rate of .12 per mille. In 1951, 182 persons died at the rate of .13 per mille and in 1961, 127 persons died at the rate of 0.07 per mille. **Tuberculosis.**

There are two T. B. Clinics in the district, one is at Dinajpur **T. B. Clinics.** sadar, established in August and the other at Thakurgaon, established in December. Both these clinics are run by the Government and only outdoor patients are treated. In these two clinics facilities for tuberculin test, X-ray, sputum microscopy have been provided and for the treatment of the patients both medical and surgical facilities are also provided.

In 1947, 559 persons died at the ratio of .4 and in 1961, 185 persons died at the rate of 0.10 per 1,000 population. This disease was classed in the typhoid fever. In some case vaccines were supplied by the District Council free of cost. In 1961, 185 persons died at the rate of 0.10 per 1,000 population. **Enteric fever.**

In 1951, 312 persons died at the rate of .23 per 1,000 population. **Typhoid.**

In 1947, 15 persons died of rabies with the ratio of .01 and in 1960, 4 persons died of rabies. 375 anti-rabic vaccines were purchased in 1960 by the District Council and supplied to the persons attacked with this disease on payment of a very small amount, i.e., Rs. 5 only. **Rabies.**

In 1947, 89 persons died with the ratio of .06. In 1951, 52 persons and in 1960, 89 persons died committing suicide. **Suicide.**

- Injuries.** In 1949, 331 persons died, the ratio being .23 per 1,000 population and in 1951, 267 persons died with the ratio of .19 per 1,000 population.
- Death at Child birth.** In 1947, 1,114, in 1951, 787 and in 1961, 407 mothers died of child birth.
- Hospitals.** The following hospitals have been established in the district:
- Sadar Hospital, Dinajpur.** Established in 1896 it is a class I hospital. There are 52 seats for men and 20 seats for women for the treatment of general patients. The average daily attendance in 1956 was 186. Total numbers of patients treated in Sadar hospital were as follows: in 1948, 1,435; in 1949, 1,786; in 1951, 2,288 in 1952, 2,136; in 1953, 2,014; in 1954, 1,802; in 1955, 1,882; in 1956, 1,561. In 1960 the total number of patients treated in the hospital were 1,854 indoor and 28,007 outdoor, the daily average number of patients being 53.26 men, 15.25 women and 5.22 children. In 1965 the total number of indoor patients treated was 33,523.
- St. Vincent Home.** This nursery was established in 1958 by Reverend Father T. Bonolo, an Italian Missionary in Mission Road, Dinajpur. This hospital treats both the indoor and outdoor patients. The number of beds for the indoor patients is 72. The nursery has a general section which provides 8 seats, a special section for T. B. patients, one maternity centre and the minor operation section. Food, medicine and clothes are provided by the hospital authority to the patient. Charges for poor patients for food, lodging, medicine and treatment are between Re. 1.00 and Rs. 1.50 daily for indoor patients. Special cabins for single patient are provided on special payment between Rs. 8.00 and Rs. 15.00 per day. But these types of cases are very rare.
- Thakurgaon Subdivisional Hospital.** The hospital was established in 1887. This hospital is in-charge of an Assistant Surgeon. It is a class II hospital with the capacity of 16 beds. The total number of patients treated in this hospital were 389 in 1956, the daily average attendance during 1956 being 101 and the average expenditure per head was Rs. 2,717.
- Police Hospital, Dinajpur.** There is one class II police hospital in-charge of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the district established in 1930-31. There are one trained nurse and two nursing orderly constables. The capacity of beds in the hospital is 22. Of the patients treated in 1964, 309 patients were admitted in this hospital; the figure for outdoor patients was 2,928. In 1965 the indoor patients were 280 and outdoor patients were 3,867. The average daily attendance of patients in 1964 was 17.92 outdoor and 8 indoor. The expenditure in the hospital in 1964-65 was Rs. 33,350.

There is one "B" Class Railway hospital under the charge of an Assistant Surgeon at Parbatipur. The hospital was established in 1908. Excepting the Assistant Surgeon there are three attending doctors. The capacity of bed of the hospital is 14 and the number of patients admitted in 1904 was 389, of them 3 patients died. The total number of patients treated indoor and outdoor was 27,578 and the average daily attendance of patients in the same year was 171. The amount of expenditure incurred in 1964-65 was Rs.61,120 approximately.

Railway Hospital.

The District Jail Hospital is under the in charge of a Medical Officer with the status of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. The jail hospital is a two-storied building with 54 beds for the male prisoners. During the year of 1965 the daily average number of sick prisoners was male convicts 3.05, under trial male 8.97, under trial female .01, male security .01.

District Jail Hospital.

In Thakurgaon sub-jail there is no hospital meant for the prisoners but the Subdivisional Medical Officer visits the jail every day and treats the patients. In case of any serious illness the patient is removed to the Subdivisional Hospital.

Sub-Jail.

The daily average of the number of sick prisoners in 1965 was 4.50 as against 2.60 in 1964.

Following is the list of the dispensaries in the district*.

Dispensaries.

Sl. No.	Names of Hospitals** and Dispensaries.	Of what class.	Date of opening.	In charge of—	Thana in which situated, in Rural or Urban area.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dinajpur Sadar Hospital (I)	I	24-2-1893	M.B.B.S.	Urban, Sadar.
2.	Thakurgaon Subdivisional Hospital	I	20-4-1887	Do.	Urban, Thakurgaon.
3.	Dhanjuri Leper Hospital	IV	..	L.M.F.	Urban, Hakimpur.
4.	Debiganj Government Thana Dispensary (T).	I	1-12-1964	Do.	Rural, Debiganj.
5.	Ranisankail Government Thana Dispensary (T).	I	1962	Do.	Rural, Ranisankail.
6.	Atwari Government Thana Dispensary (T).	I	1962	Do.	Rural, Atwari.
7.	Rajbati Government Out-door Dispensary.	I	1-12-1964	Do.	Urban, Sadar.

*List of Hospitals and Dispensaries in East Pakistan, 1967, published by the Directorate of Health Services in 1968.

**There are dispensaries attached to these hospitals.

Sl. No.	Names of Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Of what class.	Date of opening.	In-charge of—	Thana in which situated, in Rural or Urban area.
1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Fulbari Government Outdoor Dispensary (T) .. D	III	June, 1905	L. M. F.	.. Rural, Fulbari.
9.	Birganj K.C. Day's Dispensary(T)	III	20-9-1905	Do.	.. Rural, Birganj.
10.	Pirganj (T) .. D	III	3-6-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Pirganj.
11.	Haripur (T) .. D	III	22-6-1954	Do.	.. Rural, Haripur.
12.	Habra D	III	10-9-1919	Do.	.. Rural, Parbatipur.
13.	Munishgaon (T) .. D	III	1945	Do.	.. Rural, Ranisankail.
14.	Khansama (T) .. D	III	15-4-1922	Do.	.. Rural, Khansama.
15.	Ghoraghat (T) .. D	III	8-5-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Ghoraghat.
16.	Goriya D	III	25-2-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Thakurgaon.
17.	Panchpir .. D	III	1937	Do.	.. Rural, Boda.
18.	Roseya D	III	1921	Do.	.. Rural, Atwari.
19.	Boda (T) .. D	III	1864	Do.	.. Rural, Boda.
20.	Mirzapur .. D	III	7-8-1923	Do.	.. Rural, Atwari.
21.	Panchgarh (T) .. D	III	1921	Do.	.. Rural, Panchgarh.
22.	Keshoriganj(Narabarihat) D	III	3-10-1923	Do.	.. Rural, Birol.
23.	Nawapara .. D	III	15-1-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Birganj.
24.	Birampur .. D	III	4-1-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Hakimpur.
25.	Tetulia (T) .. D	III	1886	Do.	.. Rural, Tetulia.
26.	Birol (T) .. D	III	5-9-1932	Do.	Rural, Birol.
27.	Kaharole (T) .. D	III	1955	Do.	.. Rural, Kaharole.
28.	Nurul Huda .. D	III	20-6-1941	Do.	.. Rural, Parbatipur.
29.	Chirirbandar (T) .. D	III	1-9-1932	Do.	.. Rural, Chirirbandar.
30.	Pakerhat .. D	III	..	Do.	.. Rural, Khansama.
31.	Setabganj ... D	III	1-2-1924	Do.	.. Rural, Bochaganj.
32.	Jalalpur D	III	28-8-1945	Do.	.. Rural, Kotwali.
33.	Sakoan Chandanbari D	III	1940	Do.	.. Rural, Chirirbandar.
34.	Baliadangi (T) ... D	III	1937	Do.	.. Rural, Baliadangi.
35.	Ruhea D	III	1940	Do.	.. Rural, Thakurgaon.
36.	Hili (T) D	III	1944	Unregistered	Rural, Pak-Hili.

Sl. No. 1	Names of Hospitals and Dispensaries. 2	Of what class. 3	Date of opening. 4	In-charge of— 5	Thana in which situated, in Rural or Urban area. 6
37.	Parbatipur (T) ... D	III	1938	L. M. F. ...	Rural, Parbatipur.
38.	Nawabganj (T) ... D	III	11-2-1940	Do. ...	Rural, Nawabganj.
39.	Balia ... D	III	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Thakurgaon.
40.	Joydhar Vanga ... U	...	1939	Do. ...	Rural, Pochagarh.
41.	Raniganj ... U	...	1939	Do. ...	Rural, Ghoraghat.
42.	Bhajanpur ... U	...	1937	Do. ..	Rural, Tetulia.
43.	Mangalpur ... U	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Birol.
44.	Bimakuri ... U	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Chirirbandar.
45.	Bhomraduha ... U	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Pirganj.
46.	Bhowla ... U	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Debiganj.
47.	Pamali ... U	...	1936	Do. ...	Rural, Debiganj.
48.	Rudrani (Kazihat) ... U	...	1-12-1947	Unregistered	Rural, Phulbari.
49.	Shikarpur (Saldanga) U	...	9-9-1939	Do. ...	Rural, Debiganj.
50.	Ranirbandar Village... U	...	19-12-1940	M.B. ...	Rural, Chirirbandar.
51.	Dangarhat (A. Gafur) U	...	25-11-1940	Do. ...	Rural, Chirirbandar.
52*	Sherpur ... U	...	22-11-1944	Do. ...	Rural, Chirirbandar.
53*	Rajarampur (Hasan Ali) U	...	9-4-1944	Do.	Rural, Parbatipur.
54*	Ambari ... U	...	...	Unregistered.	Rural, Parbatipur.
55*	Shibganj ... U	...	1940	L.M.F. ...	Rural, Thakurgaon.
56.	Dhanarhat (Ansaria U Charitable Dispensary).	...	25-5-1952	Unregistered	Rural, Pirganj.
57.	Gopalpur ... U	...	1953	Do. ...	Rural, Ghorghat.
58.	Katali (Karimbox Dis- U pensary).	...	1938	L. M. F. ...	Rural, Atwari.
59.	Kachnia ... U	...	3-9-1939	Do. ...	Rural, Khansama.
60.	Chandganj ... U	...	...	Unregistered	Rural, Kotwali.
61.	Nekmard ... U	...	1-9-1939	Do.	Rural, Ranisankail.
62.	Daudpur ... U	...	12-1-1934	L. M. F. ...	Rural, Nowabganj.
63.	Palsa ... U	...	...	Unregistered	Rural, Ghoraghat.
64.	Baduria ... U	...	14-4-1924	L. M. F. ...	Rural, Nowabganj.
65.	Lahiri ... U	...	1-1-1925	Do. ...	Rural, Baliadangi.
66.	Chitaman ... U	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Phulbaria.

Sl. No.	Name of Hospitals and Dispensaries.	Of what class.	Date of opening.	In charge of	Thana in which situated, in Rural or Urban area.
1	3	3	4	5	6
67.	Charadangi ... U	...	6-2-1951	Unregistered	Rural, Kotwali.
68.	Raniganj	V(i)	1928	L. M. F. ...	Rural, Ranisankail.
69.	Balia ... ..	...	1937	Do. ...	Rural, Atwari.
70.	Sundardighi ... U	...	3-7-1963	Unregistered.	Rural, Boda.
71.	Chaklahat ... U	...	...	Do. ...	Rural, Boda.
72.	Salander ... U	...	...	Do. ...	Rural, Thakurgaon.
73.	Ramdubihat ...	IV	26-11-1963	Do. ...	Rural, Kotwali.
74.	Kaliganj	IV	1-3-1967	Do. ...	Rural, Boda.
75.	Kalandigouch	IV	1962	Do. ...	Rural, Tetulia. *

Rural Health Centres.

There are five Rural Health Centres in the district. These centres have been established for prevention and cure of the disease in the rural areas. In each of these centres, the Assistant Surgeon is assisted by one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, four Compounders, one Dresser, one Sanitary Inspector, four Government Health Assistants, one Laboratory Assistant, one Lady Health Vistor, one Midwife, three nurses, etc. One Maternity Centre is attached to each of these R.H. Centres.

Family Planning.

There has been a Family Planning Programme in the district introduced in September 1965 with the objective of lowering down the birth rate. This Family Planning Programme is run by a District Family Planning Board consisting of 8 members. The Deputy Commissioner, Dinajpur is the Chairman, the Civil Surgeon is the Vice-Chairman.

There are 22 Thana Family Planning Officers, one in each thana. There are three Family Planning Assistants for each thana for publicity works, holding exhibition, advising and supervising the sale of the contraceptives by the agents in the villages. There are 1,252 village lady organizers (dais).

*Explanatory Notes—

I.—Where indoor patients are treated.

D.—Managed by District Council.

T.—Thana Dispensaries managed by the District Council.

Class I—State-Public Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Class III—Local Fund Hospitals and Dispensaries and all institutions which are under Local Authorities or maintained by Local Funds or grants-in-Aid.

Class IV—Private aided Dispensaries supported by private subscriptions, but receiving aid from Government or Local Funds.

Class V(i)—Private non-aided Dispensaries under Government supervision maintained entirely at the cost of private individuals or associations.

There are two urban Clinics of which one is at Dinajpur Sadar Hospital with three doctors including one lady doctor, and one is at Sadar Hospital at Thakurgaon with one doctor. These doctors are all part-timers. Besides, there are other part-time rural Clinics attached to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at Thakurgaon and at Dinajpur Sadar with one doctor and one Lady Health Visitor. There are such rural Clinics attached to Birganj Charitable Dispensary run with two doctors including one lady doctor, and at Phulbari and Ghoraghat Charitable Dispensaries and Ghoraghat Dispensary run by mobile unit.

Since its inception in September, 1965 up to April 1966 the Family Planning Programme did the following works to its credit. During this period the number of IUD (Plastic coils) insertions was 3,853, number of vasectom (male operations) was 1,010, number of foam tablets sold to clients was 18,881 doz. and condom 19,748 doz.

This programme was introduced only recently. So its tangible result is yet to be seen.

The District Health Education Office was established in December 1964 with one District Health Education Officer and one Field Worker-cum-Projectionist. The main function of the office is the propaganda on health education among the masses. The office makes the propagnnda effective by organising seminar and talks in schools, colleges, community centres, public places with the help of Medical Officer, Civil Surgeon, teachers of the educational institutions and social workers.

Health
Education.

This office also arranges for film show on the history of communicable diseases and how to prevent them, on maternity and child care, on food nutrition, balanced diet etc. This office arranges crush Health Education campaign at the time of the out-break of epidemic diseases such as cholera, typhoid etc. with the help of Basic Democracy members and local influential people.

Since 1947, steps are taken to prevent the out-break of cholera and other epidemic diseases in melas and fairs. Adequate arrangements are made for water supply to the pilgrims. A doctor for the whole period and another for the first 10 days of the mela are appointed. Moreover, the Sanitary, Inspector of the Health Circles is deputed to look after the sanitation of the mela area. The proprietor of the mela erected thatched houses at a considerable distance from the mela for segregation of patients suffering from infectious

Mobile activities
of Public Health.

diseases. Although 1,847 cases were treated in the mela dispensary, there was no out-break of any disease in epidemic form. For supply of pure water to the visitors, 65 pucca wells and 25 kutchha wells were thoroughly disinfected. Arrangement was also made for supply of water from 15 tube-wells. Eighteen trench latrines were erected at a sufficient distance from the mela ground and 10 sweepers were engaged by the proprietors of the mela. A temporary dispensary was opened for treatment of patients. One qualified doctor and one compounder were appointed for the whole period of the mela. A total number 1,810 patients got medical treatment in the mela dispensary. Thatched houses were erected by the proprietors of the mela for segregation of the patients. The Sanitary Inspector-in-charge of Atwari Health Circle was deputed to look after the sanitary arrangement made for the mela. The District Health Officer, Dinajpur occasionally visited the mela and gave necessary instructions to the sanitary staff. There was no out-break of epidemic disease.

Public Health Engineering.

The Public Health Engineering office has been established in the district in 1962. It is headed by an Assistant Engineer. The function of the office is to supply drinking water in rural areas of the district. Up to 1964-65 this office has sunk and resunk 2,420 and 242 tube-wells at Dinajpur Sadar and 1,836 and 163 at Thakurgaon respectively. In average there has been one tube-well for every 200 people in the district.

School Health Clinic.

There is one School Health Clinic located at Balubari, Dinajpur. This Clinic has its jurisdiction over 17 schools with 6,995 students. During the year 1965, the average daily attendance of the school children at the Clinic was 10·05; number of students vaccinated, inoculated and physical defects detected was 5,998; number of students referred to the hospitals was 53; number of schools in which training was imparted to trainees to work as health monitor was 4; and number of schools in which seminar was organised was 12.

CHAPTER X.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The principal mother tongue of the district is Bengali. The other important languages spoken in the district are Urdu and English. The percentage of people speaking different languages in the district is indicated in the table below:

Name of language.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Percentage.
Bengali ...	16,53,913	8,74,473	7,79,440	96·72
Urdu ...	46,922	28,703	18,219	2·74
English ...	8,979	7,796	1,183	·52

Language and
Literacy.

The number of literates recorded in the 1961 Census is 3,64,710 out of which 3,02,631 are males and 62,088 females which give an overall percentage of 25·9. Considering the literacy figures by sex the percentage of literacy amongst males is 33·53 and amongst females 7·68.

Details of the educational level of the people are given below:

Education Level.

	Both.	Males.	Females.
Post-Graduates ...	231	220	11
Graduates ...	609	586	23
Under-Graduates ...	1,111	1,043	68
Matriculates ...	6,925	6,654	271
Primary passed ...	4,73,426	4,06,421	67,005
Below Primary ...	11,08,681	8,36,597	2,72,084
No formal education ...	3,21,659	2,47,085	74,574

The figures of persons holding professional or technical degrees and certificates are given below:

Education, Medicine, Engineering, Law, Agriculture, Commerce, Others

Persons holding certificates.	1,081	285	59	...	83	...	...
Persons holding diplomas and professional degrees.	292	83	31	88	27	3	30

During the year 1965-66 out of 1,69,368 pupils under instruction in different stages 1,06,496 were Muslim boys and 35,398 Muslim girls as against 1,06,674 Muslim boys and 21,857 Muslim girls in 1964-65. The percentage of Muslim pupils in the population of the district was 8·35 and to the total Muslim population as 12·45 only.

The number of educational institution in the district on the 30th June 1966 was as follows:

1. Colleges for boys	...	...	...	8
2. College for girls	...	...	...	1
3. High Schools	...	...	...	84
4. Junior High Schools	...	...	...	68
5. Middle English Schools	...	...	...	3
6. Primary Schools	...	...	...	1,268
7. Weaving School	...	...	...	1
8. Polytechnique Institute	...	...	...	1
9. Primary Training Institute	...	...	...	1
10. Refreshers Course Training Centre	...	...	...	1

Administration.

At present the district administration of education is run by the District Education Officer and the District Inspector of Schools. The District Inspector of Schools has to supervise the Primary Schools and the District Education Officer has to look after Secondary Education and special schools as well as educational development programme. The District Education Officer is assisted in his work by 2 Subdivisional Education Officers, one for each subdivision and 15 Thana Education Officers for 22 thanas. The District Inspector of Schools has 16 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools to help him in his work, while High Schools for girls are supervised by the Inspectress of Schools of the Division and by the Assistant Inspectress of schools. In financial matters all colleges of the district are under the direct control of the Director of Public Instruction, Bangladesh.

The Degree Examinations are conducted by the University of Rajshahi and the Secondary School Certificate Examination and the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination are conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rajshahi. The matters relating to affiliation, formation of Governing bodies and syllabus etc. of the Degree and Intermediate colleges are controlled by the University and the Secondary Board concerned respectively. The Local Bodies of the district have their separate arrangement for the control of schools within their jurisdiction, while Junior and High Madrasahs are controlled by the Board of Madrasah Education, so far as examinations are concerned. Polytechnic Institute of the district is controlled by the Directorate of Technical Education.

Background.

Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered North Bengal after his victory over Lakshmanāsen. He established a military outpost at Devkot. After the conquest of Bengal he is said to have established madrasahs and maktabas in the conquered area. His example was emulated by some of his successors.

The study of Persian assumed importance with the Muslim conquest. The use of the Persian Language in all revenue transactions dating from Akbar's reign compelled every one having interest in land to learn the Persian language. Hindus and Muslims alike, therefore, considered mastery in Persian as one of the necessary educational attainments. By the fourteenth century A.D. *Mangal kavyas* began to be composed in Bengali and one of the poets, Jagat Jivan Ghosal, who wrote such a poem in the seventeenth century, was born in the district of Dinajpur.

Francis Buchanan (Hamilton) described the state of education in the district in the beginning of the nineteenth century as follows:

"Children usually go to school at five years of age, and are instructed to read and write at the same time, which seems to be an excellent method.

"In five or six months they are thus able to read and write. They then begin to write cyphers on palmira or plantain leaves with a reed and ink, and at the same time they learn numeration, and the subdivisions of weights and measures. The subdivisions of time belong to astronomy, or rather astrology. This occupies 18 months. They then begin.....to learn to keep accounts, at the same time to multiply, divide and subtract, with the rule of practice in which the usual Indian arithmetic consists. Accounts and arithmetic are divided into two kinds, one for agricultural, and the other for commercial affairs where both are to be learned the former is the one usually taught first; but very few of the natives.....ever acquire that knowledge,In general, the parents of this country are contented with instructing their children in mercantile accounts,..... It is only the arithmetic, commercial and agricultural, that is taught at *pathsalas*; and the application to mensuration, and to keeping of books, either of a merchant or land holder, are acquired in some office or shop into which the lad enters as an assistant, and where he also learns the style and manner of correspondence. Boys are fitted or entering into an office as assistants, when from 8 or 10 years of age, according to their industry.

"The use of the sharp iron style, for writing on bark or leaves, although the original manner of Hindu writing has been entirely relinquished, and a pen made of reed or bamboo and ink, introduced by Muhammadans, are universally employed, even in writing on the palmira leaf, which is still often used in works of value as being more durable than paper.....

Neither is the Hindustani dialect taught in any school, nor is the Persian character usually employed to write it in any of the *pathsalas*. The people of higher rank, however, commonly teach this to their children, who also learn to speak a higher style, which may be compared to the Prakrito of the Hindus, and consists almost as entirely of Arabic and Persian, as the other does of Sanskrita”.

About *Maktabas* he wrote:

“The number of *Muktab khānas*, or schools where Persian literature is taught.....is very small. They are nearly as much frequented by Hindus as by Muhammedans, for the Persian language is considered as a necessary accomplishment for every gentleman, and it is absolutely necessary for those who wish to acquire a fortune in the courts of law. The number of pupils, however, in this district is very small, and most of the people of any rank or wealth are instructed by private tutors who are procurable on the most moderate terms. There is reason however to fear, that their learning is not extensive, nor their taste correct; and so far as I could learn, the studies usually pursued are forms for correspondence, or processes of law, to which are added the most improbable legendary tales that can be procured. There is no school in which Arabic, or the science of the Muhammadans are taught; and although some of the priest (Molanas) can read the portions of the Koran, that are appropriated for certain ceremonies, I heard a general complaint from the Kasis, that few understand a single word of that language; and that the greater part had merely learned the passages by rote, so as to enable them to perform the ceremonies.....

“The course of study in a Hindu academy begins with the *Vyakoron* or Songskrito grammar and literature. For the first 10 years some study a grammar called *Songkhyiptosar* said to have been composed by a Brahman named Komodiswro, concerning whose history the *Pandits* could give me no information. The study of this grammar is sometimes facilitated by the Commentary of Goyichondor, others again study a grammar called, *kolop*, said to have been composed by Sorbo Borma, who was contemporary with Salivahana. This grammar seems to be nearly as obscure and unscientific as the former, as its study usually occupies 10 years, although persevering students sometimes are masters of it in eight. Others study a grammar called *Mugdhobodh*, written by Vopodev, a Brahmin of the five tribes introduced by Adisur into Bengal, and,

therefore, a modern author. Those who use this grammar, study two commentaries, one called *Gon* written also by Vopodev, and another written by a Brahmin, Ram Torko Vagis. This system is probably much more rational than the others, as youths require only from three to five years for its study. Finally, other masters use a grammar equally easy, called Saroswot, and composed by Onobhyut Acharyo of Varanosi (Benaras). These also use the Commentary of Govindo called Podochondrika, and that of Ramkrishno, called Podmokumari. They then begin to learn the meaning of the words in an Obhidhan. So far as I can learn, an Obhidhan is rather a vocabulary than a dictionary and the natives have yet adopted the alphabetical arrangement of their words to facilitate the study of their language. The only vocabulary used in Dinajpur is the Omorkosh of Omorsingho, whom the *Pandits* here, as usual, consider as a person belonging to the sect of Buddiha, who flourished at the court of Vikrom. The study of this occupies only one year, and is sometimes assisted by the commentary of a Physician named Bhorot Mollick, and at other times by the commentary of Ray Makut which by its prolixity lengthens the time of study for 6 months.

“The students now are qualified to begin to poets, and the work usually chosen to from their tase (taste) is that called Bhatti, which is said to consist or extracts from the Ramayon of Valmiki, made by Bhortrihori, brother, of Vikrom. A year is employed in reading this work, which according to the *Pandits* who use it, is also excellent and sublime that after its perusal every other poem appears flat, and is unnecessary; but others, among whom is the Raja’s *Purohit*, prefer two poems, name Roghu and Kumar Sombha..... Sri Chondrok, a brother of the Raja’s *Purohit*, although a Professor of law, seem to extend the study of the Poets more than usual, and besides the common extracts from the work of Valmiki, he reads with his pupils another history of Ram called Natok..... Other professors of law are less indulgent, and proceed to that dry study immediately after their pupils have read the Omorkosh. Then pupils are now considered as completely instructed in the *Vyakoron*, or Songs-krito grammar, and may peruse whatever of the classical authors in that language they can venture to read. In Dinajpur no person except Brahmins are instructed in the *Vyakoron*; but in some parts of Bengal, the Baidyos, or medical tribe, and even some rich Kayosthos are permitted to study such portions of this science, as have been composed by meremen; but whatever is supposed to have been delivered by Munis, or by gods,

is concealed from their profane eyes. Some Kayosthos have, however, had the audacity to lay open the veil, and have even translated of the works of Vyas into the Parakrito language; but this is held to have been highly unjustifiable. Some Brahmins, however, justify the action; not from their alleging that a Kayoshto should read the work of a Muni, but because the works that have been translated are not in reality the composition of Vyas.

“Persons who are desirous of extending their knowledge to the study of the law (*Smṛiti*), after such a course of *Vyakoron*, are qualified to be with the works of Roghunondon, a Brahmin of Nodiya, whose grandson is said to be still alive. His works are said to be very voluminous, and to consist of 28 books. Of those however eight only are usually studied in this district and these require five years of constant application. They are as follows:

- (1) *Tighi Tottwo*, which treats of the laws to be observed in the performance of ceremonies at new moons and eclipses.
- (2) *Prayoschitto Tottwo*, concerning the ceremonies which out to be performed for the remission of sin.
- (3) *Molomas Tottwo*, concerning what is to be done or omitted during the intercalary month of the lunar year.
- (5) *Suddhi Tottwo*, concerning what is to be eaten on certain days especially those of morning.
- (6) *Udbaha Tottwo*, concerning marriage.
- (7) *Ahnik Tottwo*, concerning the rules for prayer.
- (8) *Sradho Tottwo*, concerning what is to be done in commemoration of deceased parents.

“After this course of law one *pandit* reads with his pupils one of the 18 Purans called *Sribhagvot*, as containing a useful illustration of the dry precepts of Roghunondon..... In this school men have usually finished their education in the law by the time that they are thirty years of age. Some of the *pandits* however in place of this fight to poetical regions, after having finished the usual eight books of Roghunondon, teach the *Prachin Bariti*, composed by Sulpandi, a Brahmin of Yosor (Jessore), which treats of the same subject with the 2nd book of Roghunondon. They then give their pupils the *Sradho Chintomoni*, a work of Vachospoti Misro, a Maithilo Brahmin, which treats on the laws for performing funeral ceremonies. Grammar (*Vyakoron*) is a necessary preliminary to

all science, but many proceed to study metaphysics or philosophy without attending to law, and many on the contrary study law without a precious knowledge of that important branch of knowledge. Metaphysics of the *Nyayo Sastro* are the glory of the *pandits* of Bengal, and are nowhere in India so much studied..... The most ancient work on this subject now remaining, according to the *pandits* of this place, is a treatise called *Chintamani*, said to have been written by a Maithilo Brahmin ; but it is so obscure and difficult, that few are able to comprehend its meaning. The works usually studied have been composed in modern times..... The greater part however pursue their studies for 12 or 14 years more, reading a great variety of books,..... These three sciences grammar, Law, and Metaphysics, are considered as the noblest; and are the only knowledge which the *Odhyapoks* of Bengal will condescend to teach in their Ghauvaris and of those the study of Metaphysics is considered as by far the most honourable, and next to that is the study of the law.”

Thus even by 1810 no English school had been established in the district which came under the control of the East India Company in 1765. In 1856-57 there were 1 English school and 8 Vernacular schools maintained by the Government in the district. Besides these 9 schools, there was in 1856-57 another Vernacular school which used to receive financial aid from the Government. In 1870-71 the number of English schools maintained by the Government was 1 and the number of Vernacular schools was 8. The number of aided schools, however, increased considerably. In 1870-71 there were 4 English and 215 Vernacular schools in the district which used to receive financial assistance from the Government. Besides these schools there were 18 girls' schools and 1 training school which also used to receive financial aid from the Government. In 1872 Sir George Campbell's Scheme for the spread of primary education was initiated. Hitherto Government had not spent anything for the spread of primary education. With the initiation of the Scheme of Sir George Campbell, the *gurus* or village school masters who had till then imparted primary education to the children, became eligible to receive financial aid not exceeding Rs. 5 per month each from the Government, subject to the condition that the instruction was to be imparted entirely in the vernacular and that the work of the *pathsala* would be open to inspection.

Beginning of
Western
education.

Under Sir George Campbell's Scheme the expenditure for giving financial help to the *gurus* was to be met out of the provincial revenues, no extra cess or tax being levied to meet

this additional expenditure. It should also be noted that in this scheme there was no provision for the appointment of primary school teachers by the Government or by any local authority.

Primary education received a further impetus by the enactment of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930 (Bengal Act 7 of 1930). Under this Act a Central Primary Education Committee was constituted for the purpose of advising the Government on all matters referred to in the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act. This Act also constituted the District School Boards (i) to prepare and maintain a register showing all primary schools within the district, together with the teachers thereof and their qualifications, and the accommodation available therein; (ii) to tabulate such further information and to prepare such plans or maps as might be necessary to enable the School Board to frame an estimate of the existing provision for primary education and of the further provision necessary to place primary education within the reach of all children; (iii) to prepare in the prescribed manner schemes for the extension of primary education within the area under the authority of each Union Board, or *Panchayat*; (iv) to maintain all primary schools under public management in the district, except primary schools maintained by the Union Boards under the control of the School Board; and (v) subject to the prescribed conditions, to appoint and fix and pay the salaries of teachers in primary schools.

The duties of these District School Boards listed in section 23 of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930 are fourteen in number out of which only five have been specifically mentioned there. Under this Act all immovable property on which the road and public works cesses were assessed according to the provisions of the Cess Act, 1880, became liable to the payment of a primary education cess. Income from trade, businesses or professions carried on in the rural areas were also made liable to the payment of a primary education tax. In Chapter V of the Act it was prescribed that in addition to the sums which might be appropriated from the State revenues in any year for purpose of primary education, the State Government should every year provide sum of twenty-three lakhs and fifty rupees for expenditure on primary education in rural areas.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The first official ground survey of educational institutions was made in June 1960 according to which in the said year the district as it stands today had in all 1,231 Primary schools with

a total number of 2,77,081 students studying from Class I to Class V. The total number of teachers working in these schools in the same year was 3,239 including 416 trained Matriculates and Intermediate passed, 1,193 non-matriculates, and 1,171 untrained Matriculates and Intermediate passed and 459 others. 563 of these primary schools had play ground. 611 were without provision for drinking water and 2 were submerged under water during monsoon.

According to the Census Report of 1961 the number of primary schools was 1,264 at that time.

There were 1,268 primary schools in the district during the year 1965-66, having 4,166 teachers in all of whom 1,940 were trained male teachers, 2,141 were untrained male teachers and there were 85 female teachers of whom only 15 were trained as against 4,056 in 1964-65, of whom 1,799 were trained male teachers and 2,201 were untrained male teachers and 56 female teachers of whom 10 were trained. The table showing the old and the new pay scale of Primary school teachers is given below:

Category of Teachers.	1964-65.	1965-66.
Matric Trained Head Teacher.	(a) Rs.60-1-80 ..	Rs.100-1-110-2-130.
Matric Head Teacher ..	(a) Rs.50-1-75 ..	Rs.80-1-90-2-110.
Non-Matric G.T.H.T. ..	(a) Rs.45-1-70 ..	Rs.65-1-70-2-90
Matric Trained Assistant Teacher.	Rs.60-1-80 ..	Rs.80-1-90-2-110.
Matric Assistant Teacher	Rs.50-1-75 ..	Rs.60-1-70-2-90
Non-Matric Trained Assistant Teacher.	Rs.45-1-70 ..	Rs.55-1-60-2-80
Non-Matric Non-Trained Assistant Teacher.	Rs.35 (Fixed) ..	Rs.45 (Fixed).

(a) Head teachers were receiving in the old pay scale a monthly charge allowance of Rs.20 in addition to their pay.

The total number of pupils in primary schools of the district was 1,45,141 of whom 37,556 were girls during the year 1965-66 against a total number of pupils 1,35,474 of whom 36,404 were girls in 1964-65.

The general condition of the primary school buildings was improved to some extent as 558 primary schools both Model and non-Model were already developed under the Development Programme of the Second Five-year Plan.

Expenditure.

The following table shows the expenditure from sources other than fees, etc., during the year 1964-65 and 1965-66:

Head of expenditure.	1964-65.	1965-66.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Provincial Revenue	17,82,387	23,70,797
2. District fund	5,34,486	6,23,384
3. Municipal fund	24,141	23,872

Kindergarten Schools.

In addition to regular primary schools detailed above, there are two Kindergarten schools also at the district headquarters maintained by foreign missions.

SECONDARY STAGE.

After Independence the first official ground survey of educational Institutions was conducted in June 1960, according to which there were, at that time, only 132 secondary schools for boys and 6 secondary schools for girls in the District. These secondary schools, according to a report of 1958 included 37 high schools for boys and 3 high schools for girls.

According to the Census Report of 1961 the number of high schools went up to 46 against 40 in the year 1958, while the number of other secondary schools, including Junior High schools and Middle schools stood at 57 in the year 1961. The number of secondary schools given in the Census of 1961, however, does not include High and Junior Madrasas. Details of Middle English Schools, Junior High Schools, and High Schools as they stood on June 30th, 1966 are given below category by category.

Middle English Schools.

There were three Middle English Schools in the year 1965-66 as against 4 (four) schools in the year 1964-65. The reason for decrease in the number of Middle English Schools in this district was the raising of 1 (one) Middle English School to the status of a Junior High School. There was one Middle English School for girls in the district during the year 1965-66.

Junior High Schools.

The number of Junior High Schools in the district was 68 including 5 schools for girls during the year 1965-66 as against 62 schools in 1964-65. It will not be out of place to mention here that the number of Junior High Schools increased to some extent in 1965-66.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the Expenditure, total number of Middle English and Junior High Schools with their annual expenditure:

Class of Institution.	No. of Schools.						Expenditure.	
	1964-65.			1965-66.			1964-65.	1965-66.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
M. E. Schools	4	...	4	2	1	3	12,517	6,559
Junior High Schools.	37	5	62	63	5	68	4,26,161	5,34,461
Total ...	61	5	66	65	6	71	4,38,678	5,41,020

There were 10 teachers in Middle English Schools and 328 teachers in Junior High Schools during the year 1965-66 as against 11 teachers in Middle English Schools and 313 in Junior High Schools during 1964-65.

Out of 338 teachers engaged in the institutions of middle stage 62 were trained.

The total enrolment was 59 including 11 girls in Middle English Schools and 7,516 including 1,329 girls in Junior High Schools during the year 1965-66 as against 342 including 23 girls in Middle English Schools and 6,495 including 1,162 girls in Junior High Schools during 1964-65. The number of students decreased in Middle English Schools but increased in Junior High Schools during the year.

Fees were realised from the students of classes IV to VIII at a rate ranging from Rs.3 to Rs.4 per month.

During the year 1965-66 there were only 3 hostels attached to 3 Junior High Schools. Almost all the scholars receiving education at this stage were day scholars.

The curriculum and syllabus prescribed by the Department of Education were strictly followed in the institutions of middle stage. There has been a remarkable change brought by the introduction of religious education and science as compulsory subjects in the middle stage.

Building and equipments.

The conditions of the school buildings in the District are not satisfactory. The stocks of the furniture and equipments of the schools are also not up to their requirements.

Necessary efforts were undertaken during the period 1965-66 for the improvement of the conditions of the school building. 19 Junior High Schools had already been developed up to the year 1964-65, under the Development Programme of the Second Five-year Plan.

High Schools.

In addition to one Government managed High School for boys and one Government High School for girls at Dinajpur there were 78 aided High Schools for boys and 4 aided High Schools for girls in the District during 1965-66 as against one Government High School for boys and one for girls, 74 aided High Schools for boys and 3 aided High Schools for girls during 1964-65. The number of aided High Schools for boys increased by 6. There were no unaided High Schools in the district of Dinajpur during the year.

Staff.

Out of 42 teachers of two Government High Schools (one for boys and other for girls) 38 were trained and 4 were untrained. The remaining 78 aided High Schools for boys and 4 aided High Schools for girls had 978 teachers of whom 211 were trained and 767 were untrained. These figure includes 14 trained and 26 untrained female teachers. While in 1964-65 there were 73 aided High Schools for boys and 3 aided High Schools for girls having 874 teachers of whom 193 were trained and 681 were untrained including 27 trained and 19 untrained female teachers.

Pay Scales.

The teachers of aided High Schools for boys and girls were paid at varied rates ranging from Rs.75 to Rs. 350 per month according to qualifications of the teachers and financial conditions of the institutions concerned.

Enrolment.

The following table gives the comparative figures of enrolment in High Schools in 1965-66 and 1964-65.

Year.	No. of Schools.			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
1965-66	79	5	84	24,111	3,980	27,791
1964-65	74	4	78	21,945	1,209	23,154

Fees.

The rate of fees varied from Rs.3 to Rs.6 according to class or standard in the year 1965-66 and 1964-65 respectively. There was a total collection of fees of Rs.12,90,256 in the year 1965-66 as against Rs.10,47,309 during 1964-65.

A sum of Rs. 40,717 was spent as scholarship and stipend during the year 1965-66 as against Rs.30,941 awarded in the year 1964-65.

In the year 1965-66 of the total number of 27,791 students receiving education in the high schools 660 scholars resided in hostels and the remaining 27,131 were day scholars. 431 scholars resided in the hostel and remaining 22,723 were day scholars during the years 1964-65. A sum of Rs.78,571 was spent for the maintenance of hostels of which Rs.1,576 and Rs.78,571 were received from the Provincial Revenue and the other sources respectively during 1965-66 as against Rs.1,58,222 was spent for the maintenance of hostel of which Rs.987 and Rs.17,009 were received from Provincial Revenues and other sources during 1964-65.

Residential and
Day Scholars.

Bengali is the medium of instruction in all High Schools excepting 2 High Schools for boys viz. Parbatipur Jinnah High School and Dinajpur Iqbal High School where Urdu is the medium of instruction.

Medium of
Instruction.

Mid-day tiffin is supplied to pupils of Zilla School, Dinajpur. In addition to this 27 more High Schools were also for some times supplied with ghee, powder, milk and bulgur wheat as mid-day tiffin by the CARE (Co-operative American Remittance Everywhere). After the stoppage of CARE supplies the school authorities introduced Modified School Lunch Programme in 14 High Schools with the Government subsidy of Rs.3,318-25 to the above schools.

Mid-day tiffin.

The following table shows the comparative expenditure of high schools in the district for the year 1965-66 and 1964-65:

Expenditure.

	1965-66.		1964-65.	
	Boys. Rs.	Girls. Rs.	Boys. Rs.	Girls. Rs.
Provincial Revenue.	5,76,605	91,776	5,13,854	87,866
Local Bodies	51,351	4,546	29,338	2,291
Fees	11,94,531	44,959	9,92,865	54,444
Other sources	5,54,657	47,188	6,79,996	51,751
Total	23,79,144	1,88,469	20,16,053	1,96,352

3 High Schools of the district have, so far, been developed under the Multilateral Scheme at a cost of Rs.1,50,000 each and 22 High Schools under the 'Bilateral Scheme' at a cost

Development
work.

of Rs. 10,02,798 spent in the year 1964-65 and Rs.2,31,750 spent in the year 1965-66. In addition to these, 5 High Schools have been developed under the General Improvement Scheme and 4 High Schools under the Craft Scheme during the years 1964-65 and 1965-66. The total expenditure on the last 2 schemes for the last two years was Rs.45,000 and Rs.16,000 respectively. A sum of Rs.2,04,200 was also spent on providing facilities for the teaching of Science in 13 High Schools of the district during 1964-65 and 1965-66.

Zilla High School, Dinajpur.

Being the oldest school of the district, a short note on the same is given below :

The school was first established in the year 1854 in a building donated by the Local Raja. It was taken over by the Government in 1957. The school offers courses in Humanities, Science and Commerce groups of study. In the year 1966-67 the number of students was 422 and that of the teachers only 18. The school has a hostel with 11 boarders, a library with 9,121 books as well as provision for training of Boy Scouts and Cadets. The school has an arrangement for compiling a monthly magazine in manuscript. Boy Scouts and Cadets also compile a separate monthly magazine similarly.

The annual expenditure of the school was Rs. 77,351.97 in the year 1965-66.

Educational activities of the Missionaries.

The Roman Catholic and Baptist Missions continued their missionary and educational services among the educationally backward population specially the Santals of this district. They maintained one High School for boys with 464 students, 1 (one) Junior High School for Girls with 193 students and 1 (one) Junior High School for boys with 222 students during the year 1965-66.

COLLEGES

There was no college in the district of Dinajpur till 1941. Dinajpur College established in the year 1942, was the first college of the district. Thakurgaon B.D. College came up in 1959, Phulbari College in 1963, Parbatipur College, Pirganj College and Birampur College in 1964, both Cheradangi College and Panchagarh College in 1965 and Mahila College at Dinajpur in 1966.

The total number of colleges in the district in 1966 was 9, of which 8 were boys' colleges and one was a girls' college. Excepting Birampur College and Cheradangi college all other boys' colleges are co-educational. Out of 9 colleges 3 are Degree colleges and the rest are Intermediate Colleges. 2 of the 3 Degree colleges, that is, Thakurgaon College and Phulbari College have only B. A. Pass and B. Com Pass classes in the Degree section

while Dinajpur College provide for B.Sc. Pass course also. All the colleges of the District provide teaching in Humanities and Commerce course for Intermediate classes but the Dinajpur College and Thakurgaon College have classes for Science course also.

The total number of students reading in all the 8 boys' colleges in the district stood at 3,723 on June 30th, (1966), 1,356 in Intermediate Humanities group including 61 Girls, 1,166 in Intermediate Commerce group (all male), 549 in Intermediate Science group including 35 girls, 334 in B.A. (Pass) classes including 1 girl, 250 in B.Com (Pass) class and 128 in B.Sc. (Pass) classes. The number of teachers working in these colleges during the same year was 104. The figures given above do not include the number of students and teacher of the Mahila College, Dinajpur which has been established very recently.

Out of the 9 colleges of the district only five have hostels of their own. Dinajpur college has 3 hostel buildings including one for Hindus and Phulbari college, Pirganj college, Chera-dingi and Thakurgaon colleges have one hostel each. 395 students lived in these hostels during the session 1965-66.

Dinajpur College, being the oldest college in the district, a short note on the same is given below:—

Dinajpur College is located at the District Headquarters. It was established in the year 1942 as a branch of Ripon College of Calcutta. In the beginning it was started in the building of Maharaja Girijanath High School. In the year 1944 it was shifted to the building of Zilla School on a rental basis and to its new building at Nimnagar in the year 1953.

The college is now affiliated to the University of Rajshahi for Degree Examination and to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rajshahi, for Higher Secondary Certificate Examination. The number of students in the college was 537 in I.A. classes including 46 girls, 423 in I.Com classes, 353 in I.Sc. Classes including, 35 girls, 223 in B.A. Classes including 31 girls, 128 in B.Sc. classes and 158 in B.Com classes during the session 1965-66 the total number coming up to 1,822. The teaching staff for the same year consisted of 38 members including 3 Hindus. The college has 3 hostels, 2 for Muslims having 207 residents and one for Hindus having 53 residents. The College library has 10,409 volume of books, the expenditure of the library being Rs.9,454 for the year 1964-65 and Rs. 8,266 for the year 1965-66.

The college has a play ground of its own and a duly qualified Physical Training Instructor is included in the teaching

staff. U. O. T. C. training was organised in 1961-62, Military training was imparted to the willing and able students in 1966. A college magazine is published annually.

The total expenditure of the college was Rs.9,90,182 in the year 1965-66 as against Rs. 1,22,215 in the year 1947-48.

The college was provincialised in 1968.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

There was only one weaving school in the district with 16 students during the year 1965-66 as against 25 students in the year 1964-65. The only technical school of the district was raised to a Polytechnic Institute during the same year. It had 40 students each in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering classes.

There is another textile school with 74 students attached to one High School in the district. The school is managed by a committee formed by the local people.

The comparative figures of grant sanctioned by the Government for the above schools are as follows:—

Year.	Amount of Government grant.		
			Rs.
1964-65	19,817
1965-66	16,978

MADRASAHS

The number of Senior Madrasahs in the district, at present stand at 8. In the year 1965-66, 911 students were reading in these Madrasahs as against 795 in the year 1964-65. There was only one Junior Madrasah in the year 1964-65 with 30 students but by now it has been covered into a Junior High School. The total number of students in old Scheme Madrasahs in 1964-65 was 3,255 and in 1965-66 was 3,675. In 1966-67 the total number of old Scheme Madrasahs was 34 with 3,784 students and 299 teachers. The number of Forquania Madrasahs was 14 in the year 1964-65 and 23 in the year 1965-66 with 859 and 1,191 students respectively.

The expenditure incurred on different types of Madrasahs during the years 1964-65 and 1965-66 is given below:—

			1964-65.	1965-66.
			Rs.	Rs.
Senior Madrasah	..	..	90,862	1,06,112
Junior	..	..	1,200	..
Old Scheme	..	..	1,34,736	1,67,355
Forquania	..	..	11,166	14,970

INSTITUTIONS FOR TRAINING OF TEACHERS

There are two Primary Training Institutes and one Refresher Course Training Centre in the district for the teachers of Primary Schools. The Primary Teachers Institute was established at Dinajpur and started functioning from the year 1963-64. It trained 85 teachers during the year 1965-66. Expenditure of the Institute was Rs. 47,050.86 in the year 1964-65 and Rs. 43,251 in the year 1965-66.

The Primary Training Institute at Thakurgaon which was established in the year 1960-61 had been raised into a developed Primary Teachers Institute during the year 1965-66. It trained 105 trainees during the same year.

The expenditure of the Institute was Rs. 60,063 in the year 1964-65 and Rs. 30,510 in the year 1965-66.

The Refreshers Course Training Centre at Dinajpur trained 38 inservice teachers in each batch. There were 3 members in the teaching staff during the year 1965-66.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The District Organiser of Physical Education who is a non-gazetted officer under the Education Directorate, visits Educational Institutions, organises Inter-school sports and games and also offers his services and suggestions in this regard, whenever necessary. But he has no administrative control over any type of Educational Institutions.

In the district of Dinajpur only 2 High Schools, that is Dinajpur Zilla School and Government Girls High School at the District Headquarters as well as the 2 Primary Teachers' Institutes at Dinajpur and Thakurgaon have Physical Instructors of their own, holding Diploma in Physical Education. Besides these 3 colleges, 24 secondary schools of the district also have Physical Instructors on the teaching staff.

There is a District Sports Association at Dinajpur with a Sub-divisional branch at Thakurgaon. Both of them organise sports and games regularly, the popular games being football, hockey, basket ball and volley ball. The District Association holds competition in swimming as well as Inter-School Sports every year.

There are Zonal Sports Associations at Parbatipur, Phulbari, Dangarhat, Birganj, Birol. Panchagarh and Pirganj also to organise games and sports similarly.

The following private clubs are also engaged in Physical and Health activities—

- (i) District Sports Association, Dinajpur, (ii) District Sporting Club, Dinajpur, (iii) M. A. T. Club, Dinajpur,

(iv) Udayan Club, Dinajpur, (v) Police Athletic Club, Dinajpur, (vi) Nazrul Pathagar, Ranirbandar, (vii) Setabganj Sporting Club, (viii) Pak Hilli Sporting Club, (ix) EPWAPDA Thakurgaon, (x) Manmathpur Sporting Club, (xi) Bhomradaha Dulgaon United Friends Club, (xii) United Sporting Club, Parbatipur, (xiii) Bhowanipur Palli Mangal Samiti and Ansar Club, (xiv) Direct Sports Association, Dinajpur, etc.

Three colleges and 125 secondary schools of the district have play grounds for their students, while 4 Public Play grounds at *Bira Maidan*, Dinajpur and one each at Thakurgaon, Setabganj, Bhomradaha, Pak Hilli, Panchagarh, Pirganj and Painarbandar are open to all.

BOY SCOUTS AND GIRLS GUIDE

In the district as a whole there are at present 108 recruits, 120 tender foot scouts, 8 first class and 90 second class scouts, while the Girls Guide training is also provided to 40 first class, 22 second class and 10 tender foot guides.

LIBRARIES

The following Government aided Libraries are functioning in the district at places noted against each :—

- (i) Dinajpur Public Library, P. O. and Dist. Dinajpur.
- (ii) Thakurgaon Public Library, P. O. Thakurgaon, Dinajpur.
- (iii) Panchagarh Nazrul Pathagar, P. O. Panchagarh, Dinajpur.
- (iv) Bhowanipur Palli Mangal Pathagar, P. O. Bhowanipur district Dinajpur.
- (v) Ranirbandar Nazrul Pathagar, P. O. Ranirbandar, district Dinajpur.

In addition to the above aided Libraries there is a private Public Library at the District Headquarters which is known as Khwaja Nazimuddin Library with about 20,000 books on its shelves. All the colleges of the district have small libraries of their own, of which Dinajpur S. N. College Library contains about 5,000 books.

ORPHANAGES

State Orphanage

There is only one State Orphanage in the district of Dinajpur where 100 orphans both boys and girls are being maintained and cared for. This orphanage was established at Habra in the year 1958-59 and it was housed in a part of the Acquired State Buildings of the Jan Bazar Estates on a piece of land measuring 5.75 decimels as per approved scheme under G. O. No. 498 Misc. 26-6-58. It is located at a distance of 2 miles from Bhowanipur Rly. Station. There is a proposal for shifting the orphanage to Dinajpur town. This orphanage has a Primary School

where orphans are being taught by the assistant teachers specially trained in Child Welfare. The meritorious students are allowed to prosecute their higher studies in the local high schools and colleges at the Government cost. The less meritorious children up to the age of 11 years are taken care of by the matron who is assisted by the Cottage Mother. There is a part-time Medical Officer and a full-time Nurse to take care of sick inmates.

The local administration of the orphanage is controlled by the Superintendent of the Orphanage who is generally a trained graduate. This orphanage has 22 members on staff including the Superintendent. During the financial year 1964-65, the total expenditure made on the maintenance of the State Orphanage at Habra, Dinajpur, was Rs. 67,949 met from the Provincial Revenue.

The Deputy Commissioner, Dinajpur, is the Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the State Orphanage.

There is an aided Roman Catholic Mission Orphanage in the Dinajpur town for the Christian Orphans only. This institution was given grant amounting to Rs. 9,000 during the year 1964-65 at Rs. 30 per orphan per month for 25 orphans by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of East Pakistan.

Roman Catholic
Mission
Orphanage.

JOURNALS

The following are the important Journals of the district being published from places given against each :—

Name.	Category.	Language.	Place of publication.
<i>Dinajpur Barta</i>	Fortnightly	Bengali	Dinajpur Headquarters.
<i>Dinajpur Parikrama.</i>	Do.	Do.	Ganeshtala, Dinajpur.
<i>Kanchan</i>	.. Do.	Do.	Chawkbazar, Dinajpur.
<i>Nabarna</i>	.. Yearly	Do.	Dinajpur.
<i>Naoroz</i>	Weekly	Do.	Do.
<i>Naoroz</i>	.. Monthly	Do.	Do.
<i>Dinajpur College Magazine.</i>	Yearly	Bengali and English.	Do.



APPENDIX*

Chronology of the Growth of Education in Dinajpur.

(1813—1969)

Charter Act of 1813 required of the East India Company that "A sum of not less than one lakh of rupees in each year shall be set apart and applied to the revival and improvement of literature and the encouragement of the learned natives of India and for the introduction and promotion of a knowledge of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories of India". 1813.

The Governor-General-in-Council, in a Resolution, dated the 17th July, 1823, appointed a General Committee of Public Instruction for the Bengal Presidency. The grant of Rs.1,00,000 a year provided by the Charter Act of 1813 was placed at the disposal of the Committee. 1823.

Macaulay arrived at Calcutta in the autumn of 1834 and was appointed President of the Committee of Public Instruction. He remained President of the Committee till 1838. 1834.

Lord William Cavendish Bentinck (1774-1839) in his Resolution of the 7th March, 1835 accepted Macaulay's Minute written on February 2, 1835 and decided that "the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and science among the natives of India." 1835.

Substitution of English and vernaculars for Persian in offices and courts. 1837.

General Committee of Public Instruction in Bengal replaced by a Council of Education. 1842.

English education declared by Lord Hardinge's Resolution of the 11th October, 1844 a qualification for public service. 1844.

The Despatch of Sir Charles Wood (1800-1885)—Despatch No. 49 of the 19th July, 1854—provided for the assumption of the functions of the Council of Education by a Director of Public Instruction in each of the provinces of British India and embodied a scheme for the establishment of universities in the country. 1854.

Dinajpur Zilla School was started.

Circle School System introduced in Bengal. The main idea was to improve three or four schools in close proximity 1856.

*Prepared by Professor M. Ishaq, M. A., B. S. E. S., General Editor.

by placing their teachers under the supervision of a visiting Chief *Guru*.

1857. The Calcutta University was formally founded on January, 24, 1857 as an examining university.
- The first Entrance Examination was held in 1857 with 244 candidates.
1869. The Dinajpur Girls' High School was first started in 1869 and was made a Government Girls' School in 1961.
1877. The vernacular language made the medium of instruction in Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools of Bengal. Previously English was the sole medium of instruction in the Anglo-Vernacular Schools.
- A conference on textbooks held at Simla in April, 1877. The deliberations of the conference led to the constitution of standing Textbooks Committees for the examination of school books in different provinces of India.
1882. The Indian Education Commission appointed by Lord Ripon on February 3. The Commission was highly officialised and consisted of 22 members (British and Indian) with Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Wilson Hunter (1840-1900) as President and Mr. B.L. Rice, Director of Public Instruction, Mysore and Coorg, as Secretary.
1883. The Indian Education Commission, after hearing 193 witnesses and receiving 323 memorials, submitted its report in October, 1883. The Commission recommended that Government should gradually withdraw from direct management of secondary schools and colleges.
1885. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, brought into operation in all Regulation Districts by 1887-88, led to the dissolution of District Committees of Public Instruction and the assumption of their obligations to elementary education by the District Boards.
1896. Creation of Indian Educational Service.
1899. Mohammedan Educational Conference of Northern India held at Calcutta in 1899.
1904. Thakurgaon Government High School was first started in 1904 and got recognition in 1910.
1906. Debiganj High School was started in 1906 and got recognition in 1907.

- Education transferred from the Home Department of the Government of India to a new Department of Education, Health and Lands. 1910.
- Dinajpur M.G.N. High School established. 1913.
- Rajarampur High School (under P.S. Parbatipur) established in 1913 and recognised in 1919.
- New scheme madrasahs started in Bengal in 1914 under the guidance of Shamsul-Ulama Abu Nasr Muhammad Waheed, I.E.S. 1914.
- Nurul Majid High School (under P.S. Parbatipur) was started in 1915 and recognised as high school in 1968. 1915.
- Sujapur High School under P.S. Phulbari opened in 1919 and got recognition in 1922. 1919.
- Baragram Dakhil Madrasah under Thakurgaon was started.
- Lahiri High School under Baliangani P.S. started in 1920 and recognised as high school in 1961. 1920.
- Central Advisory Board of Education established. 1921.
- The Dacca Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education established.
- Begunbari Senior Madrasah under P.S. Pirganj was started. 1922.
- Kalmegh High School under Baliangani P.S. opened in 1923 and got recognition as high school in 1966. 1923.
- Jnanankui High School under P.S. Parbatipur established in 1925 and recognised in 1927. 1925.
- Sardeshwari Girls' High School, Dinajpur, was started in 1927 and got recognition as high school in 1951. 1927.
- Boda High School established in 1928 and recognised in 1929. 1928.
- Charta High School under Baliadangi P.S. first started in 1928 and was recognised as high school in 1968.
- Maidandighi High School under Boda P.S. was started in 1929 and got recognition as high school in 1965. 1929.
- Chandanbari Dakhil Madrasah, P.S. Boda, established.
- South Polashbari High School, P.S. Chirirbandar first opened in 1929 and recognised as a high school in 1968.
- Bhomradah High School, P.S. Pirganj, established in 1930 and got recognition in 1932. 1930.

The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill introduced by Khwaja Nazimuddin on August 13, 1930 enacted on the 26th August, 1930. District School Boards in Bengal were constituted in later years under the provision of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education, Act, 1930. Primary Education Cess in rural areas was also imposed under the provision of the same Act. It may in this connection be noted that the Indian Education Commission of 1882 recommended earlier the institution of school boards and that local boards, with a certain degree of control over primary education, already existed before 1882 in all the provinces except in Bengal.

1933. Dinajpur Academy established in 1933 and recognised in 1938.
- Cheradangi High School, P.S. Kotwali, established in 1933 and got recognition in 1937.
- Ghugudanga High School, P.S. Kotwali, first started in 1933 and recognised as high school in 1966.
1934. The Board of Santhal Education in Dinajpur abolished during 1934-35.
- District School Board, Dinajpur, established on April, 1, 1934.
1937. Alokdihi J.B. High School, P.S. Chirirbandar established in 1937 and recognised in 1940.
1938. The system of grant-in-aid extended to senior madrasahs (old type) during 1938-39.
- Serabganj High School, P.S. Bochaganj, established in 1938 and recognised in 1941.
- Mukundapur Dakhil Madrasah, P.S. Kaharul, established in 1938.
1939. Aftabganj High School, P.S. Nawabganj, started as M.E. school in 1939 and recognised as high school in 1960.
- Daudpur High School, P.S. Nawabganj established in 1939 and recognised in 1942.
- Panchbari High School, P.S. Kotwali, was started as M.E. School in 1939 and got recognition as high school in 1967.
1940. Bushirbandar High School, P.S. Chirirbandar, started in 1940 and recognised as high School in 1966.
- Ghoraghat High School established in 1940 and recognised in 1944.
- Palashbari Jobbaria Dakhil Madrasah established.

Birampur High School, P. S. Phulbari, established in 1941 and recognised in 1944.

1941.

Habra High School, P. S. Parbatipur, established in 1942 and got recognition in 1945.

1942.

Uthrail Senior Madrasah, P. S. Kotwali, established in 1942.

Surendranath College, Dinajpur, opened as a branch of the Ripon College, Calcutta, during the period of emergency (Second World War).

A plan of Post-War Educational Development In India, commonly known as the Sargent Report, submitted by the Central Advisory Board of Education. This report is known as the Sargent Report because Sir John Sargent was deputed from England as Educational Commissioner to prepare it for the Government of India. The Report estimated that 40 years would be required to achieve 100 per cent. literacy.

1944.

The Inter-University Board passed a resolution "that modern Indian language be recognised as media of Instruction for the intermediate and degree course" and several universities adopted it by 1947.

Rahimnagar R. B. High School, P. O. Bhalaki, P. S. Birganj was established in 1944 and recognised in 1946.

Panchagarh High School was established in 1944 and recognised in 1946.

Abad Takia Dakhil Madrasah (P. O. and P. S. Ranisankail) was established.

Uttar Bishampur High School (P. O. and P. S. Birol) was started in 1945 and recognised in 1964.

1945.

Boalmari Kanchdaha Senior Madrasah, P. O. Daudpur, P. S. Nawabganj, was established in 1945.

Nawapara High School (P. S. Birganj), was started in 1945 and recognised as a high School in 1960.

Shigpur High School, P. O. Birampur, P. S. Phulbari, was established in 1945 and recognised in 1947.

Madaranj High School, Shibganj, P. S. Thakurgaon, was established in 1945 and recognised in 1948.

Mathurapur Public High School, Rahimanpur, P. S. Thakurgaon, was established in 1945 and recognised in 1950.

Haripur High School was established and recognised in 1945.

- Dinajpur High School was established in 1945 and recognised in 1959.
- Raniganj-II High School, P. O. Hatshyamganj, P. S. Ghoraghat, was started in 1945 and recognised as high school in 1962.
1946. Baragram High School, P. O. Jalalpur, P. S. Kotwali started in 1946 and recognised in 1966.
- Nandrail Senior Madrasah, P. S. Chirirbandar, was established.
1947. Pirganj High School established in 1947 and recognised in 1948.
- Magorpur High School, P. O. Bhaduria, P. S. Nawabganj, was started as a Junior High School in 1947 and was recognised as a high School in 1967.
- Deogaon Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Gopalpur, P. S. Ghoraghat, established.
- Salandar Madrasah in Thakurgaon established.
1948. Birol High School established in 1948 and recognised in 1951.
- Binnakuri High School, P. S. Chirirbandar, started in 1948 and recognised in 1956.
- Dangarhat High School, P. S. Chirirbandar, established and recognised in 1948.
- Hashimpur High School, P. S. Chirirbandar, established and recognised in 1948.
- Jinnah High School, P. S. Parbatipur, established in 1948 and recognised in 1949.
- Khajapur Ekramia Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Khajapur, P. S. Phulbari, established.
- Saltahari Dohasia Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Pateswari, P. S. Thakurgaon, established.
1949. Boaldar High School, P. O. Boaldar, P. S. Hakimpur, established in 1949 and recognised in 1952.
- Chhatni Rowtara Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Pak-Hili, P. S. Hakimpur, established.
- Raghabindrapur Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. and P. S. Nawabganj, established.
1950. Khansama High School, P. O. and P. S. Khansama, established in 1950 and recognised in 1952.

Deogaon High School, P. O. and P. S. Nawabganj, established.

Gareya S. C. High School, established.

Tetulia High School, established.

Panikata Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Khajapur, P. S. Phulbari, established.

Mukundapur I Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Birampur, P. S. Hakimpur, established.

Nargoon Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Kaharpara, P. S. Thakurgaon, established.

Nurul Huda High School, P. O. Nurul Huda, P. S. Parbatipur, was started and got recognition in 1965. 1951.

Chirirbandar High School established in 1951 and recognised in 1953.

Ruha High School, P. S. Thakurgaon, established in 1951 and recognised in 1953.

Dinajpur Iqbal High School established and recognised in 1951 and 1952 respectively.

Kazihal Dehashtia Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Pukhuria, P. S. Phulbari, established.

Report of the Education System Reconstruction Committee published in 1952. The 17-Member Committee with Maulana Md. Akram Khan as president was formed in terms of the Government of East Bengal Resolution No. 659-Edn., dated the 16th March, 1949. 1952.

The duration of the primary stage in Bangladesh extended with effect from January, 1952 from Classes I-IV to Classes I-V.

Raniganj E. H. High School established in 1952 and recognised in 1958.

Old Thakurgaon High School, Farabari, was started in 1952 and recognised as high School in 1969.

Kazaldighi Tirnailhat High School, P. S. Panchagarh, was started in 1952 and recognised in 1966.

Kutubdanga Senior Madrasah, P. O. Mostafapur, P. S. Chirirbandar, established.

Jurai Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Mostafapur, P. S. Chirirbandar, established.

- Krishnarampur Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Hatshymganj, P. S. Ghoraghat, established
- Danahat Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Danarhat, P. S. Pirganj, established.
1953. Dinajpur St. Philip's High School established and recognised in 1953.
- Sukhipur High School, P. S. Chirirbandar, started in 1953 and recognised as high school in 1967.
- Attore Senior Madrasah, P. O. Kamalpur, P. S. Kotwali, established.
- Arjeedevipur Shialkot Islamia Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Mostafapur, P. S. Parbatipur, established.
1954. Mohana Mangalpur High School, P. S. Birol, established in 1954 and recognised in 1956.
- Gahangachi Alim Madrasah, P. O. Muradpur, P. S. Kotwali, established.
- Dishbandi Hatishal Dakhil Madrasah, P. O. Daudpur, P. S. Nawabganj, established.
1955. Ishanpur High School, P. O. Maharajganj, P. S. Kaharole, started in 1955 and recognised in 1961.
1956. F. Fashiladanga High School, P. O. Kangaon, P. S. Kotwali, established and recognised in 1956 and 1958 respectively.
- Shitlai Islamia Dakhil Madrasah established.
- Pak-Hilli High School, P. O. Dangapara, P. S. Hakimpur, established and recognised in 1956.
- Panchagarh Girls' High School started in 1956 and recognised in 1966.
- Chatshai High School, P. O. Gopalpur, P. S. Ghoraghat, established as Junior High School in 1956 and recognised as High School in 1969.
1957. Mominpur High School, P. O. Jasaihat, P. S. Parbatipur, established in 1957 and recognised in 1958.
- Salbahan High School established in 1957 and recognised in 1959.
- Fakirpara High School started in 1957 and recognised as high school in 1967.

Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School established and recognised in 1957 and 1958 respectively.

Setabganj Dakhil Madrasah established.

The previously existing compulsory primary schools were renamed as Model Primary Schools.

District School Board abolished.

Dearness allowance of teachers of non-Government secondary schools raised from Rs. 5 per month to Rs. 10 per month with effect from the 1st April, 1957.

Ramchandrapur High School, P.O. Maharajganj, P.S. Kaharole started in 1958 and recognised in 1963. 1958.

Balahar High School, P.O. Gopalpur, P.S. Ghoraghat, established in 1958 and recognised in 1960.

Ranisankail High School established in 1958 and recognised in 1962.

Nekmard High School established and recognised in 1958 and 1961 respectively.

Dearness allowance of teacher of non-Government secondary schools raised from Rs. 10 per month to Rs. 15 per month with effect from the 1st April, 1958.

Ambari High School, P.S. Parbatipur, established in 1958 and recognised in 1961.

The 11-Member Commission on National Education appointed by the Government of Pakistan on the 30th December, 1958.

New Pakerhat High School, P.S. Khansama, established in 1959 and recognised in 1961. 1959 -

Phulbari G.M. High School established and recognised in 1959.

Salmara Vitargarh High School established in 1959 and recognised in 1967.

Holajana Senior Madrasah, P.O. Daudpur, P.S. Nawabganj, established.

Thakurgaon B.D. College established.

The Report of the Commission on National Education presented to the President of Pakistan on August 26, 1959.

Fiscal year changed from April-March to July-June lengthening the year 1958-59 by three months from 1st April, 1958 to June 30, 1959.

1960.

The report of the Commission on National Education made public on the 8th January, 1960.

Government Resolution on the Report of the Commission on National Education.

The Curriculum Committee for Secondary Education appointed on the 24th June, 1960, by the Government of Pakistan.

Munshipara High School, P. O. and P. S. Birol, established in 1960 and recognised in 1962.

Manmathpur Co-operative High School, P.S. Parbatipur, started in 1960.

Mirgarh Mainuddin High School, Panchagarh, established in 1960 and recognised in 1967.

Palashbari U.S.C. High School, P.S. Birganj, started in 1960 and recognised in 1969.

Brohmapur Alim Madrasah, P.S. Chirirbandar, established.

1961

Shankerpur M. High School, P.O. Jalalpur, P.S. Kotwali, started in 1961 and recognised in 1967.

Dhukurjhari High School, P.O. and P.S. Birol, opened in 1961 and recognised as high school in 1967.

Mostafapur High School, P.S., Parbatipur, started in 1961 and recognised in 1969.

Tongua Dakhil Madrasah, P.S. Khansama, established.

Administrative reorganization of educational services made effective. The posts of Education Officers first created. The nomenclatures of Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools and Sub-Inspectors of Schools were changed to Subdivisional Education Officers and Thana Education Officers respectively and the Gazetted status was conferred upon Subdivisional Education Officers.

1962.

Chandganj High School, P.O. Muzahidabad, P.S. Kotwali, established in 1962 and recognised in 1966.

Khanpur High School, P.O. Sreechandrapur, P.S. Kotwali, established and recognised in 1962 and 1965 respectively.

Mukhleshpur High School, P.S. Birol, established as Junior High School in 1962 and recognised as High School in 1968.

Purba Mallikpur M. High School established in 1962 and recognised in 1965.

Birganj High School established and recognised in 1962 and 1963 respectively.

Harirampur High School established and recognised in 1962 and 1964 respectively.

Siddishi High School established in 1962 and recognised in 1963.

Parbatipur Girls' High School established and recognised in 1962 and 1963 respectively.

Salandar High School established in 1962 and recognised in 1964.

Sakowa High School, P.S. Boda, established in 1962 and recognised in 1963.

Amtala Kazipara High School established in 1962 and recognised in 1969.

Noorjahan Ali Dakhil Madrasah established.

Magura Kanthalpara Dakhil Madrasah established.

A Madrasah Education Committee in Bangladesh set up.

The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (East Pakistan Amendment) Ordinance, 1962 (East Pakistan Ordinance No. XXVIII of 1962) raised the Primary Education cess on land to 20 paise on each rupee of rent or land revenue.

Dearness allowance of primary teachers in Bangladesh raised with effect from July 1, 1962 from Rs.5.50 per month to Rs.15 per month for matriculates and to Rs.10 per month for trained non-matriculates.

New scales of pay called "Revised Prescribed Scales" for all gazetted services and posts in Bangladesh introduced with effect from the 1st December, 1962.

Administrative approval of Government was obtained for construction of a primary training institute at Dinajpur.

Pay scale of non-gazetted education officers raised which came into force with effect from the 1st December, 1962.

Phulbari College established.

1963.

Farakkabad High School, P.O. Bajnahar, P.S. Birol, established and recognised in 1963 and 1964 respectively.

Mollapara High School, P.S. Bochaganj, established in 1963 and recognised in 1964.

Joyanda S.C. High School, P.S. Kaharole, established and recognised in 1963.

Jharbari High School, P.S. Birganj established and recognised in 1963 and 1964 respectively.

Angarpara High School started as junior high school in 1963 and recognised as high school in 1969.

Nandanpur High School, P.S. Pirganj, established in 1963 and recognised in 1969.

Bhowal ganj High School, P.S. Debiganj, established in 1963 and recognised in 1967.

Jadurani High School, P.S. Haripur, established in 1963 and recognised in 1966.

The pay scales of model and non-model primary school teachers in Bang'ladesh revised with effect from the 1st July, 1963 in terms of G.O. No. 116-Edn., dated the 8th February, 1964 as detailed below:

Category of teachers.	Scale prior to 1st July, 1963 (including D.A.).	Prescribed scale (with effect from 1st July, 1963).
Model.		
1. Head Teacher	Rs.45—1—60 <i>plus</i> Rs.20 per month charge allowance <i>plus</i> D.A. Rs.15.	Rs.60—1—80 per month <i>plus</i> — (i) Rs.20 per month allowance for trained Matriculates; (ii) Rs.10 per month charge allowance for Matriculates.
2. Trained Matriculate Assistant Teacher.	Rs.40—1—50—per month <i>plus</i> Rs.15 as D.A.	Rs.60—1—80 per month.
3. Untrained Matriculate	Rs.40—1—45 per month <i>plus</i> Rs.15 as D.A.	Rs.50—1—75 per month.
4. Trained Non-Matriculate.	Rs.30—1—45 per month <i>plus</i> Rs.10 as D.A.	Rs.45—1—70 per month.
Non-Model.		
1. Head Teacher	Rs.40 per month (fixed) <i>plus</i> Rs.15 as D.A.	Rs.60—1—80 per month <i>plus</i> Rs.10 per month charge allowance.
2. Trained Matriculate Assistant Teacher.	Rs.40 per month (fixed) <i>plus</i> Rs.15 as D.A.	Rs.60—1—80 per month.
3. Untrained Matriculate	Rs.31 per month (fixed) <i>plus</i> Rs.15 p.m. as D.A.	Rs.50—1—75 per month.
4. Trained Non-Matriculate.	Rs.31 per month (fixed) <i>plus</i> Rs.10 as D.A.	Rs.45—1—70 per month.
5. Untrained Non-Matriculate.	Rs.24.50 per month (fixed) <i>plus</i> Rs.5.50 as D.A.	Rs.35 per month (fixed).

Birampur College established.

1964.

Parbatipur College established.

Pirganj College established.

Dinajpur Municipal High School established in 1964 and recognised in 1965.

Joydevpur High School, P.O. Kangaon, P.S. Kotwali, established in 1964 and recognised in 1969.

Basupara High School, P.O. and P.S. Parbatipur, established in 1964 and recognised in 1967.

Mohanpur High School, P.O. Pakhuri, P.S. Phulbari, established in 1964 and recognised in 1969.

Ramkrishnapur High School, P.O. Ketrabat, P.S. Phulbari, established in 1964 and recognised in 1969.

Daulatpur U. High School, P.O. Birampur, P.S. Phulbari, established in 1964 and recognised in 1969.

Idgah Girls' High School, Dinajpur, established and recognised in 1964 and 1965 respectively.

Jaglal High School, P.S. Panchagarh, established in 1964 and recognised in 1967.

Jabarhat High School, P.S. Pirganj, established in 1964 and recognised in 1965.

Baiapara High School, P.S. Pirganj, established in 1964 and recognised in 1968.

Mirzapur High School, P.S. Atrawti, established in 1964 and recognised in 1965.

Kaliganj High School, P.S. Debiganj, established in 1964 and recognised in 1965.

Setmara Fulbari High School, P.S. Panchagarh, established in 1964 and recognised in 1968.

Dinajpur Technical Institute started functioning from the session 1964-65.

Administrative approval of Government to the scheme of establishment of a commercial institute attached to the technical institute at Dinajpur conveyed.

Enhanced rates of special grants (previously known as dearness allowance) to the teachers of primary sections of

non-Government secondary schools (Rs.15 per month for matriculates and Rs.10 per month for trained non-matriculates) introduced with effect from the 1st July, 1964. The previous rate effective from the 1st July, 1960 was Rs.5.50 per month.

1965.

Maqbulur Rahman College, Panchagarh, established,

Melabari High School, P.O. Khayer Bari, P.S. Phulbari, established in 1965 and recognised in 1969.

Panshgara High School, P.O. Dangopura, P.S. Hakimpur, established and recognised in 1965 and 1966 respectively.

Bhowlarhat High School, P.S. Thakurgaon, established in 1965 and recognised in 1968.

Bhadua High School, P.S. Pirganj established and recognised in 1965 and 1968 respectively.

Atwari High School established in 1965 and recognised in 1967.

Boda Girls' High School established and recognised in 1965.

The pay scales of model and non-model primary school teachers in the rural areas of Bangladesh revised with effect from the 1st July, 1965 in terms of Notification No. S-V/14D-6/65/646-Edn., dated the 3rd December, 1965 (*vide Dacca Gazette*, dated December 16, 1965) as detailed below:

	Previous Scales. (From 1-7-63 to 30-6-65).	New Revised Scales. (with effect from 1st July, 1965).
A. Head Teachers:		
(1) Matriculate (Trained).	Rs. 60—1—80 <i>plus</i> charge allowance of Rs. 20 in case of Model Teachers or Rs. 10 for non-model ones.	Rs. 100—1—110—2—130. No charge allowance.
(2) Matriculate (Untrained).	Rs. 50—1—75 <i>plus</i> charge allowance of Rs. 10.	Rs. 80—1—90—2—100. No charge allowance.
B. Assistant Teachers:		
(1) Matriculate (Trained).	Rs. 60—1—80	Rs. 80—1—90—2—110.
(2) Matriculate (Untrained).	Rs. 50—1—75	Rs. 60—1—70—2—90.
(3) Non-Matriculate (Trained).	Rs. 45—1—70	Rs. 55—1—60—2—80.
(4) Non-Matriculate (Untrained).	Rs. 35 (fixed)	Rs. 45 (fixed).

Nashipur High School, P.O. Raniganj, P.S. Kotwali, established in 1966 and recognised in 1969. 1966.

Bejora High School, P.O. Bhowanipur, P.S. Birol, established in 1966 and recognised in 1967.

Raghupur High School, P. O. Bhowanipur, P. S. Birol, established in 1966 and recognised in 1968.

Nehalgaon High School, P. O. Setabganj, P.S. Bochaganj, established in 1966 and recognised in 1967.

Golapganj High School, P. O. Satkhamar, P. S. Birganj, established in 1966 and recognised in 1967.

Duhashuhu High School, P. O. Pakerhat, P. S. Khansama, established and recognised in 1966 and 1967 respectively.

Uttar Palashbari High School, P.O. Dangarhat, P.S. Chirirbandar, established in 1966 and recognised in 1969.

Hashimpur Mollapara High School, P. O. Hashimpur, P. S. Chirirbandar, established as Junior High School in 1966 and recognised as high school in 1969.

Benirhat High School, P.O. Belaichandi, P.S. Parbatipur, established in 1966 and recognised in 1968.

Katla High School, P. O. Dangopara, P.S. Hakimpur, established in 1966 and recognised in 1969.

Phulbari Girls' High School, established in 1966 and recognised in 1968.

Dinajpur Mohila College, established.

Muradpur High School, P.S. Kotwali, established in 1967 and recognised in 1968. 1967

Dakshin Alokdihi High School, P.O. Hashimpur, P.S. Chirirbandar, established and recognised in 1967 and 1968 respectively.

Khochna S. C. High School, P.S. Chirirbandar, established and recognised in 1967.

Satnala High School, P.O. Ghantagarhat, P.S. Chirirbandar, established in 1967 and recognised in 1969.

Manashapur High School established and recognised in 1967.

Pran Krishnapur Andalgram High School, P.O. Boaldar, P.S. Nawabganj, established in 1967 and recognised in 1968.

Collegiate Girls' High School established in 1967 and recognised in 1969.

Ghoraghat R.C. High School established and recognised in 1967.

Bhajanpur High School established in 1967 and recognised in 1968.

Setabganj College established.

Akhanagar High School established and recognised in 1967 and 1969 respectively.

1968.

Ramdubi Hat High School, P.S. Kotwali, established and recognised in 1968 and 1969 respectively.

Singul High School, P.S. Birol, established in 1968 and recognised in 1969.

Dharmapur High School, P.S. Birol, established and recognised in 1968 and 1969 respectively.

Dalua High School, P.O. Satoir, P.S. Birganj, established in 1968 and recognised in 1969.

Sanka High School, P.O. Sundarpur, P.S. Birganj, established in 1968 and recognised in 1969.

Kachinia High School, P.O. Sundarpur, P.S. Khansama, established in 1968 and recognised in 1969.

Dalaikota High School, P.O. Aftabganj, P.S. Parbatipur, established and recognised in 1968.

Nawabganj High School established and recognised in 1968.

Shalkuria High School, P.O. Puthuirnara, P.S. Nawabganj, established in 1968 and recognised in 1969.

Joypur High School established and recognised in 1968 and 1969 respectively.

Dinajpur Adarsha Mahavidyalay established.*

*Reference:- List of High Schools, Madrasahs and Colleges and "Chronology of the Growth of Education (1966)" published by the Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Education Directorate.



View of Nayabad Mosque, Dinaipur.

CHAPTER XI

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The main language spoken in Dinajpur is Bengali. The other important languages spoken in the district are Urdu and English. The percentage of people speaking different languages in the district in 1961 is indicated in the table below :

An account from the Census Report of 1961.

Name of language.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Percentage.
Bengali	16,53,913	8,74,473	7,69,440	96.72
Urdu	46,922	28,703	18,219	2.74
English	8,979	7,796	1,183	.52

Thus we find that the majority of the people speak Bengali. The people of the lower strata of society specially amongst the Rajbanshis and the Paliyas use a dialect which has many peculiarities in regard to pronunciation. They have a tendency to contract words making them almost unintelligible and unfamiliar to those who talk in standard Bengali. There is some difference between the languages spoken by the Muslims and the Hindus as for example, the former use 'pani' for water, 'Gosol' for bath, while the latter use 'jal' and 'snan' respectively for these terms. The Muslims also use many words in their conversation amongst themselves, which are distinctly of Arabic and Persian origin.

Language of Rajbanshis and Paliyas.

Difference in spoken languages of the Muslims and Hindus.

As Dinajpur has a common border with Purnea, a bilingual district of Bihar (India), the people of the district specially those on the North-west understand broken Hindi or Urdu and can speak to some extent in these languages in addition to their mother-tongue.

Bilingualism.

After Independence (1947) some of the refugees have come from Bihar and its adjacent places and settled specially in Dinajpur urban area and Parbatipur. Most of them speak Urdu.

Language of the refugees.

The aboriginals of the district namely the Santhal, Oraons and Mundas are usually bilingual, speaking both their own language and Bengali.

Language of the aboriginals.

The language and some typical words which were used in medieval Bengali literature are still found and used in their original form in the dialects of the district. The words *Hami* for '*Ami*' and '*Hamra*' for '*Amara*' are still found in use.

Grierson's
account of the
Bengali dialect
of Dinajpur
(1903).

"The standard of the northern dialect of Bengali may be taken to be the form of the language which is spoken in the district of Dinajpur. To the west, it merges into the Maithili dialect of Bihari, through the Siripuria sub-dialect in Eastern Purnea. To the east and north, it becomes the well-marked dialect spoken in Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and the neighbouring districts to the east and known as Rajbangsi. To the south, in Rajshahi and Pabna, it more nearly approaches the standard dialect of central Bengal.

"The northern dialect of Bengali is spoken in the districts of Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra and Pabna. The whole of this tract has, within historic times, been subject to the Koch tribes who invaded it from Cooch Bihar, Assam, and Eastern Bengal, and members of the tribe still exist in each district. They were originally reported as speaking their original Koch language, but an examination of the specimens of their language which I have received shows that they have given up their original speech, and now only speak a more or less corrupt variety of Northern Bengali.

"The following points may be noticed regarding the form of the dialect spoken in Dinajpur :

"The system of spelling and pronunciation closely follows that of Central Bengal, the more contracted forms of the verbal conjugation being as a rule followed. Here and there we meet the letter *l* used instead of *r*, as in the word *sarile* for *sarire* in body. As regards vocabulary note the use of the word *tabat*, the Sanskrit *tavat*, to mean 'everything'.

"In the declension of nouns, there is a Locative Singular in *et* or *at*. Examples are; *Kashtet*, in trouble; *payet*, on foot; *khetet* in the field; *desat*, in the country; *hatat* on the hand; *kachhat*, near. The Nominative Plural sometimes takes the same form as that of the Instrumental Singular. Thus, *chhaoyate*, pronounced *chhawate*, children. Besides the usual Genitive plural ending in *der*, for *diger*, as in *besader*, of harlots, there is a similarly contracted Accusative Dative Plural, as in *chakardek*, to the servants, *bandhudek*, friends. In the Pronouns also, it will be seen that there is a tendency to drop the final *e* of the Accusative-Dative termination *ke*.

"In regard to the pronouns, the pronoun of the first person is *hami*, I. Its Accusative-Dative Singular is *hamake*, or *hamak*, its Genitive Singular is *hamar*, and its Nominative Plural is *hamara*. Similarly, for the second person, *tumi*, is 'thou', the Genitive Singular of which is *tumar*, and so on for

the other cases. For the pronoun of the third person, we have *se*, he; *tak* or *tahak*, him or to him; *tara*, they; and *tayder*, their. The remaining pronouns exhibit no irregularities. *Jekhan* and *tekhan* mean "when" and "then".

"In the conjugation of verbs, there are irregularities in the personal terminations. The second person, honorific, sometimes ends in *en*. Thus, *den*, you give; *karilen*, you made; *achhen*, you are. The first person of the future ends in *im*, as in *balim*, I will say. The third singular Past ends in *e* in the case of Transitive, and drops its termination in the case of Intransitive verbs. The following examples may be noted, *dile*, he gave; *pale*, he obtained; *khale*, he ate; *punchle*, he asked. For Intransitive verbs we have *hail*, he became. So, *chhil*, he was; *gel*, he went; *lagi*, he began; *khelchhil*, he was or they were playing. In one instance, we also find a Transitive verb dropping its final termination, viz., in *kahil*, he said.

"As samples of the Perfect tense, we may quote, *dichhi*, I have given; *karichhi* or contracted *karchhi*, I have done; *bachichhe*, he has escaped; *geichhe*, he has gone; *asichhe* he has come; and *anchhe*, he has brought. Honorific forms are *karichhen*, he has made; and *Paichhen*, he has obtained. As a past perfect, the word *geichhil*, he had gone, is an example.

"For the future, we have *pam*, I shall get; *Jam*, I shall go; *balim*, I shall say.

"The Infinitive ends in *ba*. Thus, *bhariba*, to fill; *dekhba-pale*, he was able to see; *karba lagil*, he began to do; *parba lagil*, he began to fall. Sometimes it is inflected in the Genitive case. Thus, *dibar lagil*, he began to give; *nibar chahil*, he wished to take; *dakibar khailam*, I told to call.

"The Consecutive Participle ends in *e* after a consonant. Thus, *ase*, having come; *kare*, having done; and many others. After a long *a*, the termination is *y*. Thus, *pay*, having got; *khay*, having eaten".*

The specimen of the dialect as given by Grierson is reproduced below, both in Bengali and Roman alphabet:

Specimen
recorded by
Grierson.

একজন মানুষের দুই ছাওয়া ছিল। তাঁদের মধ্যে ছোট ছাওয়া আপন বাপকে কহিল, বাপ! সম্পত্তির যে ভাগ আমি পাই, তা হামাকে দেন। তাহাং সে তাঁদের মধ্যে বিষয় ভাগ করে দিলেন। কিছুদিন পর ছোট ছাওয়া তাহাং এক ঠাই করে দূর দেশে চলে গেল, আর সেই ঠাই সে অপরিমিত বেতাবে আপনার সম্পত্তি উড়ায়ে দিলে। সে তাহাং খবচ করে

*G. A. Grierson, Linguistic Survey of India, Vol. V, Part I, pp. 119-121.

ফেলে সেই দেশে ভারী আকাল হইল, আর সে কষ্টে পড়া লাগিল। তেমন সে গিয়া সেই দেশের এক জন গিরন্তের আশ্রা নিলে; সে লোক তাহাক্ আপনার মাঠে শূওর চড়াবা পাঠায় দিলে। পাছ শূওর যে খোসা ঝায়, সেই দে সে পেট ভরিবা মন কবিল, কিন্তুক কেহ তাক্ দিলে না। পাছ চেতন পায় সে কহিল, হামার বাপের ত দরমাহাদাব চাকর বেশী বেশী ঝাবার পায়, আর হানি হেতা তুকে মরি। হানি উঠে আপন বাপের কাছ ঝাম্, তাহাক্ বলি, বাপ্ ! হানি স্বর্গের বিরোধে আর তুমার সাক্ষাৎ পাপ করিছি, হানি আর তুমার ছাওয়া বলে বলাবার যোগ্ নাহি, হামাক্ তুমার এক জন দরমাহাদার চাকরের মত রাখেন। পাছ সে উঠে আপন বাপের নিকট গেল। কিন্তুক্ সে দুরে থাকতে তার বাপ তাক্ দেখবা পালে, আর দয়া করে দোড়ে যায়, গলা ধরে চুমা খালে। ছাওয়া তাক্ কহিল, বাপ্ ! হানি স্বর্গের বিরোধে ও তুমার সাক্ষাৎ পাপ্ করিছি; হানি তুমার ছাওয়া বলে বলাবার যোগ্ নাহি। কিন্তুক্ বাপ্ আপন চাকরদেক কহিল, জলদি খুব ভাল কাপড় আনে ইহাক্ পিন্ধাও; ইহার হাতৎ আদাটা ও পায়ৎ জতা পিন্ধাও; আর হামরা খাওয়া দাওয়া করে আনন্দ করি; কারণ হামার এই ছাওয়া মরে গেইছিল, বাঁচিছে; হারায় গেইছিল, পাওয়া গেইছে। পরে তারা আনন্দ করবা লাগিল।

**Transliteration
and English
translation.***

Ek	Jan	Manusher	dui	chhaoya (Chawa)
One	person	man's	two	sons
Chhila.	Tayder	madhye	Chhota	Chhaoya
were.	Of-them	among	the young	son
apan	bap-ke	kahil,	'Bap'	sampater
his	own father-to	said	'father'	of the property.
Je	bhag	hami	pam,	ta hamak
What	share	I	will get	that me-to
den.°	Tahat	se	tayeder	madhye
give	Thereon	he	of-them	among
bishay	bhag	kare	dilen	Kichhu
property	division	having-made	gave	some
din	par	chhota	chhaoya	tabat
days	after	the-young	son	everything
ek	thai	kare	dur	desat
one	place	having-made	a-far	land-in
chale	gel,	ar	sei	thai se
having-gone	went	and	in that	place he
aparimit	bebhare	apanar	sampat	
riotous	in-behaviour	his-own	property	
uray	dile	Se	tabat	kharach
having-caused- to-fly.	gave	He	everything	spent

*Several diacritical marks cannot be reproduced for non-availability of the types.

kare <i>having-made</i>	phelle <i>having-wasted</i>	sei <i>that</i>	desat <i>land-in</i>		
bhari <i>a severe</i>	akal <i>famine</i>	hail <i>became</i>	ar <i>and</i>	se <i>he</i>	
Kashtet <i>in trouble</i>	parba <i>to-fall</i>	lagli. <i>began</i>	Tekhan <i>Then</i>	se <i>he</i>	
giya <i>having-gone</i>	sei <i>that</i>	deser <i>of-country</i>	ek <i>a</i>	jan <i>person</i>	
giraster <i>householder-of</i>	asra <i>reguge</i>	nile Se lok <i>took That person</i>		tahak <i>him</i>	
apanar <i>his-own</i>	mathat <i>in-field</i>	suor <i>pigs</i>	charaba <i>to-feed</i>	pathay <i>having-sent</i>	
dile <i>gave</i>	Pachhat <i>Afterwards</i>	suor <i>the pigs</i>	je <i>what</i>	khosa <i>husks</i>	
Khay <i>used-to-eat</i>	sei <i>those</i>	de <i>by-means-of</i>	se <i>he</i>	pet <i>the-belly</i>	
bhariba <i>to-fill</i>	man <i>mind</i>	karil <i>made'</i>	kintuk <i>but</i>	keha <i>any-one</i>	tak <i>him-to</i>
dile <i>gave</i>	na. <i>not.</i>	Pachhat <i>Afterwards</i>	chetan <i>senses</i>	pay <i>having</i>	obsaine
se <i>he</i>	kahil, <i>said,</i>	,hamar <i>my</i>	baper <i>father's</i>	keta <i>how-many</i>	
darmahadar <i>wage-getting</i>	chakar <i>servant</i>	besi <i>much</i>	besi <i>much</i>	khabar <i>to eat</i>	
pay, get	ar and	hami I	hetha here	bhuke in hunger	mari die.
Hami <i>I</i>	uthe <i>having-risen,</i>	apan <i>my-own</i>	baper, <i>father's</i>		
kachhat <i>in-neighbourhood</i>	jam, <i>will-go</i>	tahak <i>him-to</i>	balim <i>I-will-say,</i>		
"Bap <i>Father</i>	hami <i>I</i>	svarger <i>of-heaven</i>	birodhe <i>in-opposition</i>	ar <i>and</i>	
tumar <i>thy</i>	sakkhat <i>before</i>	pap <i>sin</i>	karichhi; <i>have-done</i>	hami <i>I</i>	
ar <i>more</i>	tumar <i>thy</i>	chhaoya <i>son</i>	bale-balabar <i>of-being-called</i>		
jog <i>worthy</i>	nahi; <i>am-not;</i>	hamak <i>me</i>	tumar <i>thy</i>	ek <i>one</i>	
Jan <i>man</i>	darmahadar <i>wage-getting</i>	chakarar <i>of servant</i>	mata <i>like</i>	rakhen". <i>keep".</i>	
pachhat <i>Afterwards</i>	se <i>he</i>	uthe <i>having-risen</i>	apan <i>his own</i>	baper <i>father,</i>	
nikat <i>in-neighbourhood</i>		gel <i>went</i>	kintuk <i>But</i>	se <i>he</i>	

dure <i>in distance</i>	thakte <i>remaininig</i>	tar <i>his</i>	bap <i>father</i>	tak <i>him</i>
dekhba <i>to-see</i>	pale, <i>got,</i>	ar <i>and</i>	daya <i>pity</i>	kare <i>having-made</i>
daure <i>having run</i>	jay, <i>having gone</i>	gala <i>neck</i>	dhare <i>having-seized</i>	
chuma <i>a-kiss</i>	khale. <i>ate.</i>	Chhaoya <i>The son</i>	tak <i>him-to</i>	kahil, <i>said</i>
'Bap <i>'Father</i>	hami <i>I</i>	svarger <i>of-heaven</i>	birodhe <i>in-opposition</i>	O <i>and</i>
tumar <i>thy</i>	cakkhyat <i>before</i>	pap <i>sin</i>	karichhi; <i>have donwe;</i>	hami <i>I</i>
tumar <i>thy</i>	chhaoya <i>son</i>	bale-balabar <i>of-being-called</i>	jog <i>worthy</i>	
nahi. <i>am-not.'</i>	kintuk <i>But</i>	bap <i>the-father</i>	apan <i>his-own</i>	chakardek <i>servant-to</i>
kahil, <i>said,</i>	'jaldi <i>'quickly</i>	khub <i>very</i>	bhala <i>good</i>	kapar <i>clothes</i>
ane <i>having-brought</i>	ihak; <i>this (person)</i>		pindhao; <i>dress;</i>	ihar <i>his</i>
hatate <i>on-hand</i>	angti <i>a-ring</i>	o <i>and</i>	payet <i>on-feet</i>	jata <i>shoes</i>
Pindhao; <i>put-on</i>	ar <i>and</i>	hamra <i>(let) us</i>	khaoya-daoya (Khawa-dawa). <i>feasting</i>	
Kare <i>having-made</i>	anand <i>joy</i>	kari. <i>make.</i>	Karan <i>For</i>	hamar <i>my</i>
ei <i>this</i>	chhaoya <i>son</i>	mare <i>having-died</i>	geichhil, <i>had-gone,</i>	
bachiche; <i>has-survived;</i>		haray <i>having-been-lost</i>		geichhil, <i>had-gone,</i>
paoya (pawa)-geichhe. <i>has-been-found'.</i>	Pare <i>Afterwards</i>	tara <i>they</i>	anand <i>joy</i>	
Karba <i>to-make</i>	lagil. <i>began.</i>			

Dr. S. K. Chatterji's views.

Most of the characteristics of the Dinajpur dialect as noticed by Grierson probably survive to this day. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji, in his "Origin and Development of the Bengali Language", has expressed opinion that the use of the word *ham* for *ami* is a sign of the influence of Maithili dialect on Bengali dialect spoken in Dinajpur.

Literature:
Muhammad
Kala.

The earliest of all these writers whose names could be discovered is poet Muhammad Kala. He was most probably an inhabitant of eastern Dinajpur. Only one copy of his

manuscript "*Nizam Pagla*" could be found. The Language seems to be of the later 15th century or of earlier part of the 16th century.

Among the Hindu poets *Jagat Jiban* Ghoshal was probably the earliest. He flourished in the earlier part of the 17th century and wrote "*Manasha Mangal*", in two parts, viz., *Devkhanda* and *Banik Khanda*. He was an inhabitant of village Kochmara in Dinajpur. Jagat Jiban.

Poet Saker Mahmud was an inhabitant of Rekaitpur village in Ghoraghat area. His date of birth is said to be 1768. He wrote "*Monohar Madhumalati*"—a romantic discourse. Saker Mahmud.

Poet Burhanullah was born in village Nakhair under Chirir Bandar, probably in 1768. He was a prolific writer. The following are his traceable writings : Burhanullah.

- (1) *Ahkamul Islam*, (2) *Kiamat Namah*, (3) *Nabi Namah*,
- (4) *Hindu Dharmajati Darpan*, (5) *Jahaparnar Khat*,
- (6) *Musalmani Khabar*, (7) *Gakul Chand Prasasti*,
- (8) *Hetujnan*, and (9) *Maharaja Bansabali*.

Fakir Chand was most probably contemporary of Burhanullah and was inhabitant of Ranirbandar under Chirir Bandar Police Station. He wrote "*Nabi Nama*". Fakir Chand.

Kavi Kasematullah Sarker, a resident of Muhammadpur under Kaharul Police Station lived in the early part of the 18th century. He wrote "*Imam Sagar*" in the thirties of 18th century. Kasematulla.

Dost Muhammad Choudhury, an inhabitant of Porsha in the southern part of Dinajpur (now in *Rajshahi*), wrote "*Khairer Jangannamah*" (1875-77) and "*Tohfatunnas*". Dost Muhammad Choudhury.

Poet Kamal Lochan Roy the ancestor of the well-known Roy family of Dinajpur town wrote '*Brata Darpan*' a translation of *Hari Bhakti Bilas* in 1848. Kamal Lochan Roy.

Haji Hedyetullah was born in 1833 in Jogibari village and wrote "*Mafidul Hijaj*" (1877). It contains the description of the great famine of Bengal in 1873. He performed the "Hajj" in his mature age. Haji Hedyetullah.

Mahesh Chandra Tarka Churamani born in the Raj Rampur in 1841 was a scholar in Sanskrit and a poet as well. He wrote "*Nishadbadh Kavya*", "*Rasa Kadamabini*", "*Kavya Petika*" "*Bagabacchatak*", "*Dinajpur Rajbasanam*," "*Bhudev Charit*," "*Paramanibad*", "*Byabasthapana*," *Dhirananda Tarangini*," "*Naloday*," *Prakrit Pingal Tika*," and "*Meghdut Tika*,". Dr. Priya Mahesh Chandra Tarka Churamani.

Ranjan Sen in "Western Influence on Bengali Literature" spoke well of "Nishad Badh Kavya".

Manulla Mandal.

Kavi Manullah Mandal lived in 'Fakta' village in the southern part of Dinajpur district in the middle of 19th century. He wrote "*Kanta Namah*" which was edited by Dr. N. K. Bhattasali. His other writings are *Maina Matir Gan* and *Bairat Nagarer Puthi*.

Jamaluddin.

Kavi Jamaluddin of village Lalbari in East Dinajpur flourished in middle of nineteenth century. He wrote "*Prem Ratna*," a collection of allegorical poems which voiced the popular sentiment. His writings contain references about the "*Wahhabi movement*", and the atrocities of the British rulers. "*Prem Ratna*" was published from Calcutta in 1913.

Sadek Ali.

Poet Sadek Ali of Jagannathpur wrote "*Shafatul Bala*" in the later part of the 19th century.

Ram Pran Gupta

Ram Pran Gupta, an inhabitant of Tangail, spent most of his life in Dinajpur where he had Zamindari.

He wrote :

- (1) *Mughal Rajbansa*, (2) *Pathan Rajbansa*, (3) *Islam Kahini*,
- (4) *Brata Mala* and (5) *Hazrat Muhammad*, etc.

He translated the Persian history *Reazus Salateen* of Ghulam Husain Salim. He was a regular contributor to *Bangiya Shahitya Parisad Patrika*.

Muhammad Ibrahim.

Muhammad Ibrahim of village Lalbari in Eastern Dinajpur wrote *Guljare Mumenin* and *Hala-hale Moshrekin*. He died in the later part of the 19th century.

Eqinuddin Ahmad.

Khan Bahadur Eqinuddin Ahmad (1862-1933) was born in village Chandanbari under Boda P. S., took his law degree in 1884 and was a successful lawyer at the Dinajpur Bar. He was a pioneer of Muslim renaissance and political movements in Dinajpur. He established *Musalman Shabha* in 1904. His writings were published in *Dinajpur Patrika*, *Sultan*, *Mihir*, *Navarun*, *Al-Islam*, *Kohinoor* and other journals. He wrote *Islam Dharmaniti*. In 1917 he presided over the first Muslim Literary Confernece in Calcutta.

Muhammad Taimure.

Muhammad Taimure (1866-1947) was born in Dinajpur town. He retired as Assistant Inspector of Schools. He wrote *Quran Prabeshika*, *Tara Janena Islam Ki*, *Islam-o-tahar Shesh Mahapurush*, *Musalmaner Tetrish Koti Debata*, *Jnan Bikash* and *Holy Quran on Sectarianism*.

Jogindra Chandra Chakravarty (1872-1941) was born in Rajarampur mouja. He was a social worker. He edited the *Dinajpur Patrika* from 1307 to 1316 B.S. It was at his instance that 'the North Bengal Sahitya Sammilan' was held in 1913.

Jogindra Chandra Chakravarty.

Yusuf Ali Bhagabi (b 1935) of Daudpur village, edited the bi-weekly *Kased* in 1927. He was a teacher, social worker and an orator. For some time he worked as the joint-editor of the *Dinajpur Patrika*.

Yusuf Ali Bhagabi.

Rabindra Narayan Ghose (1833-1945), Professor of Ripon College, translated the *History of Civilisation* of the French writer Guizot. He presided over many academic and literary meetings.

Rabindra Narayan Ghose.

Haricharan Sen (d. 1937) of Kalitata mouza, a reputed actor and dramatist was the pioneer of the dramatic movement in his district and was the founder of the *Diamond Jubilee Theatre Hall*. Some of his dramatical works are *Mayerdak*, *Sitaram*, *Arundhuti*, *Adrasta*, *Lajja*, *Durgabati*, *Noksha*, etc.

Haricharan Sen.

Syama Charan Ban opadhya, a poet of Dinajpur town, wrote *Pagaler Paglami*, *Jyathamasy*, etc.

Syama Charan Bandopadya.

Sureswar Pandopadhya of Dinajpur Town wrote *Dinajpur Bibaran*. This was a miniature District Gazetteer.

Sureswar Bandopadya.

Sanjib Bagchi of Dinajpur town wrote *Karunakatha* which was published in 1928.

Sanjib Bagchi.

Gobinda Chandra Roy (d. 1952) a teacher of the G.T. School and resident of Dinajpur Town wrote *Kshatra Sangit* which was published in 1919.

Gobinda Chandra Roy.

Khan Bhadur Aminul Huq (1887-1960) was born in the Miryapur village, published novels entitled *Tiger Hill* and *Jara ja Bhabe* and *Jar Bhagge ja Chhila*. He was the founder and resident of *Naoroze Sahitya Sabha*.

Khan Bahadur Aminul Huq.

Shib Prasad Kar (1890-1966) of Dinajpur town was a legal practitioner. He was also fond of playing dramatic role. His two notable dramas are *Swarna Lanka* and *Pratishtha*. He was once the editor of the *Dinajpur Patrika*.

Shib Prasad Kar.

Narendra Mohan Sen of Dinajpur Town was a legal practitioner and a regular writer in the *Dinajpur Patrika*. He is an author of a novel, *Bikshobh*.

Narendra Mohan Sen.

Maulana Abdullah-hil Baqi (1890-1952) was born in village Atrai of East Dinajpur and was a renowned orator. He published essays and articles on Islamic Philosophy, Social Reforms, Hadith, Quran and Fiqah in *Al Islam* and other journals. He was the chief editor of *Satyagrahi*.

Maulana Abdullah-hil Baqi.

Maulana Maniruddin Anwari.

Maulana Maniruddin Anwari, an inhabitant of Rani Bandar Mouja, was a reputed scholar in Arabic and Persian. He worked for many years as an editor of the *Ahle Hadis*, and joint editor of the *Satyagrahi*.

Hemayet Ali.

Hemayet Ali (1895-1969) was born in Nalpukur village in 1302 B.S. and retired as Seristadar in 1956. It is through his efforts that the Nazimuddin Hall and Library were established. *The Monthly Naoroze* and *The Weekly Naoroze* were published in 1941 and 1960 respectively under his editorship. He was awarded *Tamgha-i-Khidmat*.

Maulana Abdullah-hil Kaffi.

Maulana Abdullah-hil Kaffi (1896-1960) was born in the Atrai village of east Dinajpur. He was the brother of Maulana Abullah-hil Baqi. He was a good orator, religious preacher, social worker, literateur and also a journalist. In 1926 he published the weekly *Satyagrahi*. He joined the *Khilafat* movement. He was also the joint editor of the *Sabak* and *Zamana*. In 1956 he published the monthly journal *Tajamanul Hadis* from Dacca. In 1958 he also published and edited the weekly *Arafat*. *Nabuyate Muhammadi*, *Kalemaye Taiyyeba*, *Pakistaner Shashan Shangbidhan*, *Ahle Hadis Andolan*, *Islami Arthanitir Ka Kha*, *Dhan Bantaner Rakmari Formula* etc., are his published works. For his literary merit he was given Presidents award in 1959.

Haricharan Chakravarty.

Hari Charan Chakravarty (b. 1898) of Raja Rampur village in the Dinajpur district translated about two hundred short stories from original Hindi. He also translated from Chinese, French, English, Russian, German, etc. He was a contributor to leading periodicals of his time.

Khan Shahib Tajammul Ali.

Khan Shahib Tajammul Ali (1899-1964) was born in the Char Kabir village under Parbatipur P.S., He joined the Dinajpur Bar in 1926. He was the editor of *Palli-Dipika* (1934-48).

Nafaruddin Ahmad.

Nafaruddin Ahmad (b. 1901) of village Syampur in North Dinajpur is a teacher by profession. His first historical novel *Bhagya Lipi* was published in 1929 A. D. *Bhagya Chakra* is his second novel. *Chand Bibi* (biography), *Kanana*, *Ejid Padh*, *Rajyasree* (Drama), *Madhumala* and *Kanchanbati* (operas) are his unpublished works. He was a regular contributor to *Moslem Hitaishi*, *Moslem Darpan*, *Al-Islam*, *Dinajpur Patrika*, *Desher Bani*, etc.

Sushil Chandra Gupta Khasnabish.

Sushil Chandra Gupta Khasnabish (1902-1966), a scholar in the Buddhist Philosophy and Culture, was born in Dinajpur town. He was also a legal practitioner and a Professor of the local college. The *Atrai*, a bi-weekly periodical was published under

his editorship from 1937-38. He used to contribute to *Forward, Liberty, Satyjuga, Jagajjoti, Mahabidhi, Dinajpur Patrika, etc.*

Kavi Kader Nawaz (b. 1909), a prolific writer and one of the reputed poets of Bangladesh, was born in Murshidabad but spent most of later days in Dinajpur. He was Headmaster of Dinajpur Zilla School. His poetical works are *Maral and Nil Kumudi*. *Utala Sandhya* is his novel. He was connected with all the literary associations of Dinajpur and was the Chairman of the *Nawroj Shahitya Majlish* and *Kristi Sansad* for a long time.

Kavi Kader
Nawaj.

Narayan Ganguly (b. 1918 at Baliadangi), Professor of Bengali in Calcutta University, wrote *Upanibesh, Swarna Sita, Shilalipi* and other novels.

Narayan
Ganguly.

Dr. Amiruddin Sarker was born in Maljhar village in 1879. He was a bard and was well-known in his locality. He wrote about one hundred booklets.

Dr. Amiruddin
Sarker.

Sanskrit was the language of official documents during the Gupta, Pal and Sen rule. Even during the Muslim period Sanskrit was not neglected. An inscription in Sanskrit belonging to the reign of Ghiyusuddin Mahmud Shah (1533-37) has been discovered from village Dharail. Specimens of seventeenth century Sanskrit are preserved on terracotas of Kanta Nagar temple.

Sanskrit
writing.

With the conquest of Dinajpur by Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji the study of Persian assumed importance. The use of Persian language in all revenue transactions dating from Akbar's reign compelled every one having interest in land to learn the Persian language. Hindus and Muslims alike, therefore, considered mastery in Persian as one of the necessary educational attainments. Persian was so much in use among the people that a number of writers devoted themselves in writing books in Persian. Some of these books are mentioned below:

Persian
Literature.

Rafiqul Arfin is said to have written for Sikandar Shah of Devkot (Dinajpur). It contains *malfuzat* (correspondence) of Shaik Hisamuddin Manikpuri and has been compiled by Farid-bin-Salar.

Farid-bin Salar.

Risalatul Shuhada, a book in Persian on the life of Ismail Ghazi, was written at Ghoraghat and was found in Kantaduar on 22nd Shaban, 1042 A.H. But it is said to have been written by Pir Muhammad Shattari in 875 A.H. (1633 A.D.) when Ismail Ghazi was executed.

Pir Muhammad
Shattari.

Abdul Qader
Ghamigni.

Abdul Qader Ghamigni of Rampur (b. 1780) was a soldier in the army of Mir Qasim and was also a tutor of Mr. Carton, the Collector of Dinajpur (1808 A.D.). He is the author of the following books in Persian and Urdu:

Persian: (i) *Tarikh Delhi* (from the days of Judhistir down to the days of Shah Alam 1806 A.D.), (ii) *Taaqiqat on Jaamaul Barkat* of Abdul Huq Dehlavi, (iii) *Shalh hukm Murtazavi dar Manake Aruro-Nahi Nustafawi*, (iv) *Shah Aqram ulaimai*, (v) *Tarjuma* (a translation of *Hasan Aqida* by Shah Wali Ullah), (vi) *Sharah of Aqid* by Abdul Aziz Dehlvi, (vii) *Rasum Asmai Mabudan Hind*, (viii) *Sharah of Mizanul Bulagha* by Shah Abdul Aziz, (ix) *Amsal Hindi wo farsi*, (x) *Taaqiqat on Shamil Tirmizi*, (xi) *Kahf Haqiqat Dua Ijtat*, (xii) *Tarikh Ahwal Ajmer wo Marwar*, (xiii) *Risalai Shatranj*, (xiv) *Risalai Adab Nikah*, (xv) *Risala Fawaid Son*, (xvi) *Burhan*, (xvii) *Risala Inkan Khiraq wo Adat*, (xviii) *Risali uruz*, (xix) *Risala Qiblanuma*, (xx) *Tarbiat wo Talim*, (xxi) *Tariq Intazum Mulk* and (xxii) *Risal Tarz Tahrir*.

CHAPTER XII

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The type of Revenue Administration of the ancient Hindu period, especially of the Guptas, as revealed in the inscriptions of the Guptas, appears to have been an efficient and methodical one. The copper-plate inscriptions of the Pala Kings of the later period relate only to gift of land (or village) made by the reigning Kings. It is, however, not possible to ascertain from these inscriptions how much revenue could be expected from a particular village. So, very little is known of the system of Land Revenue Administration of the Hindu period. Hindu period.

Ikhtiyaruddin Muhammad-bin-Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered Bengal in 1204 A. D. and inaugurated a new era of administrative-reforms. He introduced *Jaigir* system of revenue. This is evident from the assignment of this district to Ali Mardan Khalji as *Jaigir* with his headquarters at Ghoraghat. Sultan Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah (1342-1357 A. D.) had introduced a land revenue administration which was popular with both *rai-yats* and land-holders. Unfortunately the details are not available. Pre-Mughal period.

We know from the *Ain-e-Akbari* that in the time of Akbar, his Finance Minister, Todarmal, made a *Khas* or *rayatwari* Settlement. The Subah of Bengal was divided into 19 *Sarkars*, parts of 6 fell within the limits of Dinajpur. The *Sarkars* were again subdivided into *mahals* corresponding to the *parganas*. The system of revenue collection in force amongst the Muslim conquerors of Bengal appears to have been to appoint farmers of revenue for larger or smaller areas. These persons were made responsible for the payment of a fixed revenue and were allowed to collect it in any way they liked. The farmers of revenue appointed were, in many instances, the hereditary land-owners, who remained in undisturbed possession of their estates and free to a great measure from interference, on condition of paying a reasonable tribute. This appears to have been the case in Dinajpur, the greater portion of which settled with the successive princes of Dinajpur Raj family, who were allowed the privilege of administering their own estates. It was under the Mughals that the Dinajpur Raj family reached the zenith of its power and glory during the rule of Raja Prannath and Raja Ramnath. Mughal period.

When in 1722 payments of revenue became very irregular, Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, Governor of Bengal, made a new settlement dividing the province of Bengal into *Chaklas*, to each of which a *Chakladar* was appointed as the Collector of the

revenue. Raja Prannath was appointed a *Chakladar* for the greater part of *Chaklas* Akbarnagar and Ghoraghat, within which Dinajpur fell. We do not know what revenue Raja Prannath paid; but in the time of his successor, Raja Ramnath, the revenue was fixed at 12½ lakhs of rupees and the assessment remained unchanged till his death in 1760 A.D. He was succeeded by his son, Raja Baidyanath. In his time, in 1762 A.D., the assessment was raised to 26½ lakhs of rupees. It was beyond the capacity of the Raja to pay it in full and a considerable portion of it remained unrealized. As Mir Qasim Ali fastened on Dinajpur as a source of additional revenue, he put the Zamindari in the hands of a farmer named Ramnath Bhaduri, who had been employed in examining the *hustabood* or assets of Dinajpur. He engaged to pay a sum of Rs. 26,44,733 sicca rupees after deducting the collection charges and in addition a provision for time, and some balance of the previous year of 1168 B. S. (1761-62 A.D.), making a total of Rs. 27,06,019.00. He actually realised Rs. 20,10,338.00 and deducting collection charges, the net realisation was Rs. 18,22,526.00. The farmer, Ramnath Bhaduri, proposed to realize a sum by sale of zamindar's effects, but this was not realized.

Settlement for subsequent years were much reduced from the peak year of 1169 B.S. As stated in the schedule of Sir John Shore's minute, the *jama* in those years was—

	Rs.
1169 B. S. (1762-63 A. D.)	26,89,091
1170 B. S. (1763-64)	13,79,941
1171 B. S. (1764-65)	13,80,706
1172 B. S. (1765-66)	18,00,000

There is, however, no indication as to what was actually realized in those years, or as to whether Baidyanath was in *khas* possession of his estate, or collection was entrusted to farmers.

Early British Administration.

In 1765, the *Diwani* of Bengal was granted by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II, to the East India Company and from that year the district of Dinajpur passed under the British administration. But in 1173 B.S. (1766-67 A. D.) Mr. Sykes, then Resident at the Darbar of Murshidabad, made the circuit of Dinajpur and after *hustabood* investigations, the *jama* (revenue) of the district was raised by two lakhs of rupees, making the net demand of the district at 20 lakhs of rupees. But things did not go well and assessments were not realized. In 1772 A. D. the direct revenue control was assumed by the East India Company. Earlier, a British Supervisor named H. Cottrell was appointed to supervise collection of revenue. He was

the first British official known to have been posted to this district and joined sometime in the later part of 1769 A.D. In 1772 A. D., the Supervisors were named Collectors and H. Cottrell had been succeeded by Mr. W. Marriott as Collector in this district. In 1773, the European Collector was withdrawn and an *Amil* or native Collector appointed, while one of the six Provincial Councils, newly constituted to supervise revenue administration, took up its seat at Dinajpur. The actual management of the Dinajpur Zamindari was left with Raja Baidyanath. As the *Jama* (revenue) fixed earlier was never realized, it was reduced to Rs. 14,60,445·00 in 1774 A. D. The reason for the reduction, as reported by the Provincial Council in 1774 A. D., was that the land was overassessed "and we know the farmers to be all in debt, and that their creditors are ready to seize the first money that comes into their hands." However, the *Jama* at this rate was realized in full every year. In 1780, Raja Baidyanath died without an heir and his widow Rani Saraswati adopted a young boy named Radnanath who was recognised by Warren Hastings as successor to Raja Baidyanath. During the minority of Raja Radhanath, the estates were managed first by Raja Devi Singh of Dilwarpur in Murshidabad. The title of Raja must have been confirmed on him by the Company as he does not appear to have been a Zamindar. The gross *Jama* for these two years was increased by a lump sum of 2 lakhs and thus Devi Singh paid a revenue of Rs. 16,60,445·00 for the Dinajpur Raj Estates. But his management was so dishonest and oppressive that he and several of his *amlas* were degraded and kept in confinement till 1791, when sentence was finally passed directing some refunds, the cancellation of some fraudulent purchases made by him and his perpetual banishment from the district. His place was then taken by Janaki Ram Singh, a brother of the widow (Rani Saraswati) of Raja Baidyanath, who agreed to pay revenue at the former rate of Rs. 14,60,445·00.

In 1781, the Provincial Committees were abolished and a Metropolitan Committee of Revenue appointed. In 1786, the Metropolitan Committee became the Board of Revenue and the post of European Collector of Revenue was recreated. Mr. G. Hatch was the first to be appointed Collector of Dinajpur under the new system. Meanwhile, Janaki Ram Singh had raised large sums of ready money by subletting lands at a low rent and the annual income of the Zamindari of Raja Radhanath suffered. On the other hand, Janaki Ram Singh had fallen into arrear with his revenue and was removed by orders of the Board of Revenue. In June, 1787 A. D. Rama Kanta Roy, an uncle of Radhanath, was installed as

the Manager of the Dinajpur Raj. The assessment remained unchanged.

In a letter, dated the 15th January, 1788 A.D., to the Board of Revenue, Mr. Hatch, the Collector, explained that this assessment was indeed low; but that owing to the mismanagement on the part of the native officials of the zamindar in the past, the estate could not afford a higher one at the time. He held out hopes that with more careful management the assessment might subsequently be raised. So Mr. Hatch endeavoured to improve the management of the estate. Every detail of the management was supervised by him. The estate was divided into sixty-four *zillas*, each under a tahsildar, who collected Rs.6,000·00 to Rs.1,00,000·00 receiving a percentage. Each raiyot's lands were measured and he paid rent according to the quantity and quality of his land, irrespective of the crop grown. Thus the revenues of the estate were well managed and the total revenue of the district came to Rs.16,12,889 *sicca* rupees. But at the same time the income of the Zamindari was decreased by the abolition of all the illegal taxes and cesses which the Rajas had collected from time to time. Meanwhile, the rules for a decennial settlement, which was in contemplation were being elaborated by the Board of Revenue. It seems that the intention of the Company's officers, in fixing the revenues payable by the zamindars, was also to fix the rent payable by the cultivators, who were to receive *pattas* from their respective landlords stating the amount of rent payable. Sometime in 1791, the Decennial Settlement was introduced and it was made Permanent Settlement in 1793, by a Proclamation issued by the Governor-General, Lord Cornwallis, on the 22nd March of that year.

In 1792 A.D., Raja Radhanath was placed in charge of the estate at the age of 16, a year or so after the conclusion of the Decennial Settlement. The *Jama* at which the Settlement was made was fixed at *sicca* Rs.14,02,086 or equal to 72·5 per cent. of the gross produce. For a year and more all went smoothly; but when in March, 1793, Mr. Hatch was promoted to a seat on the Board of Revenue, his successor, Mr. John Eliot, soon found reason to be dissatisfied with the management of affairs of the estate. Raja Radhanath, in accordance with the wishes of Rani Saraswati, appointed as his advisers, the creatures of the former Manager, Janaki Ram Singh, and soon got the estate into difficulties. His management was carried so far that in April, 1794, the Governor-General decided that Raja Radhanath should be deprived of the management of his estate; his seal was locked up in the Collector's treasury and Ram Kanta

Roy was again installed as Manager of the estate. The Raja appears to have been reinstated about A.D. 1796 and lost no time in pursuing his former course of action. As a result, in 1797 A.D., arrears of revenue occurred to the extent of some 70,000 rupees, and by the order of the Board of Revenue, part of the estate was sold. Neither Mr. Cornelius Bird, the then Collector, nor the Board of Revenue hesitated to the propriety of breaking up the great Dinajpur Estate. In the years that followed, the revenue continued to be in arrears as a result of which further sales were effected and the condition of the estate went from bad to worse. The Raja struggled to save his estate by raising money on mortgages, Ramkanta Roy being one of his principal creditors and he saved some part of his estate by purchasing in false names. His wife, Rani Tripura Sundari, and the old Rani Saraswati also purchased lands, paying a revenue of about Rs.72,000·00. But little was saved and by the end of 1800 A.D. almost the whole estate had been sold and the Raja was virtually a prisoner in his own house, as his creditors were threatening to seize his person and he had been imprisoned. On the 26th January, 1801, Raja Radhanath died at the age of 24.

The estate of the Maharaja of Dinajpur practically disintegrated after Radhanath. The ruin of this ancient family records the most significant change that occurred in the district of Dinajpur after the East India Company took over its management. Either on account of greed or out of set policy, the demand for land revenue was kept at a very high figure making it well-nigh impossible for any one to meet it for a sufficient length of time. Mr. Cornelius, the then Collector, contributed much to the ruin of Dinajpur Raj family. On his death on the 3rd June, 1801 A. D., Mr. Cortney Smith became the new Collector. He also followed the policy of his predecessor with extreme harshness and the sale of the estate to the highest bidder was made regularly. The competition for the purchase of the land in this district was left entirely to the servants of the estate, to the *cmlas* of the Government, and to those other zamindars who had been ruined by the Decennial Settlement. Buchanan Hamilton described the new purchasers as "lotdars" and they were called "upstarts" by the people. The contempt in which the new landlords were held, compelled many of them to live elsewhere. However, when the Dinajpur Raj Estate was split up, each of the lots sold was formed into a separate estate with a revenue fixed in perpetuity and a number was assigned to each in the Tauzi Roll of the district. Up to 1829 A.D. the Dinajpur Collectorate remained under the direct

control of the Board of Revenue. In that year Rajshahi Commissionership with its headquarters at Rampur Boalia (Rajshahi) was created and the district came in revenue matters under the authority of the new Commissioner.

Estates other
than Dinajpur
Raj.

When Mr. G. Hatch joined as Collector in 1786, his collections were solely from the Raj Estate. In 1787, Mr. Hatch fixed the revenue of some other estates in the district which did not form part of the Dinajpur Raj, at Rs.1,52,445-00. Thus the total revenue of the entire district in that year came to Rs.16,12,889 sicca or Rs.17,20,515-00 Company's rupees.

There was a Collectorate at Ghoraghat which received the revenues of Edrackpur or Bardhan Kuthi Estate (9 annas of Khettal) and also revenues of Baharbund. Except for the few *parganas* and *Khalsi* there was no land in the modern Dinajpur district. When that Collectorate was abolished, nothing of Bardhan Kuthi Estate came under Dinajpur.

In the east of the district, was a large stretch of territory, roughly corresponding to the present Parbatipur police-station, which was an isolated portion of the Rajshahi Zamindari. This was formed of the Ambari and Swaruppur *parganas*; Ambari was bought by Ram Kanta Roy, the Manager of the Dinajpur Raj Estate, in a revenue sale, in June, 1793, and the *pargana* was brought under the Dinajpur Collectorate. Swaruppur did not come under Dinajpur till after the adjustment of the district boundaries with Rangpur in 1798 A.D.

Two *parganas* of the district, suspected of an illegitimate origin in the depth of the 18th century politics and intrigue, were Kantanagar and Radhaballabhpur. It is asserted that Kantanagar was made up by Kanta Babu, the private Dewan of Warren Hastings and almost every Zamindar in the district contributed. Maharaja of Cassimbazar was the descendant of Kanta Babu. Likewise, Radhaballabhpur was acquired by one Ganga Govinda Singh.

A *pargana* which appears no where in the Collector's register was the *Baish Hazari pargana*. This was the revenue-free property of the *darga* of Syed Jalaluddin Tabrizi, which had always been regarded as a separate *pargana*. Lands of the *pargana* are found in different police-stations, specially Pirganj, where the muslim influence was well-established even before the Mughal rule.

The permanently
settled Parganas
of Cooch Bihar.

The *parganas* of Baikunthapur and Boda formed part of the Koch-kingdom. The Mughals conquered and annexed them into their kingdom. They were transferred to the East India

Company in 1765 A.D., when the Company obtained the *Diwani* of Bengal. At first, the Company followed the Muslim practice of farming out the land revenue to contractors, but discontinued this system when Raja Devi Singh had led to an open rebellion of the cultivators in 1783. *Pargana* Boda belonged to the *Chaklajat* estate of the Maharaja of Cooch Bihar.

In the permanently-settled *parganas*, all the available lands had been brought under cultivation; the only large uncultivated area was Baikunthapur forest. The Cooch Bihar Zamindari was well-managed. The Manager had his headquarters at Debiganj. He supervised the estates which were divided into tahsils for collection purposes. The registers and accounts were kept up carefully, so that the position of any tenant could be easily ascertained.

Management of
the permanently
settled Estates.

The work of organizing the revenue system at the Permanent Settlement was accompanied by investigations into the account of "*baje zamin*" or alienations from assessed land. It was believed by the Company's superior authorities that there had been large bogus grants of land free of assessment even after the Company had acquired the '*Diwani*' and the resumption or bringing of these to assessment long occupied the attention of the Company's officers. Locally at Dinajpur, enquiry into *lakheraj* title, and resumption had started as early as 1769 when Mr. Cottrell was 'Supervisor'. There were "*garbalani*" papers or lists of *lakheraj*, "*lot-daran*" papers that were filed after the selling of the Raj Estate in lots. Another series of papers were there styled as "*Jote-daran*". They furnished information about *lakheraj*. Next, on the passage of Regulation XIX of 1793, general registration of all *lakheraj* grants proceeded. The work was done in the summer of 1795 when Mr. John Eliot was the Collector of this district. Unfortunately there was fire in the Collectorate in March, 1813 and the register of *Lakheraj* grants was destroyed. Next year the registration was done afresh. The register so prepared, was in two volumes with serial number and date in English, and details in Persian. The next step was taken by Mr. S.W. Sage, Collector, in 1829. He enquired into many *lakheraj* grants, presumably under Regulation II of 1819 but his proceedings often ended indefinitely.

Lakheraj.

Then followed the activities of the resumption Commissioners and these resulted in the creation of 249 new revenue-paying estates, not all of which were in this district and 180 valid revenue-free estates. The largest resumed estate had a revenue of over Rs.1,150-00 and there were three very petty estates with an area of only two acres.

Some *lakheraj* grants escaped the notice of the Commissioners as the *thak* and revenue survey authorities found a number of *ijad* or excess lands. No less than 68 enquiries ended in an order for the lands to be demarcated as *ijad*. The records of the cases were handed over to the Collector, but no action was taken. Possibly it was considered that resumption proceedings were time-barred.

Payment of Revenue.

During the Mughal period, the payment of revenue of the year was made in four quartely instalments; but from the early days of the Company's administration revenue had been paid in monthly, but unequal instalments. Collection began with the *Punya* ceremony which was held as soon as possible after the *Jama* for the year had been settled and the revenue was paid according to the Bengali year. The year's *Jama* was always approved sometime after the year began. For instance, the assessment for 1193 B.S. (1786-87) was not confirmed by the Board of Revenue till 24th October, 1786 A.D.

The Thak and Revenue Surveys.

The revenue survey of 1857-61 brought order to the revenue administration and the survey was made of the whole district. The object of this survey, as set forth in the Manual of Surveying for India published in 1851, was "the definement of each estate on the Collector's rent roll, and to determine the relation of land revenue by the ascertainment of the areas and boundaries of estates and *mahlas*". It was carried out in 18 main circuits and maps of each of these were prepared. J.L. Sherwill was incharge of the 2nd division of the Survey in three later seasons. J.J. Pemberton, who was incharge of the 1st division of survey, had also been working in the district in two late seasons. The revenue survey or the professional survey was preceded by what is called the *thakbast* survey, which was not really a separate survey but a preliminary demarcation of boundaries to facilitate the professional operations which followed. This preliminary demarcation work was carried out by an uncovenanted Deputy Collector with a staff of *Peshkars* and *Amins*, working under the supervision of a covenanted Civil Officer with the full powers of a Collector. The work was done *pargana* by *pargana* and the boundaries of every village to be included in the professional survey operations were ascertained by detailed measurements and demarcated by mud-pillars (*thak*) or other marks, disputes about boundaries were settled on the spot, and an acknowledgement (*Supurudna-nama*) obtained from the several parties concerned as to the accuracy of the boundary laid down. A note was prepared for each village explaining any peculiarities connected with it, the nature and names of the included *mahals* or estates, whether

there were any other lands belonging to the village in other parts of the *pargana*, whether the village contained within its boundaries lands belonging to other villages, and concluding with remarks as to the condition of the village, the proportion of cultivation to waste and other matters of interest. When a *pargana* was completed a correct list of villages was made out, together with a general rough sketch or *mujmili mao, map*, showing each village in its proper relative position. All these documents were then forwarded for the use and guidance of the professional surveyor, who was interdicted from surveying any boundary without them. No field measurement was made by the *thakbast* survey party except in the case of plots of land belonging to other villages enclosed by the boundaries of the village under survey. Such plots are called *Chhits* and marked on the *thak* maps. The records prepared by these two surveys had proved invaluable for the purpose of land revenue administration.

All landed property in Dinajpur was included in one or other of the following classes of estates:

- (1) Revenue-paying estates;
- (2) Revenue-free estates;
- (3) Resumed estates.

The number of revenue-paying estates in the nineteenth century was 764 with a total area of 2,613,502 acres. All were permanently settled. These included also revenue-free estates which were resumed by the Government under the Resumption Law, Regulation II of 1819 and the title deeds by which the holders claimed to hold their lands revenue-free having been found to be invalid were assessed to revenue and settled permanently with their former proprietors.

The number of revenue-free estates was 178 with an area of 33,904 acres. These were principally of the following kinds: (1) *Brahmottar*, for the maintenance of the Brahmins; (2) *Debottar*, for the worship of the gods by the Hindus; (3) *Pirpal*, for the maintenance of mosques sacred to the memory of Muslim *pirs* or saints and were granted before the British accession to the *Diwani*, either by the Emperors of Delhi or by the Dinajpur Rajas. All were attached under the Resumption Law of 1819, but were subsequently released and recognised by the Government as revenue-free on the holders proving their titles to the satisfaction of the revenue authorities. These, however, must not be confused with the rent-free tenures.

Resumed estates. The resumed estates, were estates, held revenue-free prior to 1819, which were resumed by the Government, and the proprietors of which did not appear to prove their title or take settlement. Under the law, such lands could neither be sold nor permanently settled with other persons than the original proprietors. They were, therefore, either managed directly by the Collector, or leased for various periods.

It frequently happened that a zamindar kept only a small portion of his estate in his own management and let out the rest either in parcels on lease or in farm, mainly owing to the trouble and expense involved in realising rents or the loss suffered owing to the cultivators deserting their holdings. Hence the creation of subordinate tenures of various kinds which are described by Hunter in his Statistical Account of Dinajpur as follows:

“(1) *Istimrari or Mukarrari Taluks*—These tenures are those which were created by the zamindars or others having a proprietary right in the soil before the Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis in 1793. They were granted to the lessees, their heirs and successors in perpetuity, at a fixed rate of rent. The holders of these tenures transfer or sublet their taluks in *patni*, *ijara* or otherwise. The tenures liable to sale only for arrears of rent, and by a decree of the Civil Court under the provisions of Act VIII of 1869. In the case of the sale of the parent estate under Act XI of 1859, for arrears of Government revenue, the holders of *istimrari* taluks are protected from ejection or enhancement of rent or the part of the auction purchaser.

(2) *Patni taluks*—This tenure had its origin on the estates of the Maharaja of Burdwan, but has since become common throughout Bengal. It is a tenure created by the zamindar to be held by the lessee and his heirs forever, at a rent fixed in perpetuity. A *salami* or present, equal in value to from 3 to 5 times the annual rent, is paid by the lessee to the zamindar on the creation of the grant. The grant once made, the zamindar is divested of connection with the property, the *patnidar* acquiring every right of proprietorship which the zamindar possessed. On failure to pay the rent, however, the zamindar has power to sell the tenure under the provisions of Regulation XVIII of 1819. A *patnidar* had the power of subletting his tenure, the sub-tenant

acquiring the same rights as the *patnidar* himself possesses from the zamindar. A *patni* when sublet becomes a *darpatni*; a *darpatni* when sub-tenures are recoverable under Act VIII of 1869.

- (3) *Ijaras*—An *ijara* is a temporary lease or form. The *ijaradar* has no permanent interest in the estate, and his sole object is to make as much as possible out of the cultivators during the term of the lease. He is, however, debarred from ousting the tenants, or from enhancing their rents. In some cases a zamindar makes over his estate in *ijara* to a person to whom he owed money, in order to liquidate the debt. These latter are called *dai-sud-ijaras*. . . . *Ijaras* generally granted for a term of 4 or 5 years, sometimes for 8 or 10 years, but very seldom for a longer period than 20 years. A zamindar cannot oust an *ijaradar*, except by a decree of the civil court for arrears of rent under Act VIII of 1869. In the event of the sale of the estate for arrears of Government revenue, the purchaser can oust the *ijaradar*, except in the case of an *ijara* granted for a term of 20 years or upwards and duly registered under the provision of Act XI of 1859. An *ijara* is sometimes sublet and becomes a *dar-ijara*, the term, of course, being limited by that of the *ijara* itself. The *dar-ijaradar* enjoyed all the rights and privileges of the *ijaradar*".

Hunter also described the cultivators in perpetuity at a fixed rent. These tenures were transferable and the purchaser acquire all the rights and privileges of the original holder.

- (2) *Istim'ari* jots were cultivators' holdings, the rents of which had not been altered for a period of 20 years, and the owners of which had thus acquired the right of holding them free from liability to enhancement. These tenures, like the foregoing were saleable by the holders, (3) *Jots* of cultivators with occupancy rights were holdings of at least 12 years' standing. The owners of these *jots* could not be ejected but the rent could be enhanced by a suit in the civil court, (4) *Jots* of tenants-at-will were the holdings of cultivators who did not possess a right of occupancy and were liable to ejection and the payment of enhanced rents and (5) *Nij-jots* were the home-farms of the zamindars.

Rent-free tenures or holdings.

Lakheraj or rent-free tenures were of several kinds, viz., *Brahmottar*, *Debottar* and *Pirpal*. The revenue payable on rent-free tenures was charged to the parent estates of which they originally formed a part. *Chakran* lands were holdings granted in return for services rendered to the zamindar and were liable to be resumed by him when the services of the holders were no longer required. Rent-free tenures and holdings generally were exempt from all payments to the zamindar.

Jotedars.

The holders of cultivating tenures were known as *raiya*t or in local parlance *Jotedars*. There was often little to distinguish them from under-tenure holders cultivating their own lands, except that the latter had the privilege, which ordinary *Jotedars* did not possess, of subletting their lands to tenants at fixed rates. The *Jotes* were great in size, when the *jotedar* was not a middleman, he was usually a substantial farmer, possessing a considerable amount of capital and generally well-to-do.

Chukanidars.

Besides the above, there were two classes of cultivators who used to occupy land under the holders of cultivating *jotes*. They were *chukanidars* or under-*raiya*t and *adhiars*. The *chukanidars* were allowed to occupy a piece of land for a specified term, generally one or two years, on payment of a stated sum as rent, the sum being fixed without reference to the quantity of land occupied. They had a right of occupancy and could transfer their lands by sale or gift. Most of them were well-to-do and had *jotes* or shares in *jotes* in addition to their *chukani* holdings. Two other groups of inferior tenants were the *dar-chukanidars* and the *dar-a-dar-chukanidars*. The *dar-chukanidars* held their lands in the same way mentioned above under the *chukanidars* and the last group under the *dar-chukanidars*. It is difficult to say how far the process of sub-leasing extended. Probably there were not many *dar-chukanidars* or *dar-a-dar-chukanidars*.

Adhiars.

The *adhiars* used to cultivate land immediately under a *Jotedar chukanidar* or derivative *chukanidar*; but whatever the designation or status of the *adhiars* immediate superior might be, he was commonly known as the *adhar's "giri"*. Half the produce of the land went to the *giri* and half the *adhiar*. The *giri* usually used to make an advance of seed or cash to the *adhiar* which was adjusted when the produce was divided. The plough and cattle sometimes belonged to the *giri* and sometimes to the *adhiar*. The legal status of the various classes of *adhiar* was somewhat uncertain. But the Board of Revenue, Eastern Bengal and Assam, passed order that *adhiars*, who were

independent of their *giris* in the matter of ploughs and cattle, were to be created as tenants, irrespective of the length of time during which they had occupied the lands which they cultivated.

The Settlement Report of Mr. F.O. Bell that relates of the period of 1934-40, reveals the fact that there were 1,055 revenue-paying private estates on the *tauzi* roll in the district of Dinajpur. 1047 of these estates were permanently settled with an annual revenue of Rs.1,530,206.00 and 8 were temporarily settled with a revenue of Rs.511.00. There were 6 *crown-estates*, having an area of 4,746 acres excluding *tauzi* 302, which had been brought by the Collector in a revenue sale. *Tauzi* Nos. 1 to 516 were "Nazamat mahal"—permanently settled estates, originally settled at the Decennial settlement and entered as separate estates when *tauzi* Nos. were first allotted in 1851 A. D. 517 to 783 and 791 were 'daimi' or resumed estates, settled at 50 per cent of the assets during the resumption proceedings of 1836 to 1859. *Tauzi* No. 784 was a crown-estate.

The Settlement
of 1934-40.

In 1938, the Government set up a Land Revenue Commission, known as the Flood Commission, with the main object of retention or abolition of the zamindari system.

Flood Commi-
ssion, 1938.

On the basis of the recommendation of the Commission the Government of Bengal moved a bill to abolish the 150 years old Permanent Settlement in the Bengal Legislative Assembly in April, 1947. But the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act was eventually passed in 1951 A.D. which provided for the direct payment of land revenue by the actual owners and tillers of the soil, who were commonly called *rai-yots* (and were redesignated as *maliks* in 1958). Under the new revenue system, all *intermediary rent-receiving* interests between the Government and the cultivator (now called *malik*) disappeared. The zamindars and intermediary tenure-holders were compensated by payment of a graduated scale of lump sum in lieu of the rents they used to receive from the cultivators or the intermediary tenure holders. The salient features of this Act, after various amendments, may be summarised as below:

The East Bengal
State Requisition
and Tenancy
Act., 1950 A.D.

The Salient fea-
tures of the Act.

- (a) All rent-receiving interests were to vest in Government from the date of acquisition, as might be notified in the official gazette.
- (b) None can retain special classes of *khas* lands like hats, bazars, forests, fisheries, ferries, and also buildings and structures used as *tahsil kutcheries*.

- (c) Retainable classes of lands are homesteads, buildings and structures other than tahsil kutcheries, agricultural land, horticultural lands including tanks, vacant non-agricultural lands, and fallow lands which are cultivable or capable of cultivation or reclamation.
- (d) The ceiling for quantity of retainable *khas* lands according to the choice of individuals was 33 acres, later on raised to 124 acres, but this limit did not apply in cases of mechanised or large scale co-operative farming, and lands for special cultivations like tea, coffee, sugarcane, rubber plantations, orchards, tejpata gardens, dairy farms, land used for large scale industry or raw materials thereof; and also the quantity of lands required to meet the annuity of wakf, debottor or any other religious and charitable trusts. All excess *khas* lands were to vest in Government. The section 20 of the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act deals with the retention or otherwise of *khas* lands.
- (e) There was to be only one class of agricultural tenants under Government, viz., *raiya*s, later on designated as maliks. None will be allowed to hold land without payment of revenue. All rent-free and service tenures were assessed to rent. Rent will be paid in cash. So, all produce rents were commuted to cash rents. Rents once assessed would not normally be revised during 20 years. All lands and holdings were liable to assessment of fair and equitable rent under Part V.
- (f) Provision was made for assessment of compensation for acquisition of rent-receiving interest, and also for excess or non-retainable *khas* lands under sections 37 and 39 respectively.
- (g) Payment of compensation can be made in cash or in bonds or in both. For ex-rent-receivers resident in Pakistan cash payment is being made in one instalment. For non-residents, it is being paid in bonds through State Bank. Payment of compensation had been planned on a five-year basis; section 68 deals with such payments.
- (h) Compensation for wakf, *debottar* and such other exclusively religious and charitable trusts have been assessed as perpetual annuity; and Deputy Commissioners have been made trustees in respect of these

trust properties, and Administrator of Wakfs in respect of wakf estates.

- (i) Tenants or Maliks can use their lands in any manner, subject to payment of rent or revenue.
- (j) Sub-letting has been prohibited; and it entails forfeiture to Government of any land sub-let without compensation.
- (k) Provision has been made for voluntary subdivision or amalgamation of holdings, consolidation of lands, and rationalisation of rent.
- (l) Provision has also been made for reduction, enhancement and alteration of rent in certain cases, and also for extinguishment of tenancies on appropriate occasions, and for dealing with arrears of rent.
- (m) Provision for maintenance and revision of the record-of-rights has also been made.

After this new Act came into force, the Government at first took over big estates and zamindaries. In 1956, the whole-sale acquisition of all rent-receiving interest was notified and a revision of the survey of record-of-rights was undertaken to prepare the compensation assessment rolls and this work was completed in 1963. Cash compensation to the tune of Rs.1,05,00,000 had been assessed, out of which Rs.72,05,216.00 lakhs have already been disbursed by April, 1966 among rent receivers. There are lakhs of big or small holdings in the district and the present annual revenue demand stands at Rs.76,32,512.00 only. One Additional Deputy Commissioner, assisted by one Revenue Deputy Collector and another Revenue Deputy Collector, who is in charge of compensation payment, two Subdivisional Officers, one Revenue Circle Officer for each thana, Tahsildars, Assistant Tahsildars and Seasonal Tahsildars (one for each thana) are responsible for collecting annual and arrear revenues and settling lands on permanent leases.

CHAPTER XIII

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Historical development of General Administration takes us back to the regime of Kumargupta I. The Modern name Panchagarh is derived from Pachanagri. The Gaigram copper plate inscription shows that the Officer-in-charge of an administrative division called *Vishaya* was *Kumaramatya*. For Pachanagri *Kumaramatya* was appointed by Emperor Kumargupta. The *Kumaramatya* of Kotivarsha, i.e., of Phulbari Hilli belt had to work in collaboration with the members of a council. But in Panchanagri he could act independently. The former was a unit of administration unlike the latter which was under personal supervision of the Emperor. There was some kind of village council exercising some authority in regard to the sale of land.

Historical
Development of
General
Administration.

In the Mughal period, Bengal was divided into twenty-four sarkars. Of them six were included in Dinajpur district.

Westmacott remarks on thana divisions of Dinajpur area as existed in his time as follows: "Including the whole of thana Thakurgaon in the north, the western boundary passes through Rani Sankoil taking in Pergunna Borogaon, but excluding Kholora and Maldwar, and through Hemtabad including Mohaso, but not Tajpur, nor any part of thana Kaliagunj, except the northern corner which falls within Pargunna Bajitpur. This line excludes the estates of Maldwar, Tajpur and Choorman, which were added to the Collectorate of Dinajpur (A.D. 1739)".

Dinajpur has been a district for the purposes of criminal administration and the seat of a collectorate from the early days of the East India Company's administration. The general line of the Nagar and Karatoya, has been the district boundary on the west and the east respectively from before the end of the 18th century. Generally, the story of the district administration has been one of gradual decrease of its area. At the time of permanent settlement the district included much of the present Maldah and Bogra districts and some parts of Rajshahi. The western boundary continued down the Mahananda as far as the junction with the punarbhaba at Rohanpur, thus including four or five police-stations of Maldah (India). Maldah district was created in 1813, and the

Administrative
Boundaries:
Early Jurisdiction.

creation of Bogra in 1821 removed what is roughly the equivalent of Panchabibi, Jaypurhat and Khetlal police-stations as well as Badalgachi now in Rajshahi.

The following is the brief account of changes in area which occurred from the year 1794-95 onwards. Between this year and 1800-01 a large number of estates hitherto included in Dinajpur were made over to Purnea (India), Rangpur and Rajshahi. No further change occurred till 1833 when considerable transfers were made to Bogra and Maldah (India). In 1864 the large pargona, Khalta was detached from Dinajpur and annexed to Bogra, and between 1868 and 1870 both Bogra and Maldah received further slices of Dinajpur territory. Another important change of jurisdiction occurred in 1895 when the whole of Mahadebpur thana was transferred to Rajshahi. Since then till independence there have been no major changes in the district boundary. The most interesting was the return to this district from Bogra of the important market and milling town of Hili, on the 30th October 1934 after the beginning of the Settlement Operation (in 1934-40).

Buchanan Hamilton estimated its area at 5,374 sq. miles. At the time of revenue survey (1857-61) it decreased to 4,586 sq. miles. In the Census Report of 1872 the area was 4,142 sq. miles, but later it came down to 3,946 sq. miles only. The object aimed at by this gradual reduction in the size of the district was improved administration. When Dinajpur first came under British rule in 1765 it was notorious for lawlessness among its inhabitants, and a brief experience showed it was impossible for an ordinary district staff to cope successfully with the dacoits and river pirates who infested this large tract of country. During the later half of the eighteenth century, the district was subjected to plundering raids of the *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs*. In 1773 Warren Hastings referred to these in his writings. He succeeded curbing activities of these *Fakirs*, but that they continued to oppress the people of the district even as late as in 1799.

The criminal and revenue jurisdictions in the district have never been *conterminus*. The former has always been regulated by the natural boundaries of the district, while the latter has been regulated by the old division of the country into *Parganas*. Thus an estate included in the *Touzi* roll of Dinajpur but situated in the heart of the Rangpur district was subject to revenue jurisdiction of the Dinajpur authorities though it was within the criminal jurisdiction of the District Magistrate of Rangpur. The criminal and civil jurisdiction on the other hand coincided with each other.

In 1781, the Collector was reposted to the district. In that year the Judge of the *Mufassial Diwani Adalat* was also appointed as Magistrate and the Collector was left with the task of revenue collection and he acted in a civil court in revenue matters only. Mr. George Hatch was appointed collector of Dinajpur, but he took over the charge on the 19th January 1786. In December 1786 he was also appointed as judge of the *Diwani Adalat* which had from that time onward jurisdiction over the district of Dinajpur only. He took over the charge on the 1st February, 1787. In April, 1787, the boundary of the district was re-adjusted and Mr. Hatch was again appointed Judge, Magistrate and Collector. He could not however, try criminal cases of serious nature which continued to be disposed of by an officer styled as the *Daroga*. The Collector was assisted in his work by a *Diwan*. It was in 1786 that the Civil Surgeon, known at that time as the Surgeon, was appointed. In 1790 the court of circuit was established for trial of offences not triable by magistrates. The court of circuit had jurisdiction over a division of which the district of Dinajpur formed a part. Other districts included in the circuit were Rangpur, Rajshahl and several other which are now in India.

The subdivisonal system of administration was first introduced in the year 1860 when Mr. Clemenston, Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate with a small staff was stationed at Thakurgaon. This subdivisonal officer continued to function till September 1867, when the subdivision was abolished as there was very little work there. In 1887 the greater portion of the northern half of the district was formed into the present Thakurgaon subdivision and placed under the charge of a Deputy Collector of the Provincial Civil Service. The remainder of the district continued under the direct supervision of the Collector till November 1904, when the five thanas namely, Balurghat, Gangarampur, Porsha, Patnitola and Phulbari (now in India) were separated from the rest of the district to form the Balurghat subdivision and was placed like the Thakurgaon subdivision under a Deputy Collector.

Subdivisonal
System.

In 1910 the sanctioned staff at Dinajpur consisted of the District Magistrate, four Deputy Magistrates with 1st class powers, one Deputy Magistrate with 2nd or 3rd class and a Sub-Deputy Magistrate with 2nd or 3rd class powers. The Subdivisonal Magistrate was always vested with 1st class powers and he had a Sub-Deputy Magistrate with 3rd class powers to assist him. Besides these stipendiary magistrates, there were at Dinajpur two honorary magistrates with 1st class powers sitting singly and a bench of honorary magistrates with 3rd class powers.

A Deputy Collector in-charge and a Sub-Deputy Collector were generally stationed at Thakurgaon.

In 1947, according to the Radcliff Award out of the 30 police-stations of the old undivided district of Dinajpur 9 police-stations in full and one in part went to West Bengal (India). While the remaining 20 thanas in full and one thana in part (Hilli) together with the four thanas of Jalpaiguri district (India) namely Debiganj, Boda, Tetulia and Panchagarh came to East Bengal and constituted the district of Dinajpur. Later on three thanas namely Porsha, Patnitola and Dhamoirhat were transferred to Rajshahi district.

Deputy
Commissioner.

At present the district administration is headed by one Deputy Commissioner, who is a senior officer of the Civil Service. He is in overall charges of all the Government departments and autonomous bodies in the district. In the administration of criminal justice and revenue administration, the Deputy Commissioner exercises the real powers in the district. There is one Additional Deputy Commissioner who is also a senior officer of the Civil Service. He is in-charge of general administration, election and revision of criminal cases. Besides, the Deputy Commissioner and the Additional Deputy Commissioner there are eleven Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors in the district headquarters. Three of them have first class magisterial powers, three second class and one third class.

There are one Joint Deputy Commissioner, one Land Acquisition Officer, one Compensation Officer whose services are placed at the disposal of Revenue Department of the District. They do not try any case. There is another Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector and his services are at the disposal of Basic Democracy and Local Government. He is the Assistant Director, Basic Democracies and also the Secretary of the District Council. He is in-charge of the development activities under the Works Programme in the district. Of the Deputy Magistrates who try cases one is the Subdivisional Officer in-charge of the administration of criminal justice, revenue administration and the General Administration. He is assisted by one Additional S.D.O. in revenue matters, and one Treasury Officer who also exercises the powers of a magistrate and there is one *ex-officio* Deputy Controller for civil defence.

In Thakurgaon subdivision besides the S.D.O. there are three Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, of whom two are vested with first class powers and the other with second class powers. One of them is the Additional S.D.O. who assists the S.D.O. in matters of revenue administration. There are two Munsif Magistrates, one at Thakurgaon, and another at Panchagarh.

To look after the Development works there are 22 Circle Officers (Development), one in each thana. There are 151 union councils with one chairman in each in the district. The Circle Officer (Development) with the help of Union Council Chairman carries out the Works Programme which covers all round development of the thana. The Union Council Chairmen are given an emolument of Rs.50 per mensem to encourage them more in the execution of the Works Programme. There are 195 *defadars* and 561 *chawkidars* in Sadar and 161 *chawkidars* and 567 *dafadars* at Takurgaon subdivision. The Union Council Chairman with the help of the *chawkidars* and *dafadars* maintains the semi-official administration in the village.

For revenue administration there is one Circle Officer **Revenue.** (Revenue) in each thana who performs supervisory function in the thana. There is also one Field Kanungo in each thana in the district. Besides, there are 91 Tahasilders, 91 Assistant Tahasilders, and 91 Seasonal Tahasilders in the district for collection of revenue.

Criminal justice is administered by the District and Sessions Judge, the Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate), the Additional Deputy Commissioner, (Additional District Magistrate) and the Deputy Magistrates stationed at Dinajpur and Thakurgaon. **Criminal Justice.** The offences reported during 1964 were 4,905. Of these 3,078 cases were under the Pakistan Penal Code, 212 cases under Criminal Procedure Code and 1,615 under local and special laws. The number of cases pending at the close of the year 1963 was 742 while 3,222 fresh cases were brought for trial during 1964. Of the total number of case 3,964 for disposal 2,895 were disposed of and 1,060 remained pending at the close of the year 1964. In 1963 one Railway Magistrate disposed of 58 cases of violation of railway traffic rules for travelling without ticket leaving 6 cases pending at the end of the year. Besides, 7 cases were pending before the court of the Special Judge, Dinajpur. These were cases of corruption among public servants and officials, such as mis-appropriation, breach of trust etc.. 23 cases were referred during 1964 and seven cases remained pending from previous year making a total of 30 cases. Stipendiary magistrates including munsif magistrates tried 2,895 cases in 1964. Railway Magistrates tried 58 case in 1964.

The total number of under-trial prisoners before the magistrates was 9,976 in 1964.

25 persons were under-trial before the Court of Special Judge, Dinajpur during the year 1964. Of these 10 were convicted.

12 were acquitted or discharged leaving 3 under-trial at the end of the year 1964.

In 1964 as a result of trials by the stipendiary magistrates 4,907 persons were acquitted or discharged, 1,490 were convicted and 66 persons were convicted by railway magistrates. The stipendiary magistrates including the munsif magistrates passed appealable sentence on 507 persons and non-appealable sentence on 989 persons on regular trial. The Railway magistrates passed non-appealable sentence on 66 persons. One person was released on probation under section 562, Cr.P.C.

In 1964, 285 persons were imprisoned, 1,151 persons only fined, 24 fined with imprisonment, 29 ordered to execute bonds under section 109/110, Cr.P.C. Of them 21 were sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding one year for failure to execute bonds. 21 persons were sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment not exceeding six months, and 8 not exceeding 2 years.

Fine imposed during the year 1964 amounted to Rs.36,392 as against Rs.79,641 in 1963.

Besides the trial of criminal cases proceedings under chapter VIII under section 107, Cr.P.C. were drawn up against 752 persons in 189 cases in 1964 as against 909 persons in 191 cases in 1963. Of these 576 persons were discharged in 138 cases and 176 in 51 cases remained on trial at the close of the year 1964. Proceedings under chapter VIII for furnishing security for good behaviour were drawn against 99 persons in 76 cases. They were called upon to show cause against proceedings under sections 109/110, Cr. P.C. Of them 23 were discharged. Orders were made absolute against 21 persons, 2 persons absented, 38 case involving 53 persons remained pending at the close of the year 1964.

6 cases of proceeding under Public Nuisance (chapter X of Cr.P.C.) against 21 persons were instituted during the year 1964. Of these 3 cases with 10 persons ended in acquittal and 3 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Under maintenance chapter of the Cr.P.C. petition in 16 cases against 15 persons were filed during the year 1964. Of these 12 petitions were disposed of leaving 4 petitions pending at the close of the year.

For forfeiture of bail or recognizance bond proceeding under section 514, Cr.P.C. were drawn up against 48 persons in 36 cases. Bonds of 5 persons were forfeited and 31 persons were discharged and 9 cases with 12 persons remained pending at the close of the year.

For the administration of civil justice there was one District and Sessions Judge in charge of two districts, Dinajpur and Bogra. But by the Government notification No. 443/J4/3N-15/67, dated the 17th April 1968 separate District and Sessions Judge for Dinajpur was appointed.

Administration
of civil justice.

Besides the District and Session Judge there is one Subordinate Judge, one Munsif for Dinajpur Sadar, one Munsif for Thakurgoan with the power of a magistrate first class and one munsif at Panchagarh with the powers of a magistrate first class.

The Subordinate Judge, Dinajpur was vested with the special powers viz:—

- (1) S.C.C. (small causes court) powers to try cases involving up to Rs.750.00.
- (2) Powers of Assistant Sessions Judge.

The Assistant Sessions Judge of Dinajpur has got the powers of special judges to try cases under Pakistan (now Bangladesh) Criminal Law Amendment Act XIX of 1948.

The Munsif of the 2nd Court had the power to try original suits up to Rs.4,000 and S.C.C. suits up to Rs.3,000. The Munsif, Thakurgoan was vested with special powers under section 153 (b) of the B.T. Act and S.C.C. power up to Rs.4,000. He was also vested with powers of a magistrate first class.

The Munsif in the court of Panchagarh was vested with powers to try original suits up to Rs.2,000 and he has no S.C.C. powers. He was vested with powers of a Magistrate 1st Class.

In Dinajpur in the District Judge's Court the number of original suits filed in 1964 was 80, number of suits decided in 1964 was 85. In 1964 title and mortgage suits were 3, miscellaneous judicial suits were 81, and the income was Rs.19,648 and expenditure was Rs.98,825. The number of appellate suits filed in 1964 was 112, number of suits decided in 1964 was 144. In 1964 title and mortgage suits were 81, money suits were 26, and miscellaneous judicial suits were 42.

In the Subordinate Judge's court the number of original suits decided in 1964 was 216, of which title and mortgage suits were 91, money suits 12, miscellaneous judicial cases 34, execution cases were 79. Income derived from the cases was Rs.33,865 and the expenditure was Rs.20,945. The number of appellate suits filed in the Subordinate Judge's court in

1964 was 149. The number of suits decided in 1964 was 109 of which title and mortgage suits were 71, money suits 10 and miscellaneous judicial cases 28.

In the Munsif's first court, Dinajpur the number of suits filed in 1964 was 209; number of suits decided in 1964 was 315. Of the cases decided in 1964 title and mortgage suits were 158, money suits were 43, miscellaneous judicial cases 73, execution cases were 41 and the income from the cases were Rs.8,271 and the expenditure was Rs.10,800. In the Munsif's second court, Dinajpur the number of suits filed in 1964 was 237, and those decided in the same year was 382 of which mortgage suits were 195, money suits 30, rent suit 1, miscellaneous Judicial cases 76, execution cases 79. The income derived from the cases in 1964 was Rs.20,928 against the expenditure of Rs.22,468 in 1964.

In the Munsif's court at Thakurgoan the number of suits filed in 1964 was 978. The number of suits decided in 1964 was 556 of which mortgage suits were 128, money suits 100, rent suits 140, miscellaneous judicial cases 120, and execution cases 506. In the Munsif's court at Panchagarh the number of cases decided in 1964 was 262 of which title and mortgage suits were 121, money suits 10, rent suits 2, miscellaneous judicial cases 46, and execution cases 83.

Police.

The police administration of the district is headed by one Superintendent of Police under whom there are one Additional Superintendent of Police and one Deputy Superintendent of Police at Sadar Headquarters, one Subdivisional Police Officer at Thakurgoan, eight Inspectors—one is at Sadar, one at Birganj, one at Thakurgaon, one at Panchagarh; one Court Inspector at Dinajpur Sadar, one Reserve Inspector at Sadar, and one D.S.B. (District Special Branch) Inspector at Sadar, one Liaso Inspector at Sadar Headquarters. There are 63 Sub-Inspectors, 47 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 23 Head Constables, 10 Naiks and 669 Constables.

For police administration the district is divided into 22 thanas. In 1909 there were 15 thanas and before Partition in 1947 there were 30 thanas in the district. Since Partition there have been 22 thanas and 5 out-posts. The police-stations in the Sadar-Subdivision are Kotwali (139 sq. miles), Chirirbandar (121 sq. miles), Parbatipur (167 sq. miles), Phulbari (123 sq. miles), Nawabganj (152 sq. miles), Hakimpur (78 sq. miles), Ghoraghat (57 sq. miles), Birganj (157 sq. miles), Khansama (69 sq. miles), Kaharole (80 sq. miles).

Birol (138 sq. miles), Bochaganj (87 sq miles),. In Thakurgaon Subdivision the police-stations are: Thakurgaon (149 sq. miles), Baliadangi (111 sq. miles), Ranisankail (110 sq. miles), Haripur (77 sq. miles), Pirganj (152 sq. miles), Panchagarh (103 sq. miles), Debiganj (119 sq. miles), Boda (166 sq. miles), Atwari (81 sq. miles) and Tetulia (74 sq. miles). Of the 5 out posts four are at Sadar such as Sadar, Munshipara, Bhalubari, Phulhat and one at Thakurgaon town. During 1965 the strength of *dafaders* in the Sadar Subdivision was 195 and in Thakurgaon was 161 while the number of *Chawkiders* in sadar was 561 and in Thakurgaon it was 567. The pay of a *Dafader* was Rs.30.00 and that of a *Chawkider* was Rs.25.00 per month.

About one hundred and fifty years ago the district was **Crime.** notorious for dacoits and river pirates and every kind of violent crime was common. From the remarks of Major Sherwill the Revenue Surveyor in 1863, it was apparent that even then the character of the district had undergone a considerable change. He said that although murders were common and dacoities not infrequent, the general character of the people was peaceable. He observed that the cases of heinous crime were rare. A few murders were committed every year and occasional case of dacoity occurred but these dacoities were rarely accompanied with murder and the amount of property looted was generally small. Some of the worst dacoities were perpetrated within measureable distance of the Purnea and Malda borders, the bad characters of these districts being rather found committing depredations on the more peaceable inhabitants of Dinajpur, In 1908-09 dacoities were exceptionally numerous owing, it was believed in great measure, to the scarcity prevailing in this and the neighbouring districts. Cases of rape were rare and serious rioting so common in some of the eastern districts, was practically unknown. Arson was fairly common, especially in the southern portion of the district. The offence was, however, seldom brought home to any one, and there was some reasons to suppose that a good many of the cases reported were the result of accident. Theft and petty burglaries were numerous, though the amount of property was generally small. Dispute about land with their inevitable accompaniment of forgery, perjury and fabrication of false evidence were common as was the case elsewhere. The cultivator showed the usual tendency to try and drag what were really civil disputes into the criminal courts.

Since Partition due to heavy influx of displaced persons from India with doubtful antecedents, various crimes increased considerably. Besides, population in the district has been steadily

increasing owing to influx of people from other adjoining districts which are filling up the fallow lands. Road building activity, industrialization, notably two mills at Thakurgaon and Panchagarh and WAPDA irrigation works, etc. have been steadily attracting outsiders for settlement in this district. As a result crime has been increasing day by day.

Murder, dacoity and especially rape are now-a-days common. This is owing to the influx of refugees and the migration from the adjoining districts. Till August 1947, the district was very thinly populated. Many fallow and unculturable lands were very thinly populated and were left uncultivated but they have been covered up by these immigrants. Due to the mixing of these heterogeneous elements all types of crimes are increasing except rioting. Besides, with the urbanization and growth of trade and commerce, crime and delinquency are also increasing. This increase is generally found at Kotwali, Parbatipur, Phulbari, Birol, Birganj, Bochaganj, Thakurgaon, Pirganj, and Panchagarh police-stations. There are three active notorious gangs in the district. These are Maharajapur gang at Kotwali area, Bhaglu Kurmis gang at Nilphamari and Bishadu's gang at Parbatipur.

Crime figure from 1963 upto 30th April 1966.

Year.	Dacoity.	Robary.	Burglary	Theft.	Murder.	Rioting.	Others.	Total.
1963	50	44	503	5062	52	237	761	2143
1964	61	43	547	516	45	138	991	2341
1965	77	56	566	526	35	131	1220	2610
1966 upto 3-4-66	30	34	170	191	6	49	309	789

Jail.

The jail administration of the district is headed by one Superintendent under whom there is one jailor, one deputy jailor, three jail assistants, 4 head warders, 38 warders, one female worder, one part time medical officer and one compounder. In 1910 the district jail had accommodation for 308 prisoners, viz., barracks for 204 male convicts, 27 female convicts, 36 under trial prisoners and 5 civil prisoners; cells for 4 convicts, and a hospital with 32 beds. In 1965, 104 male and two female convicts were in confinements, 363 male and 10 female convicts were received from court, 55 male convicts were

received from other jails in the province, 43 male and 1 female convicts were received from sub-jails. This made the total of 565 male and 13 female convicts in 1965 including 7 who were readmitted. 33 male and 1 female convicts were released on appeal, 217 male and 5 female convicts were released on the expiry of their sentence, 144 convicts were released on remission and one convict died in 1965.

8 Security prisoners were received in 1965 and all were discharged in the same year. 363 male and 10 female convicts were admitted during 1965. Regarding the age of the prisoners 7 were below 16 years, 286 were between 4 and 16 years, 80 were between 41 and 60 years.

In jail occupation 358 convicts were engaged in agriculture, 4 in commerce and 1 in service. The produce of the garden vegetables in 1964 was 687 md. 22 sr. 15½ ch. Weaving is the only industry in the Dinajpur Jail. Other sources of income are from the gardening and from the sale of surplus vegetables. The total credit of the manufacturing department in jail in 1965 was Rs.16,270.70 and the debits in 1965 was 14,800.96 and the total cash profit in 1965 was Rs.8,851.41. The total expenditure of the jail in 1965 was Rs.2,66,005.69. The average expenditure of the prisoners per head in 1965 was Rs.621.02. There is an institution to impart basic education to the prisoners in the Jail. Prisoners specially the juvenile and adolescent are persuaded to read and write in jail school for which primary books and other accessories are purchased and supplied to the prisoners under the charge of a convict teacher. Every endeavour is made to do away with the illiteracy amongst prisoners imparting at least the basic education. In 1965 out of 363 Male and 10 females convicts only 18 male could read and write. There is also a library in the jail to provide reading facilities to the prisoners. There is one Muslim religious instructor for the Muslim prisoners to give religious instruction to the prisoners once a week.

It was a striking feature of mounting of jail population and the concentration of Indian internees numbering 208 in the district jail. During the war emergency in 1965 the volume of works increased with the unusual increase in jail population in that period.

The district jail has got its own hospital with one doctor and one compounder. The jail hospital is a two storied building with 54 beds for the male prisoners. There is no separate accommodation for the warders to be hospitalised. There is no segregated ward for infectious diseases. The hospital is well

ventilated, clean and tidy with flower garden. All the prisoners of the jail are given vaccination against small-pox, typhoid and cholera in regular courses. Fortnightly weights are taken in respect of all the inmates of the jail. Prisoners found losing weight abnormally are given extra diets and they are hospitalized when necessary.

Sub-Jail.

There is one Sub-Jail at Thakurgaon in the district of Dinajpur. The administration of the Sub-Jail is headed by one Superintendent, the *ex-officio* S.D.O., Thakurgaon and there is one Deputy Superintendent, the *ex-officio* Sub-divisional Medical Officer, Thakurgaon. Besides, there are one head warder, five warders and one jail clerk. The female warders are appointed in this Sub-Jail with the permission of the Deputy Inspector-General of Prisons, Rajshahi Division when female prisoners are confined. The registered capacity for accommodation of the Sub-Jail is for 18 prisoners including 3 females. But the number exceeds several times more than the capacity. In 1965 the daily average population of this Sub-Jail was 133.32. This Sub-Jail receives the prisoners beyond the capacity. The prisoners are kept in jail up to 14 days. Those sentenced to longer terms of imprisonment are forwarded to the district jail once a week when a police escort is available. The daily average figure of sick prisoners were 4.50 in 1965, and in 1964 it was 2.60. The Deputy Superintendent daily visits the Jail and enquires about health and sanitation. In case of serious illness the patients are transferred to local Sub-divisional hospital. The Superintendent of the Sub-Jail visits the hospital twice a week. During 1965 the jail garden produced for the consumers 328 maunds 12 ch. against 56 maunds 32 seers in 1964. There is one religious instructor who come every Friday to give religious instruction to the prisoners and he gets only the conveyance allowance.

In 1965 the Inspector-General of Prisons visited the Sub-Jail once, the Superintendent paid 20 visits and one Deputy Magistrate once. Four officials also visited the Sub-Jail in the same year. The total expenditure incurred in this Sub-Jail in 1965 was Rs. 9,694.48.

Ansar.

The Ansar Organization of the district is headed by one District Adjutant of Ansars. Under him there are two Sub-divisional Adjutants of Ansars one posted at the district headquarters at Sadar Subdivision and the other is posted at the Thakurgaon Subdivision. Under the Sub-divisional Adjutant of

Ansars there are two Assistant Adjutants of Ansars in each Subdivision. One is posted at Sadar with the jurisdiction over Kotwali, Birganj, Bochaganj, Kaharol, Khansama, and Birol and the other is posted at Parbatipur with the jurisdiction over Parbatipur, Chirirbandar, Phulbari, Hakimpur, Nawabganj and Ghoraghat of Sadar Subdivision. Similarly, of the two Assistant Adjutants under the Subdivisional Adjutant of Ansars in Thakurgoan Subdivision, one is posted at Thakurgoan with jurisdiction over Thakurgoan, Birganj, Ranisankail, Baliadangi and Haripur and the other is posted at Panchagarh with jurisdiction over Atwari, Tetulia, Boda, Debiganj and Panchagarh.

The Ansar Organization has platoons in each union council throughout the district. There are about 10 to 13 platoons on an average in each union of this district. The entire organization is being re-organized with new recruitment at the rate of three platoons in each union council according to the physical standard and age as per Government directive. The ansars volunteer themselves to render services at the time of emergency when called by the district administration but the normal vocational life of the Ansars is cultivation and they follow the instruction to take all measures to increase the food production by the application of fertilizers and manures. Besides, they help the Agriculture Department in spraying insecticide in the paddy field infested with the insects. An intensive propaganda is being carried out by them to induce the cultivators to take necessary steps for greater output. There are night schools and Ansar clubs and they carry out adult education classes to eradicate illiteracy from the society. The Ansars render their services at the time of cyclone, flood, epidemic and in relief operation in the district. Quite a good number of platoon officers have been trained by the Public Health Department in the technique of vaccination and inoculation of the people and of the cattles also. During the time of emergency the ansars have always responded to the call of the Government at a great personal sacrifice. They were embodied into police force at times whenever there was emergency. During the war emergency in September 1965 the Ansars of this district responded to the call of the nation and rendered splendid services. Their conduct, high sense of patriotism and their services for national cause were much appreciated. The members of this organization have been rendering their services in checking and detecting crimes, smuggling and other anti-social activities in the district. The platoon officer Mr. Md. Abul Quasim of vill. Charkai, P. O. Birampur, P. S. Hakimpur, is a recipient

of *Tamgha-e-Khidmat* for rendering his valuable services. He was also rewarded with Rs. 150 by the Superintendent of Police, Dinajpur, for his gallantry in opening fire in reply to the enemy firing on the civilians from Pak-Hilli Railway Station during the war emergency on 18th September, 1965. The Ansars are also called upon at the time of Railway and postal strike to maintain discipline.

Civil Defence.

The Civil Defence Organization of the district is headed by a Controller of Civil Defence. The Deputy Commissioner is the *ex-officio*, Controller of Civil Defence and under him there is one Deputy Magistrate as *ex-officio* Deputy Controller. The Controller of Civil Defence is entirely responsible for the administration, control and supervision of the organization. The Deputy Controller is normally the head of the Civil Defence Services under the Controller. At present he is incharge of the combined control and report centre. The functions of this organization are under different heads of services—Rescue services headed by the Executive Engineer, Roads; Bomb disposal services, headed by the Superintendent of Police and Casualty services by the Civil Surgeon.

There is one staff officer who is a fulltime paid officer of the organization. His function is to make recruitment and enrolment of Civil Defence personnel, issuing of equipments, their safe custody and proper maintenance of records of personnel organization and supervision of the training services. The staff officer also acts as incident officer during emergency. For warden services there is one post of warden who recruits the wardens and arrange their enrolment and training.

During the year 1965 people volunteered to receive training in different services. Under this Civil Defence Organization in the district 61 persons received training in Combined Control and Report Centre, one in Civil Defence Department and 177 in Warden Services. In Casualty services 24 persons received First-Aid training, 2 in Ambulance, 7 in Mobile First Aid Unit and 19 received training in Rescue services. In Fire fighting 47 persons received training in Stirrup pump party, 200 in Auxiliary fire service, 534 persons received Basic General training and 10 voluntary instructors received training from Dacca.

In Dinajpur the Civil Defence Organization, besides giving training and arranging different services, educated the general public and made them civil defence minded by observing practice black-out and holding civil defence exercises and demonstrations. This organization with its different services worked round the clock during the war in September, 1965.

The District Public Relations Office came into existence in the district in the form of field publicity organization under the Information Department in 1944. District Public Relations Office.

The office is headed by one District Public Relations Officer under whom there are three Subdivisional Public Relations Officers; one is at Sadar, one is at Thakurgoan and the other is at Parbatipur. There is one cinema unit with one cinema operator and one assistant operator. To arouse public feelings this office performs field publicity works which include the display of documentary films, holds public meetings and group gatherings for discussing topics of educative value. It distributes and displays posters, leaflets, pamphlets, booklets, published by the Government. It publishes local news specially news concerning the developmental activities in the press and by broadcasting by the distribution of radio sets. It covers tours of the V. I. P's. and high officials and it arranges public meeting where necessary.

There are two information centres, one is at sadar and the other is at Thakurgaon with one adviser in each centre. There is one mobile van in each centre for field publicity purposes.

The office of Fire Services in the district is headed by one Station Officer, grade I under whom there are one Station Officer grade II, three leaders, 12 firemen. During the year 1965 the number of fire calls were 86 and the amount of damage was Rs. 7,06,901 and the amount salvaged was Rs. 1,77,585. With the development of industries and the expansion of the town the incidents are also increasing but in comparison with these, fire fighter has proved its success in bringing down the frequency of occurrence. Fire Service.

In the district there is an acute problem of procuring water. The number of tanks are very few and during the dry season the existing tanks become almost dried up. Besides, some tanks have been sealed up and the passages to approach point of the existing tanks have been blocked by the owners. So, to get water readily is not possible for which damages cannot be checked as quickly as it should be by the fire fighters.

Registration offices are under the administrative control of the District Registrar. The Additional Deputy Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner would hold the charge of District Registrar. According to last gazetteer (1909) a special Sub-Registrar would deal with Registration.

the documents presented there and also assisted the Additional District Magistrate who was the *ex officio* District Registrar in supervising the work of the Sub-Registrars incharge of the other offices. By a Government notification No. 476-J3/2 M-15/70, dated the 7th August, 1971 the previous power of the Registration Act was superceded. By another Government notification No. 477-J3/M-13/70, dated the 7th August, 1971 departmental candidates have been appointed as the District Registrars and by an individuals notification No. 483-J3/1A-12/71, dated the 10th August 1971, the District Sub-Registrar of Dinajpur has been appointed as the District Registrar. The functions of the District Registrar are to supervise the administration of the whole district, to hear appeal and application cases against orders of refusals of subordinate offices, to hold enquiry against allegations when necessary and also to register the documents having jurisdiction over the police-stations of Kotwali, Brol, Chirirbandar and over whole of Bangladesh in the delegated capacity of District Registrar.

The main function of the Sub-Registrars (subordinate officers, is to register the documents of various nature under their respective jurisdiction and also to deal with B.T. Act notices. Sometimes the officers also help the executive departments by holding enquiries and test identification parades, etc. There are eight Sub-Registrars' offices at mufassil excluding sadar each under one Sub-Registrar situated at Thakurgaon, Pirganj, Birganj, Parbatipur, Phulbari, Lahirihat, Debiganj and the Joint Sub-Registrar's office at Panchagarh.

During 1909 the number of registration was gradually on the increase. The average number of documents registered annually during the period of five years ending 1899 was 23,390. The number for the same period ending 1909 was 38,904. About one-half of this number represented mortgage deeds of *ryati* holding. The statement shows the number of documents registered and the receipts and expenditure at each office in 1909.

Office.	No. of documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
Sadar	7,659	1,115	7,253
Thakurgaon	4,329	4,263	2,543
Birganj	4,072	3,667	2,205
Pirganj	5,014	4,664	2,488
Phulbari	5,730	5,291	2,608
Lahirihat	2,758	3,064	2,096

Owing to increase of works a Joint Sub-Registry office was opened at sadar on the 1st April, 1910.

Due to East Pakistan Disturbed Persons Rehabilitation Ordinance, 1964, East Pakistan Ordinance No. I, 1964, the registration of the sale of property of the minority community was restricted subject to the permission of the Deputy Commissioner and the S.D.O. The S.D.O. can permit sale of only one acre of land and the Deputy Commissioner himself can permit for two acres and the Rehabilitation Commissioner can do more. For this restriction the number of Registration has come down.

Statement showing the different types of documents in the different Sub-Registry Offices of Dinajpur in the year 1964 with their income and expenditure.

NATURE OF TRANSACTION

Name of office.	Sale.	Mort- gage.	Oth- ers.	Lease.	Bon- ds.	Wills.	Total	Income.	Expendi- ture, 1964.	
								Rs.	Rs.	
Sadar ..	275	9,205	148	365	133	20	16	10,162	93,273-76	49,901-29
Parbatipur ..	81	4,125	57	223	100	..	12	4,598	27,553-32	10,582-97
Phulbari ..	319	6,535	315	430	78	1	16	7,694	49,033-25	9,537-03
Pirganj ..	85	7,172	6	358	79	..	9	7,709	46,291-78	11,767-41
Birganj ..	41	4,760	32	384	41	4	5	5,267	29,482-51	9,934-15
Thakurgaon ..	47	4,514	77	217	127	..	..	4,982	26,315-28	12,650-24
Lahirihat ..	30	3,792	6	34	85	1	1	3,949	18,019-80	4,840-44
Debiganj ..	6	1,488	2	33	8	..	..	1,537	8,609-60	4,853-67
Panchagarh ..	44	6,099	33	150	40	4	2	6,372	36,808-47	6,720-31
Total ..	928	47,690	676	2,194	691	30	61	52,270	3,35,386-77	1,20,787-51

In 1875 Civil Surgeon, then known as 'Surgeon' was appointed in the district of Dinajpur. Mr. Ross was the first Surgeon. At present there is one Civil Surgeon who is in-charge of Medical Administration of the district. Under the Civil Surgeon there are two Assistant Surgeons known as the Subdivisional Medical Officer; one is in-charge of the Sadar Subdivisional Hospital and the other is in-charge of the Thakurgaon Hospital. Under the Assistant Surgeon, Sadar Hospital there are two Sub-Assistant Surgeons, two junior staff nurses, two compounders, one dresser, thirteen nurses, six ward boys. In Thakurgaon Hospital besides the Assistant Surgeon there is one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, one junior staff nurse, two compounders, four nurses, and four ward boys.

Civil Surgeon's
office.

The Subdivisional Medical Officers of Health are in-charge of preventive side. They give inoculation and vaccination against the out-break of epidemic diseases. There are sixty eight Health Assistants at Sadar Subdivision and forty-two at Thakurgaon Subdivision. There are two T.B. Clinics, one

at Sadar and the other at Thakurgaon each under the charge of one Assistant Surgeon. In T.B. Clinic Sadar there is one compounder, one B.C.G. technician, one X-Ray technician, one Laboratory Research Assistant, two Lady home visitors, one nurse, one ward boy and one aya. There is one School Health Clinic in Dinajpur in charge of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon to look after the health condition of the school children. There is one compounder in this clinic. There is one B.C.G. team in-charge of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon who along with twelve B.C.G. technicians make the vaccination campaign against tuberculosis. There are three Government thana dispensaries at Atwari, Ranishankail and Debiganj with one Sub-Assistant Surgeon and one compounder in each. There is one Rural dispensary at Rajbati in-charge of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

In Dinajpur there is one District Health Education Officer. He has the responsibility of educating the people regarding health and sanitation. Under the Health Education Officer there is also one Projectionist. He educates the people through documentary film show on health and sanitation. In the district there are two maternity centres each under the charge of one Lady Health Visitor who takes care of the expectant mothers and the babies when they are born. For both preventive and curative measures there are four rural health centres at Haldibari, Panchagarh, Ghoraghat and Phulbari. In each of the rural health centres there is an Assistant Surgeon. Under him there is one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, four compounders, one dresser, one sanitary inspector, four health assistants, and one laboratory research assistant, one lady health visitor, one midwife, three Nurse-dais, etc.

Under the development scheme of Health Services there is one Rural Centre at Pirgonj. There is a scheme for setting up a Maternity centre and to increase the beds in the Sadar Hospital at Dinajpur.

The District Health Office is run by the Zela Council and is headed by one District Health Officer. The function of this office is mainly to take preventive measures against the epidemic diseases. It also takes curative measures. The District Council has got its appointed doctors placed at different stations in the district and it distributes medicine free of cost.

The District Council has been maintaining seventeen charitable dispensaries at different places in the district such as at Birol,

Birganj, Chirirbandar, Ghoraghat, Hakimpur, Khansama, Kaha-rol, Nawabganj, Phulbari, Parbatipur, Setabganj, Boda, Balia-dangi, Haripur, Pirganj, Panchagarh and Tetulia. The District Council has got thirty-nine medical officers in these charitable dispensaries. It has one pathologist and one relieving medical officer at the District Health Office. Besides, the District Council has one compounder, thirty dressers, twenty-one Sanitary Inspectors, twenty-one Health Assistants, twenty-two Assistant Health Assistants, twenty-two vaccinators and twenty-one medicine carriers.

The office of the Assistant Director, Industries was first Industries. established in the district in 1958 headed by one Inspector. But in 1961 the office was upgraded and one Assistant Director, Industries was posted in charge of Rangpur and Dinajpur districts with headquarters at Rangpur. The Assistant Director of Industries has one Inspector under him. The main function of this office is to look into the working of the existing industries (heavy units) situated in the district. The requirement of raw materials, spare parts and capital machinery are assessed, genuine and registered industrial units are recommended for grant of import licence for raw materials and spare parts, etc. Casual inspections are made by this office to see the rate of production, working of plant machinery and other relevant matters.

The cases for setting up new unit industry in the district are also being sponsored by this office. They are scrutinized and inspected by this office and then recommended to the authorities concerned for granting permission. Applications are received in prescribed saleable "A" forms available in this office. This office is responsible for the development of industries in the district.

The office of the Assistant Director of Industries has also two other establishments such as (1) The District Weaving School, Phulhat and (ii) Peripatetic Weaving School, Taranja.

The District Weaving School has one Head Master. Under him there are two Technical Assistants and in the Peripatetic Weaving School there are one Peripatetic Instructor and two Technical Assistants.

The Office of the Labour Inspector under the Directorate of Labour. of Labour was established in the district on the 1st of February 1952 with one Labour Inspector as the Head of the Office and the regular functioning of the office started from June, 1960.

The Labour Inspector is under the direct control of the Deputy Director, Labour posted at Bogra under Rajshahi Division.

This office administers the Bangladesh Shops and Establishments Act of 1965 within the municipal area of the district. Since its inception the office has been regulating holidays, payment of wages, leave and hours of works of persons in shops, commercial establishments, industrial establishment, establishment for public entertainment and amusement. Under this Shops and Establishment Act this office provides investigation and settlement of dispute between the employers and their employees for non-payment of wages, allowances, over-time duties, leave salary and other allied matters as per Bangladesh Shops and Establishment Act and Rules 1951, 1953, and 1965 within the municipal area of Dinajpur. This office also carries investigation, sits for conciliation of disputes and draws necessary proceedings against those shopkeepers and employers who contravene the said Acts and rules. Besides, for the disputes arising out of the non-payment of wages and other allied labour matters between the employees and the employers from outside the municipal area referred to this office (by higher authority) are investigated, tried for amicable settlement through conciliation.

From June, 1960 up to September 1965 this office conducted investigations of 9,346 cases and settled disputed of 207 cases, and set up 68 prosecution cases to the court.

**Public Health
Engineering.**

The office of the Public Health Engineering, Dinajpur has been established in 1962 and is headed by one Assistant Engineer. Under the Assistant Engineer, Public Health there are two overseers, one is placed at Sadar subdivision and the other at Thakurgaon subdivision. In this office there are also forty two mechanics. The function of this office is mainly rural water supply and sanitation. But sometimes this office also looks after the water supply and sanitation in the municipal town of Dinajpur. There is scarcity of pure drinking water in the district. So, the Public Health Engineering Department sunk 2,662 tube-wells in the sadar subdivision and 1,988 tube-wells in Thakurgaon subdivision up to 1964-65.

**Provincial
Excise.**

The office of the Provincial Excise Department at Rangpur is headed by one Superintendent of Exercise who is also in-charge of the Provincial Excise, Dinajpur district. The Superintendent has to inspect places of licensed manufacture or storage. He has to examine, account taste, seize and measure, exciseable goods. He has to collect revenue on all exciseable goods in the district. There are two Inspectors of Excise of whom one is in-charge of Paharpur Distillery for production of *Mritasanjibani Sura* and the other in-charge of administration

of both Dinajpur and Rangpur. Besides, there are four Sub-Inspectors of whom one is stationed at Parbatipur ware house for issuing country spirit, *ganja* and *bhanga* and the other three are stationed at three circles namely Sadar, Parbatipur and Thakurgoan. There are sixteen Excise Sepoys distributed in different offices in the district.

The sources of revenue of provincial excise are country spirit, molasses, country fermented liquor (*pachawi*, *Tari*), malt liquor Country made and imported beer), wines and spirits including medicated wine (*Mritasanjibani Sura*), commercial spirits (rectified spirit and methylated spirit) opium, hemp drugs (*ganja* and *bhanga*), miscellaneous license fee for dangerous drugs, fines and forfeitures, distillery fees, recoveries from private parties etc.

The receipts from excise have risen steadily over the last one hundred years. In 1850-51 these receipts amounted to Rs. 47,220; in 1870-71 they were Rs. 93,225; in 1892-93 they had risen to Rs. 1,19,546; in 1901-02 the total receipts were Rs. 1,43,481. In 1908-09 an abnormally large total of Rs. 2,76,775 was attained. The reason for this was that government had decided to introduce the central distillery system into the district from 1909-10, and in consequence there was very keen competition amongst the liquor shop-keepers for the out-still licenses in 1908-09, in the hope of making a final profit before the introduction of the new system, which they imagined would materially reduce the gains. In 1909-10 the receipts dropped to Rs. 2,16,118 which was, nevertheless, more than the figure of 1907-1908. Of this total the sale of country liquor accounted for Rs. 99,656 or nearly half. This liquor was commonly consumed almost entirely by people mostly consisting of low-caste Hindus from Bihar and neighbouring tracts, who settled in the district and were employed as agricultural labourers, carters, and railway *colliers*, etc. The shifting population of earth workers and agricultural labourers, who came from the west and stayed for the cold weather also consumed good deal of country liquor.

The Muslims consume very little liquor except *tari* and not much of that. In 1909-10 after the abolition of the out-still system, a ware house was opened at Parbatipur from which the holders of licenses for the sale of country liquor obtained their supplies. All the liquor issued was of a certified strength and was sold to the licensees at a fixed price inclusive of duty. A small quantity of *tari* is manufactured in the southern portion of the district. This is the only locality

where the *tal* or Toddypalm grow fairly well. Fermented *tari* is made from this while unfermented *tari*, which is consumed to some extent, is generally made from the date plam. Pak Paharpur Distillery Produces *Mritasanjibani Sura* at Dinajpur town.

295 licenses for country spirit and 28 for foreign liquor were issued in 1964-65. A large number of licenses for home brewing of *Pachawi*, a kind of beer made from rice were issued every year to the Santal and Chotanagpur settlers. The rate of fees was Rs. 1-8-0 per license per year and the liquor made was supposed to be for home consumption only. It is made for home consumption even now.

Education.

The District Education office was established on the 16th October 1961. It is headed by one District Education Officer. The inspection of educational institutions, administration and supervision of works of officers under him are his functions.

Under the District Education Officer there is one District Inspector of Schools, two Subdivisional Education Officers, one at Sadar and the other at Thakurgoan, and one District Organizer of Physical Education at Sadar. There are thirteen thana Education Officers and fifteen Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools. At Kotwali, Parbatipur, Thakurgoan, Boda, Panchagarh and Nawabganj there are one Thana Education Officer and one Assistant Inspector of Schools in each.

There is one Thana Education Officer at each of the following places :

Khansama, Hakimpur, Birol, Kaharole, Thakurgoan, Atwari, Pirganj, Tetulia and Debiganj. Due to the shortage of the number of thana Education Officers, one Assistant Sub-Inspector of School has been placed at each of the following thanas: Chiribandar, Birganj, Phulbari, Bochaganj, Baliadangi, Haripur and Panchagarh.

W.P. & I.

The W.P. & I. Department is represented by one Executive Engineer, Buildings Division. The office of the Executive Engineer, Buildings, was established in October 1962 for construction and maintenance of Government buildings.

In Building Division, excepting the Executive Engineer there are three Assistant Engineers, eleven sectional officers, two estimators and two draftsmen.

Roads and Highways.

The Roads and Highways Division of R.W. & R.T. Department Dinajpur, is headed by one Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways. This division is divided into three Engineering

subdivisions namely, Dinajpur Sadar, Thakurgoan and Atwari each in-charge of a Subdivisional Engineer (Assistant Engineer). There are eight Sectional Officers, four are at Sadar subdivision, three at Thakurgoan subdivision and one at Atwari.

There is one Divisional Forest office headed by a Deputy **Forest**, Chief Forest Officer with his headquarters at Mission Road, Dinajpur. There are three subdivisional forest officers. One is attached to the Divisional office, one is in-charge of afforestation, study and survey schemes and the other posted at Nazirhat forest subdivision in Rajshahi under Bide scheme. This Divisional office has under it seven Range offices with one Range Officer in each. There are two Range offices—Charkai and Thakurgoan in Dinajpur. Each Range office consists of several beats in-charge of one Deputy Ranger with several forest guards in a beat. In Charkai Range the beats are Bhaduria, Nawabganj, Maddapura, Lohanipara, Babanipur, and in Thakurgoan Range—Shingra, Birganj, Panchagarh, Tetulia, Anjamkhora, Jagdal and one Head quarters beat. There is one independent beat at Dharmapur. There is one tourist centre at Ramsagar under one Deputy Ranger (Curator).

The Agriculture Directorate was represented in the district by a District Agricultural Officer. But since second March 1970, under the government notification No. Agri/4A-8068-part-I/303 the Directorate was divided into Extention and Management Directorate, and Research and Educasion Directorate. In the Extention and Management side the District is represented by a District Agricultural Officer. He has to train up, demonstrate, educate, guide and co-operate with the farmers to improve the crop production and thereby the economic condition of the farmers. **Agriculture, Extension and Management Directorate.**

Under the District Agricultural Officer there are three Sub-divisional Agricultural Officers; one is attached to the district headquarters to assist the District Agricultural Officers and of the other two one is at sadar and the other is at Thakurgoan Subdivision.

There are one plant protection Inspector and one Assistant plant protection Inspector placed in the district to inspect the works of insecticide and fungicide.

Besides, there are one Assistant statistician to evolve a new method of crop estimation, sample survey and utilization of land and one Horticultural Overseer to grow more fruits by distributing more suckers and grafts among the cultivators.

There are 23 Thana Agriculture Officers, 22 Plant Protection Assistants, 22 Spray Mechanics, 153 V. A. P. L. A., 35 *Mukaddam*, thirteen Field men and one Audiovisual Unit Operator.

There are 22 thana seed stores, one central seed store, two intermediary godown, one big godown and 149 union seed stores in this district in 1965.

As method demonstrations and result demonstrations are the two effective means of introducing and propagating new and improved practices, 167 R. D. farms and 1,633 R. D. plots were established in 1965. To encourage the villagers to grow more food prizes to the value of Rs. 9,150-00 were awarded to the best growers during 1965.

To irrigate the soil 4 minor Irrigation schemes were executed during 1965.

Research and
Education Di-
rectorate.

In the Research and Education side the district is represented by one Soil Fertility Assistant to educate the cultivators by showing the effect of different types of fertilizers on different crops and varieties with different doses on different nature of soil.

District
Pisciculture
office.

The office of the District Pisciculture Officer was established in the district in the year 1949 with a view to attracting the people of this district towards pisciculture. Demonstration and supplying of quality fry among the tank owners are the main function of this office.

The District Pisciculture Officer is the head of the office who has to perform the functions to operate expanded reclamation scheme, Nursery Fish Farm, Fish Seed Multiplication Farm, Demonstration Fish Farm, to supply quality fry among the interested pisciculturists, to inspect private tanks and to give technical advice regarding pisciculture.

Under the District Pisciculture Officer there are four Thana Fishery Officers and three Fish Culture Assistants. Of the Thana Fishery Officers two are posted at Sadar, one at Parbatipur, one at Thakurgaon and among the three Fish Culture Assistants, one is posted at Setabganj, one at Panchagarh and one at Charkai. There are four Field men whose main function is to survey the tanks of this District and to request the tank owners to reclaim their tanks and to cultivate fishes therein.

This office earned the revenue of Rs. 208-37 in 1950, Rs. 4,646-06 in 1960 and Rs. 17,345-45 in 1964.

The district runs in deficit regarding fish production and has to depend upon the outside supply at least for some months of the year.

There is one District Animal Husbandry officer who is responsible for the improvement of cattle and poultry, and prevention and cure of their diseases. Under the District Animal Husbandry Officer there are two Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officers; one is at the Sadar subdivision and the other is at Thakurgaon subdivision. The Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer, Sadar, has to supervise the field staff and the sadar veterinary hospital at Dinajpur town. The Subdivisional and Thana offices are all run by the Zela Council, Dinajpur. Under the Animal Husbandry Officer, Sadar, there is one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer at Kotwali to run the hospital and there is one veterinary field assistant in-charge of vaccination works.

District Animal
Husbandry
Office.

Under the Sadar Subdivision there are one Veterinary Field Assistant and one Compounder in Ghoraghat; one Veterinary Field Assistant and one Compounder at Nawabganj; one Veterinary Field Assistant at Hakimpur, one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer and one Veterinary Field Assistant at Phulbari. These Officers do the vaccination work and run one dispensary in each station. There is one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer at Parbatipur; one Thana Animal Husbandry officer, one Veterinary Field Assistant and one Compounder at Ranishankail; one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer at Kaharole; one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer and one Veterinary Field Assistant at Panchagarh; one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer and one Veterinary Field Assistant at Boda; one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer at Bahadangi; ~~one Thana Animal Husbandry Officer~~ and one Veterinary Field Assistant at Pirganj. In each of these stations the Thana Animal Husbandry Officer and the Veterinary Field Assistant are responsible for the treatment of cattle and poultry diseases and their vaccination work.

In the Sadar subdivision there are also one Veterinary Field Assistant and one Compounder at each of the following places Chirirbandar, Debiganj, Birole, Khanshama Haripur and Atwari.

At Thakurgaon subdivision there are one Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer and one Veterinary Field Assistant posted with the responsibility of the treatment of animal diseases and vaccination work. At Bochaganj of this subdivision there is one Veterinary Field Assistant for vaccination works.

The office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, was established in the district in 1946 for organization and registration of Co-operative Societies, audit, inspection and general supervision of Co-operative Societies, implementation of the principles of Co-operation and formation of policies thereon in the district.

Co-operative
Societies.

Next to the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, who is in overall charge of organization and registration of Co-operative Societies, there are one District Auditor in-charge of the audit of the Co-operative Societies, two Subdivisional Co-operative Officers of whom one posted at the Sadar Subdivision and the other at Thakurgaon.

There are nine Inspectors of Co-operative Societies, one is in audit and is attached to headquarters, two are at Thakurgaon for sugarcane societies, three are posted as executive officers, of whom two are in the Central Banks and one in Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank. One Inspector is posted as Manager of the Parbatipur Central Co-operative Sale and Supply Society Ltd.

There are 22 Assistant Inspectors of Co-operative Societies working as Thana Co-operative Officers.

Two Assistant Inspectors are working as Managers of the Central Co-operative Multi-purpose Societies, ten Assistant Inspectors are working for development of Sugarcane Growers' Co-operative Societies in Thakurgoan Subdivision and two Assistant Inspectors have been working as the Executive Officers of the Co-operative Rice Mills.

The amount of income during 1964-65 was Rs. 5,463.50 (realized as audit cess assessed upon the societies) and expenditure was Rs. 1,37,673.84.

The total number of Co-operative Societies in the district was 273 in 1965. Of these there are 2 Central Banks, 3 Central Co-operative Multi-purpose Societies, 5 other Central Societies, and of the Primary Societies, 1 Land Mortgage Bank, 1 Sale and Supply Society, 1 Urban Societies, 17 Consumer' Co-operative Stores, 20 Sugarcane Growers' Co-operatives Societies, 10 Weavers' Co-operatives Societies, 4 Fishermen's Co-operative Societies, 15 Special Type Societies, 151 Union Co-operative Societies, and 40 *Shahayak* and *Sharbarah* Societies (1965).

Out of the above mentioned Societies the following Societies have been taken under development scheme:—two Central Co-operative Banks, two Central Co-operative Multipurpose Societies, three other Central Societies, one Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, 34 Union Co-operative Multipurpose Societies, 8 Weavers' Co-operative and 20 Sugarcane Growers' Co-operatives.

Food.

The food Department in the district is under one District Controller. The office was established in the district in 1943 with one Civil Supply Officer and in 1946 it was re-organised in present structure with one District Controller of food as the head of the office in the district with the function of Storage,

Distribution and Procurement of food-stuffs such as rice, paddy, wheat products, sugar, salt, mustard seed, mustard oil and tea. Under the District Controller of Food there are two Subdivisional Controllers of whom one is at Dinajpur headquarters and the other is at Thakurgaon; four Chief Inspectors of whom two act as paying officers, One is posted at Dinajpur headquarters and the other is at Thakurgaon. Of the other two Inspectors, one is at Dinajpur and the other is at Thakurgaon. The Chief Inspectors inspect local supply depot, hold enquiry against profiteers smugglers, hoarders, check market price and supervise the distribution of foodgrain and work of the officer-in-charge, local supply depot and the Thana Inspectors. There are 20 Thana Inspectors placed at thana level and 17 officers-in-charge and 3 store-keepers in a local supply depots. The officers-in-charge of the local supply depots receive and distribute the food-stuff against the movement and delivery orders. The Thana Inspectors are responsible to supervise the proper distribution of stocks to the consumers and to visit the *hats* and *bazars* regularly to apprise the authority of the market condition and to hold enquiries under anti-hoarding orders, to check the accounts of licenses and to report any possible smuggling and hoarding. They also arrange procurements of stocks, seize stocks where necessary and inform the authorities.

There are 9 rice mill inspectors: 6 for sadar and 3 for Thakurgaon. They observe the activities of the 48 major rice mills and of about 200 paddy husking rice mills. They supervise the husking of paddy in the mills, assess the qualities of rice produce and arrange the distribution of government paddy and lifting of rice from these mills. They particularly supervise the boiling of paddy so that over-boiling or under boiling does not adversely affect the quality of rice.

The different rates of foodgrains in 1965 are : rice at Rs. 26.40, atta at Rs. 17.20, wheat at Rs. 14.80, salt at Rs. 8.83, flour and suji at Rs. 24.40 and paddy at Rs. 17.60 per maund.

The quantity of foodgrain distributed by the Food Department in 1965 is as follows—rice 1,61,251 mds., paddy 951 mds., wheat 2,89,053 mds. flour 1,424 mds. 26 sr., salt 97,155 mds. and sugar 44,700 mds.

A field office of East Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was established in November 1968 under the direct control of the Regional Survey Office of Bureau of Statistics, Rangpur. The function of this office is to prepare annual census of manufacturing Industries under Industrial Statistics Act of 1942

Bureau of
Statistics.

and the Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules 1955; to compile a Directory of Establishment for the District Headquarters and making it up-to-date annually; to conduct *ad hoc* sample survey or statistical matters; to collect prices of commodities and wage rates of Agricultural, Industrial and Fishery workers and to assist the District Administration and local bodies in statistical matters.

**Agricultural
Income Tax.**

The office was established in 1945 in the district headed by one Agricultural Income Tax Officer, Dinajpur Range, Dinajpur. The function of this office is to assess the Agriculturists to levy tax who possess more than thirty acres of *khasha* land.

The revenue earned by this office in 1964.

	Rs.
(a) Agricultural Income-Tax	8,22,500
(b) Urban Immovable Property Tax	1,628
(c) Taxes on advertisement on cinema slides	200
(d) Jute Tax	34,878
(e) Toll on freights on goods carried by road and motor vehicles.	7,110
(f) Finance Tax (Under East Bengal Finance Act, 1950).	44,414

Income Tax.

The office of the Income Tax Circle, Dinajpur is headed by one Income Tax Officer. He has the function of making assessment and of receiving revenue under Income-Tax Act. There is one Income Tax Inspector who investigate the cases for assessment.

Up to 1957 Income Tax Circle, Dinajpur was tagged with the district of Bogra. But after that it has been separated with one Income Tax office in each. The sources of income, the amount of collection and total demands under different heads in 1964-65 are as follows: The demand was Rs. 11,57,222, current collection was Rs. 5,10,288, arrear collection was Rs. 1,57,952 and the total was Rs. 6,68,240.

In the same year the demand of sale tax was Rs. 43,421, current collection was Rs. 7,968, arrear collection was Rs. 15,872 and the total was Rs. 23,840.

The Finance Supplementary Act demand was Rs. 63,162, current collection was Rs. 4,285, arrear collection was Rs. 7,383 and the total was Rs. 11,668.

**Central Excise
and Land
Custom.**

The office of the Central Excise and Land Custom is headed by one Superintendent with his headquarters at Dinajpur proper. Under the Superintendent of Central Excise and Land Custom there are four Deputy Superintendents and forty-eight Inspectors.

he Superintendent excepting his functions of drawing and disbursing of pay of the staff posted in the district within his jurisdiction has also to undertake tour for fifteen days in a month for inspection and supervision of work of the subordinate units such as Ranges L.C. stations and preventive units etc. He has also to conduct auction of confiscated goods. He is also to adjudicate seizure cases both of Central Excise and Land Custom goods after observing existing procedure.

Of the four Deputy Superintendent one is posted at the headquarters as Deputy Superintendent, sub-circle. His function is to assist the Superintendent in running the work of the Circle. When the Deputy superintendents are posted at sub-circles having jurisdiction over a number of Ranges they are designated as Assistant Circle Officer. The Deputy Superintendents, sub-circles, are to conduct inspection of the Ranges, auction of seized exciseable goods, and making enquiries on behalf of the Superintendent. They also check reports, returns and diaries, T.A. bills, etc. of the Range Officers.

There are four Land Customs stations within this circle out of which Hilli and Birol Land Customs stations are important. The Deputy Superintendents are posted to these stations with Inspectors and when at Land Custom station they are to remain in charge of overall function of the station. They are to make assessment of goods both for import and export and auction seized perishable goods. At baggage station like Hilli and Birol they supervise the checking of passengers' baggage.

There are ten Ranges in the different places in the district and the Inspectors are posted in the Range offices. The duty of the Inspectors is to make assessment of exciseable goods such as tobacco etc. They also perform patrol duty in *hats*, important roads etc. to check the flow of non-duty paid exciseable goods from being smuggled. They also check foods for contravention of control under Excise Laws.

There are five preventive units at the different places in the district under one Preventive Inspector. The Inspectors are to undertake extensive tour in the mufassil area including important *hats*, river routes, etc. to check movement of non-duty paid exciseable goods and to check smuggling of goods out of Bangladesh. In this process they make frequent seizures. There is one Intelligence Inspector posted at the circle headquarters to collect information of modes of operation of smuggling and pass it on to the Superintendent to root out smuggling.

The Inspectors posted at the Land Custom station are to check luggage of incoming and outgoing passengers. They also make assessment of goods meant for import and export.

There are two sugar mills in this circle, one at Setabganj and the other at Thakurgaon. one Inspector is posted in each of the factories. The Inspector remains in-charge of the mill factory for purpose of assessment checking and clearance of manufactured excisable goods on payment of duty.

Different sources of revenue coming to this Department with the taxable items and their rate of assessment:

- (a) The main source of revenue is excise duty realized from excisable commodities and customs duty realized from goods imported into and exported from Bangladesh.
- (b) The taxable items of excisable commodities falling within this circle are non-manufactured tobacco, soap, sugar, areated water. The main items of export from this district are raw jute, hides and those of skin and the items of import are medicines, machinery parts, spices, varnishes *hiri* leaves, and coal. etc.
- (c) The rate of duty of the items are as follows:—

Excisable commodities.

(1) Tobacco .. .. .	.. 00·60 paisa per lb.
(2) Sugar .. .. .	.. 14·00 per cwt.
(3) Areated water .. .. .	.. 00·03 per bottle.

Post office

The Postal Department in the district is headed by one Postmaster under whom there are three Inspectors, one is at sadar, one at Thakurgaon and one at Parbatipur.

There are 20 sub-post offices with one sub-postmaster in each. These are at Birganj, Boda, Debiganj, Dinajpur, Rajbati, Nithpur, Natun Bazar, Parbatipur, Pak Hilli, Patnitala, Phulbari, District Primary Education Board, Panchagarh, Pirganj, Setabganj, Shibganj, Thakurgoan road, Dinajpur Housing Estate, and Dinajpur Bazar. There are three assistant post masters placed at the head post office, Dinajpur; eleven overseers of whom three are at Dinajpur head post-office, 2 at Parbatipur, 2 at Thakurgaon, 1 at Nithpur, 1 at Pirganj, 1 at Panchagarh, and 1 at N. B. Line Nilphamari (Rangpur district). There are two branch post offices in-charge of one branch post-master in each situated one at Zihanpur and the other is at Pantabari and there are 151 extra departmental branch offices in charge of one post master in each. There are two Head Post-man, one is stationed at Dinajpur and the other is at Thakurgaon

There are 18 public telephone call offices, 12 telegraph offices and 2 departmental booths.

The WAPDA Division, Dinajpur is headed by one Executive Engineer. Under him there are four Subdivisional Officers of whom three work in three engineering subdivisions of Dinajpur, the other is placed in Rangpur under the Dinajpur WAPDA Subdivision No. IV. There is also one Assistant Engineer and one Assistant Technical Officer attached to Dinajpur WAPDA Division. Besides, there are nine sectional officers in the district; one at Dinajpur section I and II, one under Dinajpur WAPDA Subdivision I, one at Dinajpur section I (small), one at Thakurgaon section (small) under Dinajpur WAPDA Subdivisions II, one at Panchagarh section, one at Thakurgaon section under Dinajpur WAPDA Subdivision III, Panchagarh. (Three work in Rangpur.)

**WAPDA
Division.**

In the Divisional WAPDA Office there are seven office assistants, one Divisional Accountant, one Estimator, one Draftsman, one Tracer and one Blue Printer.

The names of the small Irrigation schemes in the district of Dinajpur with their estimated cost :—

Maharani bundh irrigation scheme Rs. 29,415, Balu bundh irrigation scheme Rs. 45,460, Narlai beel drainage scheme Rs. 28,167, Dalbari drainage scheme Rs. 41,246, Kumargari Ferosadangi beel scheme Rs. 76,599, Ashular beel drainage scheme Rs. 73,604, Dalbari beel drainage scheme Rs. 23,232, Kachna beel drainage scheme Rs. 64,200, Sainagor beel drainage scheme Rs. 26,224, sell clearance Ghagra River Rs. 53,877, Patharghata flood embankment Rs. 52,326, Ghugudanga and Sundara flood embankment Rs. 1,90,216, Barokola Sruchowla beel drainage scheme Rs. 25,065.

Garodangi beel drainage scheme Rs. 22,632, Buri bundh irrigation scheme Rs. 5,58,665, Bhulli bundh irrigation scheme Rs. 17,33,379, Pathraj bundh irrigation scheme Rs. 7,06,116, Kanchan beel drainage scheme Rs. 1,66,052, Hasharpara Bogar beel drainage scheme Rs. 27,428, Mohammadpur Balibhadrapur flood embankment Rs. 49,612, Rangpur Mallikpur beel drainage scheme Rs. 93,786, Sainala beel drainage scheme Rs. 67,730, Kumarnai bundh scheme Rs. 2,62,700, Gaibandha Town protection Rs. 2,56,368, Bamandanga beel drainage scheme Rs. 23,953, Botlagari beel drainage scheme Rs. 17,015, Tograihat

Nagdar beel drainage scheme Rs. 29,368, Nurular beel drainage scheme Rs. 82,367, Singimari beel drainage scheme Rs. 1,17,906, straightining the loop channel of River Chagot Rs. 20,450, Katler beel drainage scheme Rs. 77,297, Kashdaha beel drainage scheme Rs. 62,784, Nivashi Pagla beel drainage scheme Rs. 48,176, cutting drainage channel from Nawadanga beel up to loop of the Teesta River Rs. 25,729, improvement of Nabya river Rs. 10,51,630, Sardagari beel drainage scheme including bridge-cum-regulator Rs. 69,516, Sarala Chalunia beel drainage scheme Rs. 3,40,760, Bahagali beel drainage scheme Rs. 1,69,043, Pachnalakoya beel drainage scheme Rs. 5,40,737, Deolia Dud Khoa beel drainage scheme Rs. 3,18,050, Dinnahgari Ban Chaki drainage scheme Rs. 93,072, Sukalinawashi beel drainage scheme Rs. 88,986.

Names of schemes of Ground Water Development and Low-Lift Pump Irrigation with cost :

Uttar Batina Low lift pump irrigation scheme Rs. 2,03,911, Akcha I Rs. 1,11,947, Akcha II Rs. 1,85,507, Gobindanagar Rs. 1,44,403, Salandar Rs. 1,23,715, Balia-dangi Rs. 1,45,122, Nargun Rs. 2,89,081, Parannagar Rs. 1,27,089, Sundarban Rs. 1,73,448, Fulboon Rs. 2,14,263, Singa Nagor Rs. 3,81,116, Sailara Rs. 4,43,187, Jhangira Rs. 2,51,177, Madarganj Rs. 3,19,053, Kantanagar Rs. 6,45,438, Chirirbandar (North) Rs. 1,95,431, Chirirbandar (south) Rs. 3,10,000 Mohonpur Rs. 2,23,699, Gowripur Rs. 1,96,743, Ghugudanga Rs. 2,07,500, Kazipara Rs. 1,56,958, Kanchan Rs. 2,11,215.

Names of the Ground Water Development and Low Lift Pump Irrigation Scheme to be completed by the WAPDA Division, Dinajpur:—

Dhajanpur ground water development and low lift pump irrigation scheme Rs. 4,02,569, Majhaipara Rs. 4,52,798, Jogdal Rs. 1,60,248, Chowai Rs. 1,68,840, Molnai Rs. 2,20,538, Mirgarh I, Rs. 2,82,194, Ahmed Nagor-I, Rs. 2,82,616, Ahmed Nagor-II, Rs. 2,37,390, Ahmed Nagor III, Rs. 2,37,145, Talma Rs. 1,78,867, Jalashi Rs. 2,44,915, Nalkura Rs. 1,35,058, Kharibari, Rs. 3,07,161, Nischintapur Rs. 2,01,021, and Bhal Rs. 4,24,212.

WAPDA Colony, Dinajpur Rs. 9,18,115.

WAPDA Colony, Panchagarh Rs. 3,71,256.

There is one office of electricity supply power wing, Bangladesh WAPDA headed by one Resident Engineer who is held responsible for administration and operation of power plant and the collection of revenue.

WAPDA
Electricity
Supply.

Under the Resident Engineer there are two senior linemen, three Junior linemen, one lineman, four line helpers, one diesel foreman, three mechanical fitters, four plant operators, four Assistant Plant Operators, three mates, two meter readers, seven office assistants.

The main function of the office is the supplying of electricity and collection of revenue thereof.

The monthly average electricity consumption of this undertaking is approximately 1,10,000 to 1,20,000 KWH and the rate of electricity is being charged in case of light and fan Rs. 0.37 per unit with a rebate of Rs. 0.06 if the bill is paid within specified time and in case of domestic power and industry Rs. 0.16 per unit.

Under the Directorate of Social Welfare there are two Urban Community Development Projects, one at Dinajpur sadar established in 1960 and the other at Thakurgoan established in February, 1962 with the object to inculcate the spirit of self-help among the people and to enable them to understand ~~their own problems and to solve them by their own efforts.~~ In Dinajpur Sadar there are two Social welfare organizers, one male and one female. The male organizer is in-charge of the project. Under this project there are five trained *mohalla* level workers of whom 3 are male and 2 are female. They are the field staffs and they work with the families in the *mohallas*. Besides there are a number of technical hands who are locally appointed by the social welfare organizers for conducting different programmes.

Social Welfare
Urban Community
Development
Project.

The Urban Community Development Project in sadar has organized a number of voluntary social welfare agencies within the Dinajpur Municipal area. These organizations are :—

Ramnagar Unnayan Club, Modern Body Building Club, Bangibechapara *Mohalla Unnayan Samity*, Paharpur *Samaj Unnayan Kendra*, Gohrapora *Samaj Unnayan Parisad*, Lalbag *Unnayan Parisad*, Baladanda *Jubak Sadgha*, Ramnagar Female Training Centre, Lalbag Female Training Centre, Ghashipara Female Training Centre, Khetripara Female Training Centre, Paharpur Female Training Centre and Baluadanga Female Training Centre.

For better co-ordination of all these agencies a Project Council with representatives from all organizations and other representatives from Local Nation Building departments has been formed.

All programmes being mostly organized on self-help basis nominal grants are given from the government for their smooth functioning. The Project receives nominal grants from two sources: one is Development grant from the government and the other is grants-in-aid from the national and provincial council of social welfare. During the year 1964-65 the project received Rs.13,000-30 from the above mentioned sources.

Urban Community Development Project, Thakurgaon.

The Urban Community Development Project, Thakurgaon, started in February 1962. It is headed by one social welfare organizer. There are two male and one female *Mohalla* level workers. To impart technical education to the people authorities of the Project employed one sewing instructress, one music instructress, one physical instructor, four adult education instructors (including one for religious education), 2 adult education instructress and one type-writing instructor. The area of the project is 6 square miles with a population of 15,000.

The project with the object of inculcating the spirit of self-help established some male and female voluntary agencies. Of these the male agencies are Nishchintapur *Palli Unnayan Samiti*, Shahana Club, Sarkarpara Azad Club, *Samaj Kalyan Samity*, *Adarsha Mahalla Unnayan Samity*, Jinnah Para *Samaj Unnayan Samity*, and Gobinda Nagar Adult Education Centre. The female agencies are Balaka Women's Association, Ananda Sanga Ladies Club, Rokeya *Samaj Unnayan Samity*, *Mohila Unnayan Samity*, Tikapara *Mohila Unnayan Samity*, and Sweing Centre, Mohilapara.

The voluntary agencies have organized the following welfare programmes such as Adult children and religious education centres: Munshipara, Hajipara, Salandarpara Centres are for males and Sarkarpara, Tikapara and Gobindanagar Centres are for females. The Santals of this Project area are learning Bangali language. About 200 Santal boys and girls have been benefited by this. As a result there is marked progress in them. Commercial institute like type-writing and short-hand training centres have been established.

Sewing centres have been established at Sarkerpara and Refugepara for females, and sewing embroidery work is being taught to the local women and girls.

In 1965 this project received Rs. 5,000 from the Development Fund, and Rs.5,000 from the National Council of Social Welfare

The Housing settlement office is headed by one Executive Engineer. This office was established in 1960 for the function of implementation of plans for satellite towns in Dinajpur, Rangpur, Saidpur and Parbatipur. In the office of the Executive Engineer there is one Divisional accountant, one draftsman, one tracer and one estimator. Housing
Settlement.

Under the Executive Engineer there are two engineering subdivisions. One is located at Dinajpur sadar and the other is at Saidpur (Rangpur) with one Assistant Engineer, and three Sub-Assistant Engineers in each.

The office of the Executive Engineer receives revenue from some sources such as the sale proceeds of schedule of items site plan, hire charge of tools and plants, hire charge of materials, house rents, sale proceed of plots and houses. The ncome from all these sources during 1964-65 was Rs. 3,05,599.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The District Board, the Union Board and the Municipality of Dinajpur were the institutions of Local Self-Government in the district at the time of Partition in 1947. Before giving details of the present pattern of local Government, short account of the District Board and the Municipality of the district is given below for the period beginning from the dates of their first establishment and ending on the dates on which they were re-constituted under the provision of the Basic Democracies Ordinance of 1959.

The Dinajpur District Board was established on 1st April, 1887, under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885. Previous to this, there was a committee under the style "Dinajpur District Road Cess Committee." Formerly, the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885, also provided for establishment of a Local Board in each subdivision and Local Boards did actually exist in undivided Bengal. But under the Amendment Act of 1937 Local Boards were abolished and there remained only the District Board. District Board.

From the time of its establishment in 1887 up to 1920, the District Magistrate was the Chairman of the district and a non-official was the Vice-Chairman.

In 1888 there were in the Board 21 nominated, 10 official, 11 non-official, 3 European and Anglo-Indian and 18 local members. In that year the area of the district was 4,113 sq. miles and population was 15,01,349. The area included the part of Dinajpur now in India.

In 1896 the population was 15,43,631 and of the members 4 were *ex-officio*, 13 nominated, 35 elected, 7 official, 15 non-official, 1 European or Anglo-Indian and 21 local members. In 1900 the area was 3,942 sq. miles and the population was 14,70,399. Of the members 4 were *ex-officio*, 13 nominated, 5 elected, 8 officials, 14 non-officials, 2 European and Anglo-Indian and 20 local.

In 1911 the District Board consisted of 22 members, of whom the District Magistrate was *ex-officio* Chairman, while the Civil Surgeon, the Road Cess Deputy Collector, and the Sadar Deputy Inspector of Schools were *ex-officio* members. Eight members were elected by the Local Boards of Thakurgaon and Balurghat and ten were nominated. During 1909-10 the number of Muslims on the Board was only eight. This poor

representation of the Muslim Community which constituted 48.84 per cent. of the total population can be attributed to the backwardness of Muslims in education and property. Nearly all the large land owners were Hindus.

The area of the district from 1900 up to the time of Partition in 1947 remained the same and the population figure increased very slightly. In 1918-19 the population was 16,71,738. With the partition of the district in 1947 the area came down to 2,536 sq. miles having a population of 13,20,161. In 1947 the District Board consisted of 7 official and 7 nominated and 8 elected members. The total income of the Board on 31st March 1946 was Rs.6,84,845. The Board continued functioning as such till 21st of June 1960, when it was re-constituted as a District Council.

Income.

During the decade ending 1901-02 the average annual income of the Board was Rs.1,71,500, of which Rs.83,800 was derived from road cess. In 1904-05 the income, excluding the opening balance was Rs. 1,64,500, out of which road cess accounted for Rs.7,900 and Government contribution for Rs.18,000. In 1909-10 income from all sources, excluding the opening balance of Rs.36,000, amounted to Rs.2,28,500. Of this Rs.1,05,000 was realized from road cess. Rs.26,000 from rent of pounds and sale proceeds of impounded cattle, Rs.4,500 from rent of ferries, while province's revenue contribution was Rs.35,000. Ferries were not very important due to the fact that for some seven months of the year nearly all the rivers remained unfit for navigation. There were 144 pounds from which a small income was derived. Of the total income from this source the sale proceeds of unclaimed cattle amounted to Rs.10,000.

Sources of Income.

The sources of income of the District Board were cess, land revenue, grants from provincial revenues, provincial rates, interest, pounds, ferries, etc.

Expenditure.

The average annual expenditure during the ten years ending 1901-02 was Rs.1,67,000, of which Rs.89,000 was spent on civil works, Rs.29,000 on education and only Rs.25,000 on public health. The expenditure in 1904-05 was Rs.1,91,000, out of which civil works accounted for Rs.1,17,000, education Rs.38,000 and public health Rs.40,000. In 1909-10 the expenditure totalled Rs.2,59,000 of which Rs.1,33,000 was spent on communications, Rs.32,500 on education and Rs.12,000 on medical relief. The more liberal expenditure under the latter head was due to the fact that the local officials and gentry became alive to the unhealthiness of the district as a result of

which several new dispensaries were opened and other measures for combating disease were adopted.

The later half of 1908 and the early part of the following year was a period of scarcity, caused by failure of the autumn and winter crops for want of rain and Rs.46,000 and Rs.32,000 respectively were spent on famine relief operations during these years. The heaviest expenditure incurred by the District Board was on communications. It maintained five miles of metalled roads and 988 miles of unmetalled roads, besides 346 miles of village roads.

In 1909-10, the number of schools under the District Board (both managed and aided) was 770 with 23,496 pupils. Of these 742 were Primary schools, 10 were Middle Vernacular schools, 16 Middle English schools, and 2 were High English schools.

Of the ordinary income of the Board 7.02 per cent. was spent on medical relief and sanitation. It maintained five dispensaries, while seven dispensaries received substantial grants-in-aid. It also employed two supernumerary hospital assistants, whose duty was to visit the localities affected by cholera or small-pox. The Board maintained a Veterinary dispensary in the town of Dinajpur, and employed an itinerant Veterinary Assistant to inoculate cattle against cattle diseases.

The history of Municipal administration in Dinajpur district ~~can be traced back to the year 1869 when the only Municipality~~ **The Municipality.** of the district was established at Dinajpur. According to the last Gazetteer of the district, published in 1911, this Municipality was being administered by 15 Commissioners of whom five were nominated and the rest were elected. The area within municipal limits was only four square miles and the number of rate payers was 3,119 representing 21.8 per cent. of the population. Pulhat was also subsequently included in the Dinajpur Municipality.

In 1869-70 income of the Municipality amounted to Rs.8,850 **Income.** approximately and the same amount was the expenditure for the year. In 1871, the gross municipal revenue of the town was returned at Rs.6,272 approximately and the expenditure at Rs.7,585 approximately; average rate of municipal taxation was 7 annas 8 pies per head of the population. The Municipality maintained a police force, which in 1872 consisted of 2 local officers and 40 constables.

The average annual income of the Municipality during the decade ending 1901-1902 was Rs. 35,000 and the expenditure was 31,000. Since then the income has been steadily increasing,

partly as a result of the extension of municipal limits and partly of more careful assessment and more rigorous enforcement of the Municipal Act. In 1908-09 a revision of assessment was carried out, and in 1909-10, the Hackney Carriage Act was introduced, and license fees were charged on carriages plying for hire from the 1st October in that year. In 1909-10 the income of the Municipality amounted to Rs. 72,810 from all sources. Of this, Rs. 38,030 was derived from municipal rates and taxes, most important of these were tax on animals and vehicles amounting to Rs. 6,719, conservancy tax amounting to Rs. 9,719 and a tax on persons according to circumstances and property amounting for Rs. 14,490. Tolls on roads and ferries were not important sources of income and only Rs. 2,785 was realised in 1909-10. At that time Dinajpur was one of the most heavily taxed municipalities in Bangladesh, the incidence of taxation being Rs. 2 annas 10 and pies 5 per head of population.

Expenditure.

In 1909-10, expenditure of the municipality was Rs. 56,019 in addition to Rs. 16,529 allocated for advances and deposits. The heaviest expenditure was on conservancy service including road sweeping, latrine clearing, drain flushing, etc. Hospitals and dispensaries constituted the next heaviest charge and amounted to Rs. 14,126 which was unusually high in that year, the average yearly expenditure of this item in the past being about Rs. 4,000. The expenditure on education, lighting and road repairs was Rs. 7,114, Rs. 3,555 and Rs. 3,456 respectively. With the expansion of municipal area and increase in population and holdings, expenditure has also increased several times.

Local Government institutions under Basic Democracies.

The system of Basic Democracies was introduced in the district under the Basic Democracies Order of 27th October, 1959. Under the system the District Board was replaced by the District Council and the Union Boards by the Union Councils and the Municipality was reconstituted under the Municipal Administration Ordinance of the 11th April, 1960. The setup of Basic Democracies consists of four levels. At the first level is the organisation for villages and towns. In the case of rural areas, a number of villages grouped together constituted a union, comprising of 8 to 10 thousand of population and a Union Council is set up for each of them. In the case of urban areas, termed 'towns', with a population not exceeding 14,000, there is a Town Committee and for big towns with a population exceeding 14,000 a Municipal Committee is formed. A big town is next divided into a number of units, or 'unions' for each of which there is a Union Committee to work under the Municipal Committee.

At the second level is the Thana Council, which is a unit of administration in the thana level, and consists of both representative and appointed members. The Chairman of all Union Councils and the Committees are *ex-officio* representatives of the Thana Council. Thana level officers of the important nation-building departments are the appointed members. The Subdivisional Officer and the Circle Officer (Dev.) are the *ex-officio* Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Thana Council.

At the third level is the District Council, which consists of official and non-official members. The official members include the Chairmen of all Thana Councils and Municipal Committees in the district and representatives of the development departments of Government in the district.

While one half of the non-official members represent the Chairman of the Union Councils and the other half represent the minorities, and other special interests in the existing composition of the District Councils. By an amendment in the Basic Democracies Order 1959, the non-official members of the District Council include members elected by an electorate composed of Chairmen of the Union Councils and Town Committees.

At the fourth level is the Divisional Council consisting of Chairmen of District Councils, Chairmen of important ~~Municipal Committees and representatives of beneficent~~ Government departments working in the districts of the division as well as the non-official members chosen exactly on the pattern of the District Council.

The Union Councils are responsible for local administration in the village. They maintain police, implement agricultural and industrial development schemes and look after social welfare and national reconstruction. The Town Committees and the Municipal Committee are responsible for civic administration in the urban areas. The Town Committees and Union Committees under the Municipal Committees are responsible for community development, social welfare and national reconstruction. The main function of the Thana Council is to co-ordinate the activities of all Union Councils in the thana. The District Council has been made responsible for a variety of functions connected with education, public works, social welfare, public health and national reconstruction. The Union Councils, the Municipal and the Town Committees and the District Councils have been vested with the powers of taxation and are entitled to Government aid and subsidy. The Thana Councils being co-ordinating bodies, have no such power and are, therefore, wholly financed by the Government.

Functions and responsibilities.

At present in the district of Dinajpur there is a District Council and a Municipal Committee with their offices at the District Headquarter and two Town Committees with their offices at Parbatipur and Thakurgaon. A brief description of these institutions is given below.

Distric Council. The Dinajpur District Board, like others in the province, was reconstituted as the District Council on 21-6-1960 and has been working as such since then. At present the area under control of the District Council is 2,609 sq. miles with a population of 17,09,917.

The Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur is the controlling authority of the Council. The District Council consisted of 34 members of which 17 were official members and the rest elected. The representatives of all the important departments in the district were members of the Council.

Functions. The activities of the District Council may be broadly divided into two sections, the Public Health Department and Public Works Department. In the Public Health Department, there are one District Health Officer, 21 Sanitary Inspectors, 21 Health Assistants, 22 Additional Health Assistants, 22 Vaccinators, 21 Medicine Carriers, 38 Medical Officers, one Compounder, 30 Dressers, 31 Dispensary servants and one Pathologist. The Department maintains 31 Class III-B dispensaries, gives aid to 25 Union Council dispensaries and 4 Homoeo dispensaries. It also maintains 5 Kala-azar centres, 21 Public Health centres and one Veterinary Hospital and three Artificial Insemination centres one each at Sadar, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

In Public Works Department, the District Council has one Engineer, 1 Sub Assistant Engineer, 11 Sub-Overseers, one Dafisman, one Estimator, 5 Surveyors, 12 Work Assistants and 23 *Chowkidars* for Dakbungalows and Inspection Bungalows.

Income. The District Council received the revenue under the following heads during the year 1964-65.

The Local Rate accounted for Rs.2,67,780 and Tax on transfer of immovable property for Rs.2,25,780. The District Council received nominal fees from the patients attending the dispensaries managed by it. Rs.12,350 was received as fees from dispensaries, Rs.190 as fees from Kala-azar centre, Rs.1,355 as fees from anti-rabies treatment and Rs.7,580 as fees for sanitary arrangement in the *melas*. The District Council received rent and profits from properties. The rent of building and lands accounted for Rs.4,700, Dakbungalow and Inspection

Bungalow for Rs.8,650, and sale-proceeds of stores and materials for Rs.55,700. The District Council received Government grants under the following heads: Augmentation grant Rs. 20,020, grant in lieu of land lord share of cesses Rs.1,50,600, Government subvention for D.A. to the District Council employees Rs.49,180. Area Cess Rs.9,750, Kala-azar works Rs.1,000, Rural Public Health Organization Rs.42,000, grants for increased development activities Rs.1,71,190, grants for the development of primary schools Rs.67,000, grants for development of roads in sugarcane zones Rs.7,25,000, grants for works under Works Programme Rs.9,12,775 and Works Programme establishment Rs.28,528 and sale-proceeds of C.I. sheets and cement Rs.3,57,022.

The total receipts from all heads was Rs.37,63,908, debt, deposit and advance was Rs.2,75,790 and opening balance was Rs.7,77,577. The grand total of receipts during 1964-65 was Rs.48,17,275.

Some of the major items of expenditure of the District Council incurred during the year 1964-65 are given below. Expenditure.

For agriculture, purchasing of medicines for Veterinary hospitals and Artificial Insemination centre Rs.5,500, farmers' training in 151 Union Councils Rs.3,020, agricultural education and industrial exhibition Rs.3,500, health and sanitation, medicine and disinfectants for Rural Public units, including epidemic control Rs.6,000, Kala-azar schemes Rs.2,370, grants for Taby Show and Maternity and Child-Welfare centre Rs.4,750, medicines for Class III-B charitable dispensaries including surgical instruments Rs.63,700, laboratory expenses Rs.53,000, grants-in-aid to dispensaries other than Class III-B Rs.12,750, for roads, buildings and communication: civil building Rs.45,900, repairs Rs.21,700, communication Rs.1,67,500, repairs Rs.1,13,700 tools and plants Rs.19,530, development of cottage industries Rs.2,000, development of roads under sugarcane zones Rs.5,10,727 and Works Programme Rs.14,50,238. In the educational field, grants to schools, madrasahs and libraries Rs.55,815, stipends Rs.7,185, and grants for the development of primary school buildings Rs.5,90,000 were incurred. For miscellaneous purposes grants to all Union Councils for increased development activities Rs.1,25,300, grants for Social Welfare centres Rs.6,000, discretionary fund Rs.9,750 stationery and printing Rs.19,700, miscellaneous charges not attributable to other heads Rs.9,500 and for general establishment, office contingencies and travelling allowances Rs.3,74,052.

The total expenditure was Rs.36,43,707, debt, deposits and advance Rs.1,18,309, closing balance Rs.10,55,259 and the grand total of expenditure was Rs.48,17,275.

Dinajpur
Municipal
Committee.

In accordance with the Municipal Administration Ordinance of 1960 this Municipality, like others in Bangladesh, was reconstituted as Municipal Committee. The Committee consists of ten members, S.D.O., Sadar is the *ex-officio* Chairman of this Committee. Of the ten members, five are elected and five nominated. There is also a Vice-Chairman who is elected from among the elected members. The area now covered by this Municipal Committee is 6.15 square miles. There are five Union Committees with 30 wards under this Municipal Committee.

The Municipal Committee maintains 40 miles of metalled and 18.50 miles of unmetalled road, seven miles of *pucca* drains, 4 big drains, 30 feeder drains, one mechanically driven cart, 80 staff tube-wells, one overhead tank, 150 tube-wells for supplying drinking water and 50 masonry wells.

To ensure regular supply of pure drinking water to the people of the town, the water works of this Municipal Committee was taken up by the Government under the Second Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.27.46 lakhs. The scheme has been in operation from 1961-62. One-third of the estimated cost will be paid as outright grant and two-thirds as loan to be repaid in 20 years with $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest.

Income.

By 1947 the income of the Municipal Committee had increased considerably with the rise in population, caused by the influx of refugees from Assam and the neighbouring districts of West Bengal. During 1964-65 the total income of the Committee was Rs.14,66,964.21. Some of the important sources of income were: holding rate Rs.1,05,411, Rs.23,835 as tax on profession, Rs.10,790.48 as tax on cinema, Rs.4,927.22 as tax on transfer of immovable property, Rs.2,05,778 as Octroi, Rs.15,285 as lighting rate, Rs.73,841.70 as conservancy rate, Rs.355.80 as sale-proceeds of lands and the produce of land, Rs.3,26,935.15 as revenues from educational institutions, Rs.34,649.42 as grant from Government (other than grant for Works Programme), Rs.4,59,696, as grant for Works Programme, Rs.1,825 as grant from the local funds, Rs.5,632.50 as recoveries on account of the services rendered to private individuals and Rs.1,39,178.85 as advance and deposits.

Expenditure.

During 1964-65 the total expenditure of the Municipal Committee was Rs.12,49,321.84. Some of the important items of expenditure for the year are given below:

	Rs.
Expenses on establishment for collection	14,297.35
Charges on account of rates	3,038.82

	Rs.
Expenses for lighting	11,779·51
Repair of water supply equipments	8,916·89
Conservancy expenses	74,400·07
Charges on account of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors.	3,087·42
Hospitals and dispensaries	5,050·00
Vaccination	4,996·52
Anti-malaria and Kala-azar	6,465·29
Maternity and Child Welfare	2,500·00
Propaganda in connection with Public Health	1,248·27
Public Works Department	3,57,508·29
Works Programme	4,55,038·98
Aid and maintenance of schools and colleges	1,23,562·92
Contribution	11,845·00
Printing charges	2,402·26
Provident Fund of the employees	2,273·57
Disposal of dead bodies	587·50
Burial and burning charges	840·00
Office establishment	25,171·54

In 1962-63, the Municipal Committee received Rs.4,67,239 and completed 25 projects at a cost of Rs.4,68,375. During the same year, it completed 30 more projects from its own resources at a cost of Rs.4,49,761. These works included the construction of 11 miles of roads. Besides these, an amount of Rs.2,00,000 was spent during the same period on the construction and repair work of school buildings within the Municipal area and Rs.90,000 was spent on the construction of *methor* quarters and culverts.

Expenditure on Works Programme.

During 1963-64, the Municipal Committee took up under Works Programme, 25 projects including the construction of 10 miles of road at a total cost of Rs.4,57,000. During 1964-65 26 projects were completed including the construction of 10 more miles of roads under the same programme, at a total cost of Rs.4,20,000. During the year 1965-66 the Municipal Committee took up 7 projects under the Works Programme, of which 4 were drains and 2 bridges at an estimated cost of Rs.1,76,000.

The Thakurgaon Town Committee was originally known as Thakurgaon Municipality, established in 1958. But in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Democracies Order of 1960 it was reconstituted as the Thakurgaon Town Committee. This Town Committee is run by a body consisting of nine elected non-official members from amongst whom one is elected as the Chairman.

Thakurgaon Town Committee.

The area of the town is 3.09 sq. miles and population according to 1961 Census Report is 7,043.

The Town Committee maintains roads, schools, dispensaries and looks after conservancy, health, sanitation and lighting of the town.

Income.

In 1964-65 some of the main sources of income of the Town Committee were the following:

Holding rate Rs.13,599.49, tax on vehicles (other than motor vehicles) Rs.3,041.75, tax on profession and trade Rs.1,353, conservancy rate Rs.12,377.75, tax on cinema Rs.2,821.44, rent on road-side lands Rs.6,916.61, sale-proceeds on land produce (road) Rs.1,051, school fee Rs.3,000.35, slaughter house Rs.1,400, market receipts Rs.1,300, Government subvention Rs.6,345.90 and miscellaneous Rs.2,454.72.

Expenditure.

Some of the important items of expenditure of this Town Committee in the year 1964-65 were the following:

General Administration Rs.5,613.52, collection establishment Rs.3,435.83, lighting Rs.1,002, water supply Rs.2,002.60, conservancy Rs.11,007, health and sanitation Rs.2,534.40, dispensary Rs.790, contingency in connection with conservancy Rs.6,312.74, public works (road establishment and maintenance) Rs.2,879.65, maintenance of 8 primary schools Rs.6,943.72, aids to primary sections of one boys' high school and one girls' high school Rs.2,200, subvention Rs.6,137.90 and provident fund Rs.1,276.12.

Parbatipur Town Committee.

The Parbatipur Town Committee was established in August 1965. This Town Committee has been constituted with the electoral units of Union Council No. III, Hald bari Union Council No. IV, Parbatipur Union Council No. VI, Arji Atrai Union Council and one unit of Rampur Union Council No. III (now defunct). For better administration this Town Committee formed a number of Sub-Committees such as Tender Sub-Committee, Food Sub-Committee, Sanitation Sub-Committee, Development Sub-Committee, Education Sub-Committee, Agriculture Sub-Committee, and Finance Sub-Committee with one convenor and three members in each. In the eighteen units of this Town Committee eighteen Ward Committees were formed.

Income.

Some of the important sources of income of this Town Committee in 1965-66 were: Building tax Rs.7,977.67, union rate Rs.3,963.79, latrine (conservancy rate) Rs.10,155.25, profession tax Rs.1,535.75, bid money of the pounds Rs.1,900,

slaughter house Rs.900·00, octroi Rs.21,026·05, tax on cinema or drama Rs.1,602·91, miscellaneous Rs.412·96 and Government aid for developmental works Rs.3,110·32. The total income in 1965-66 was Rs.64,274·13.

Some of the main items of expenditure in 1965-66 were: **Expenditure.** pay of *chowkidars* and peons Rs.1,211·68, pay of conservancy staff Rs.12,605, contingency Rs.2,390·57, water supply Rs.2,731·45, miscellaneous Rs.1,811·07, road construction and repairing Rs.15,902·05, office repairing Rs.1,496·08, pay of octroi *mohoris* Rs.1,530, pay of tax collectors, assessors, Sanitary Inspector and office staff Rs.4,965. The total expenditure in 1965-66 was Rs.57,050.

There are 22 police-stations in the district of which 12 are **Thana Councils.** at Sadar subdivision and 10 are in Thakurgoan subdivision. In each police-station there is one council called Thana Council, consisting of the Chairmen of all the Union Councils and the representatives of all the nation building departments of Government within the jurisdiction of each thana as members and the S.D.O. as the Chairman of the Thana Council.

There are 89 Union Councils in the Sadar subdivision. These **Union Councils.** Union Councils cover a total area of 1,366 sq. miles with a total population of 10,00,588 excluding 9,82,324 population of the Municipal area. The total income of the Union Councils in the year 1964-65 was Rs.5,65,863·83, while the expenditure was Rs.11,24,978·43 having a deficit of Rs.4,40,885·40. The rural police are the *dafadars* and *chowkidars* maintained by the Union Councils. There are 195 *dafadars* and 561 *chowkidars* under these Union Councils. The monthly pay of a *dafadar* is Rs.30 and of a *chowkidar* is Rs.25. In 89 Union Councils an amount of Rs.2,54,925·67 was spent to pay the salaries of Chairmen, allowances and other establishment charges in 1964-65. A sum of Rs.33,000 was spent as collection charges in 1964-65. During 1963-64, Rs.5,88,205·25 was allotted by Government under Works Programme. The amount was utilized in executing 516 development schemes of roads and culverts.

The Thakurgoan subdivision comprises 62 Union Councils. The total area under its jurisdiction was 1,236 sq. miles with a total population of 6,92,424.

The total income of the Union Councils was Rs.15,48,428·69 while the expenditure was Rs.14,63,043·91 with a closing balance of Rs.85,381·78 in the year 1964-65. The strength of the village police was 161 *dafadars* and 567 *chowkidars* respectively.

In 62 Union Councils in Thakurgaon subdivision there are 62 Chairmen. In 1964-65, Rs.1,65,242.02 was spent to pay Chairmen's pay, allowances and other establishment charges. A sum of Rs.53,874.21 was spent as collection charges. During 1963-64 an amount of Rs.4,31,188.50 was allotted by Government under Works Programme. In all, 103 development schemes were executed with that amount.

CHAPTER XV

PLACES OF INTEREST

It is a village in Thakurgaon subdivision under the Akhanagar union and Thakurgaon police-station, situated at latitude $26^{\circ}06' N.$ and longitude $88^{\circ}24' E.$ Area of the village is 2,270 acres and population 2,245 according to the 1961 Census. It contains a post office, a rice mill and a railway station. It is on the Thakurgaon-Ruhea railway line. **Akhanagar.**

Alwakhowa is a village in Thakurgaon subdivision, about 18 miles north-west of Thakurgaon, close to the main road running through Baliadangi and Lahiri. It is under the Alwakhowa union and Atwari thana. Area of the village is 1,386 acres and population 917 according to the 1961 Census. **Alwakhowa.**

Alwakhowa is the second most important cattle fair in the district and one of the largest of its kind in Bangladesh, held annually in October or November on the occasion of *Rash Purnima* festival.

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, situated at latitude $26^{\circ}14' N.$ and longitude $88^{\circ}25' E.$ It covers an area of 81 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 61 villages under 4 unions. The population is 47,204 according to the 1961 Census. The village Atwari itself has an area of 51 acres with a population of 242. **Atwari.**

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Dhamoir union and Biral police-station, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}40' N.$ and longitude $88^{\circ}35' E.$ Area of the village is 240 acres and population 618 according to the 1961 Census. Dhukurjhari *mela* is held every year about one mile to the south of Bajnahar. **Bajnahar.**

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, situated at latitude $26^{\circ}05' N.$ and longitude $88^{\circ}17' E.$ It has an area of 111 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census and has jurisdiction over 78 villages under 6 unions with a population of 63,700. The village Baliadangi itself is 1,931 acres in area with a population of 2,565. The thana contains two high schools and 35 primary schools, including 19 model primary schools. **Baliadangi.**

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Habra union and Parbatipur police-station, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}35' N.$ and longitude $88^{\circ}57' E.$ Area of the village is 217 acres and population 758, according **Bhabanipur.**

to the 1961 Census. It contains a model primary school, a post office and a bi-weekly *hat*, where commodities come from far and wide and are sent to different places of the district.

Bhomradaha.

It is a village and a railway station in Thakurgaon subdivision under the Bhomradaha union and Pirganj police-station, situated at latitude 25°56' N. and longitude 88°22' E. Area of the village is 1,613 acres and population 2,770 according to the 1961 Census. It contains a high school (estd. in 1964), a model primary school, a post office and the Union Council office.

Biral.

It is a thana headquarters in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision, situated at latitude 25°38' N. and longitude 88°33' E. It covers an area of 138 sq. miles having jurisdiction over 8 unions and 241 villages with a population of 89,221 according to the 1961 Census. The village Biral itself is 1,239 acres in area with a population of 2,054. This place owes its origin to one Milur Gopal Majumdar. There are five high schools, four junior high schools and thirty primary schools, including 12 model schools, three charitable dispensaries managed by the District Council, seven branch post offices, a public telephone call office at Biral post office and two libraries and reading rooms, of which one is at Biral proper. Biral is a place of industry, trade and commerce. Bangladesh Railway branch connects this place with West Dinajpur (India) and it is the terminal station of this section of the railway. There are a grand high school building, a newly constructed Thana Council office and a Community Hall at Biral thana headquarters. There are offices of the Circle Officer (Development), Circle Officer (Revenue), Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools, Inspector of Food, Sanitary Inspector, Central Excise and Check post and a Forest beat here. Besides, there are three railway stations within the thana. There are nine *hats* and each *hat* sits twice a week. In these *hats* commodities come from Bogra and local areas, and from these *hats* rice is sent to Dacca. There are three major rice mills at Biral. In this thana there is a vast area of forest, containing *shal*, *shimul*, *neem*, jack-fruit, *tatal*, *tun*, *rainya* and a small quantity of teak. The main fruits grown here are mango, lichi and jack-fruit, etc. Of the important places of historical interest, there is one tank of Muluk Dewan excavated by one Dewan of that name. It covers an area of 20 acres. There is another tank named Sengram which was dug most probably by the Sena kings of Bengal. This has an area of 10 acres.

It is a village in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the **Birampur.** Birampur union and Hakimpur police-station, situated at 25°23' N. latitude and 89° E. longitude. Area of the village is 196 acres and population 1968 according to the 1961 Census. It contains an intermediate college, namely, Birampur College, a high school, a model primary school, a post and telegraph office, the Union Council office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow.

It is a thana headquarters in the Sadar subdivision, **Birganj.** situated at latitude 25°51' N. and longitude 88°40' E. It has an area of 157 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census, having jurisdiction over 187 villages under 8 unions with a population of 92,221. The thana contains two high schools, 15 model primary and 52 non-model primary schools, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Dak Bungalow.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision, situated **Bochaganj.** at latitude 25°48' N. and longitude 88°28' E. It has an area of 87 sq. miles, having jurisdiction over 144 villages under 5 unions, with 58,460 inhabitants. The thana contains a high school and 36 primary schools.

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, **Boda.** situated at latitude 26°12' N. and longitude 88°34' E. This thana covers an area of 166 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census, with jurisdiction over 211 villages under 8 unions. The village contains one high school, one sub-registry office, one charitable dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow. It is also the headquarters of the Government Acquired Estates. Boda is connected by 19 miles of road with the Domar station on the Bangladesh Railway. The thana contains three high schools, 15 model primary and 109 non-model primary schools.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar **Charkai.** subdivision under the Nawabganj police-station, situated at latitude 25°24' N. and longitude 89° E. Area of the village is 689 acres and population 1,011 according to the 1961 Census. It contains the branches of the United Bank Ltd. and the National Bank of Bangladesh. There is also a pisciculture office here.

It is a historical graveyard, the resting place of a Muslim **Chehelgazi.** saint and 40 other Arab warriors. It is situated on the western side of the Dinajpur-Tetulia Road, only 4 miles from Dinajpur town. It is under the Kotwali thana and Chehelgazi union. The shrine of Hafiz saint at Chehelgazi is alleged to

have been constructed in 1410 A.D. by a *Faujdar* during the reign of Sultan Barbak Shah.

Cheradangi. It is a village in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Kotwali police-station. It contains an intermediate college, known as Cheradangi College, a high school (estd. in 1938) and a model primary school.

Chirirbandar. It is a thana headquarters station in Sadar subdivision, situated at latitude 25°39' N. and longitude 88°47' E. It has an area of 121 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census. It has jurisdiction over 145 villages under 10 unions with a population of 1,09,339. The village Chirirbandar itself has an area of 1,379 acres with 1,842 inhabitants. There is a bi-weekly *hat* here. In this *hat* commodities come from local areas and Bogra. There are one high school and one post office in the village. In all, there are five high schools and 61 primary schools, including 13 model primary schools in the thana.

Debiganj. It is a thana headquarter in Thakurgaon subdivision, situated at latitude 26°08' N. and longitude 88°38' E. It covers an area of 119 sq. miles having jurisdiction over 85 villages under 6 unions with a population of 65,154 according to the Census of 1961. There are two high schools in the thana, including one at the thana headquarters, and 29 primary schools.

Debiganj is a village on the Karatoya river, 4½ miles from Domar station on the Bangladesh Railway, with which it is connected by a good road. It is situated on a high open stretch of land and though the temperature is moderate during the hot weather it is a healthy place. Debiganj was the headquarters of the manager of Chaklajat estates of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar. There are a government charitable dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow at Debiganj.

Dinajpur Headquarters town of Dinajpur district, situated in 25°37' N. latitude and 88°39' E. longitude on the eastern bank of the river Punarbhaba at its confluence with the Dhapa. It is bounded on the north by the villages of Suihari, Katapara, Bangi Bechapara, on the east by Sheikhpura and by the river Punarbhaba on the west. Dinajpur Municipality has an area of 6.15 sq. miles and is divided into five Union Committees. It has a population of 37,711 according to the 1961 Census. The headquarters of Kotwali thana was created by Notification No. 11099-P., dated the 20th September 1915

The thana covers an area of 139 sq. miles and has jurisdiction over 208 villages of 14 unions including 5 Union Committees of Dinajpur Municipality with a population of 1,37,045.

Generally speaking the climate of Dinajpur is extreme; **Climate.** the temperature rising up to 117° in summer and falling down to 48° in winter. A ghasty hot west wind blows over the town and surrounding areas during the months of April and May. This phenomenon has hardly any parallel in any other town of Bangladesh. A chilly wind also blows from the north during the winter season on account of its proximity to the Himalayas. The cold weather may be said to set in from November and continue till March. Rainfall is abundant during the months of June, July, August and September. The average rainfall is 56", although drought is not an uncommon calamity.

The percentage of literacy in the town is 43 which is **Literacy.** quite high compared with that of other towns in the northern part of Bangladesh. The progress of education has been marked by gradual and steady increase in the proportion of literates. The people of Dinajpur, particularly the Muslims can boast of running educational institutions like primary schools, maktabs and madrasah since long ago. This may be one of the reasons for the high percentage of literacy among the masses.

There is a degree college in the town, *viz.*, Dinajpur **Educational Institutions.** College, which was provincialised with effect from May, 1968. This college was formerly known as Surendranath College and was established in 1942. Another intermediate college, namely, Dinajpur Mahila College (for girls only) was established recently. There are eight high schools including two for the girls, of which the Zilla School (estd. in 1854), Maharaja Girija Nath High School (estd. in 1913), Govt. Girls' High School (estd. in 1928) and St. Philips High School (estd. in 1953) deserve special mention. There is a good High Madrasah and also a Dakhili Madrasah imparting religious education to the Muslims. These Madrasahs are of high school standard in the subjects taught therein. Besides there are a number of junior and primary schools in the town.

The town has a network of good roads properly maintained **Communications.** by the Municipality and the Government. The main roads of the town are Kotwali Road connecting the railway station with Suihari, the Balubari Road linking the Sadar Hospital with Rajbari on the north-east part of the town and the Murshidabad Road joining Kotwali Road near Lily Talkies with

Pulhat, keeping the court premises on the east and Bara Maidan on the west. It passes through Chawk Bazar, Kotwali Police Station and Railbazar. The National Bank of Bangladesh, Sadar Hospital, Zilla School and the Municipal Office stand on this road. Besides, there are a number of other roads also. Dinajpur used to be one of the largest districts of undivided India and several districts were carved out of it subsequently. As such, its headquarter town was the converging point of a number of wide roads linking it with Bogra, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Murshidabad and Purnea, the last four being now in India. The chief means of transportation available are the cycle-rickshaw and bullock-carts. Motor vehicles such as buses and taxics, though few in number, are also available for journeys within and outside the town.

The Town.

Buchanan Hamilton in describing Dinajpur said that it might be divided into four portions, *viz.*, Dinajpur proper, Rajganj, Kanchanghat and Paharpur. A new quarter, Pulhat, was subsequently added to it. Dinajpur proper is the north-eastern quarter of the town where the Maharaja Bahadur of Dinajpur had his residence. This quarter, being originally the seat of authority, gave its name to the town and the district. The name itself is probably derived from some former prince, Dinaj or Dinwaj, who had his palace here. Rajganj is the central portion of the town containing shops, merchants' godowns, markets, etc. Kanchanghat is the western portion of the town close to the river. It appears to have been formerly a business quarter, but is now-a-days occupied by the houses and gardens of well-to-do persons. Paharpur is the southern portion of the town containing the jail hospital, railway station, courts and the residences of Government officers. Pulhat is situated on the extreme south and contains all the principal rice godowns. A bi-weekly market is held here. The old names have been largely superseded by more recent names applying to smaller areas. Rajganj, for instance, is split up into Munshipara, Nimtala, Ganeshtala, Kayahpatti, Basanipatti and Kshatriapara. To the west along the river bank we get Sastitala, Baluadanga, Ghasipara and Chawlpatti; to the north are situated Ramnagar, Kalitala and on the east is the large quarter of Balubari. The local gentry have their houses in Sastitala, Ghasipara, Kalitala, Barabandar and Balubari on the outskirts of the town in the north of the railway line. The dwelling houses are of brick structure surrounded by huts of various shapes and sizes and the whole is generally enclosed by a brick or a mud wall. Sometimes a small garden with mango and jack-fruit trees is included in the homestead.

On the east of the Bara Maidan, the spacious and beautiful *maidan* of the town, immediately south of the railway line stand the Judge's and Magistrate's Courts, other Government offices and the Judge's bungalow. To the east of these are the Reserve Police Lines with a parade ground in front of them to the south. On the opposite side of the *maidan* are the new Circuit House and the Civil Surgeon's and Police Superintendent's bungalows. The Deputy Commissioner's house, a fine old brick structure, stands on the bank of the river to the south-west of the town. From the roof of this building, one can get a charming view of the river and of the distant Himalayas. At certain times of the year the Kanchanjangha and other snow-capped peaks may be seen.

Among the public institutions of Dinajpur, mention may be made of the Station Club situated in the Bara Maidan, amidst picturesque scenery. So far as can be ascertained the club is reputed to be about 150 years old. It has its membership drawn mainly from the Government officials and other elite of the town. There is a good Sporting Association here, to which many youngmen including officials and non-officials belong. The most well-known public institution of the town is the Khwaja Nazimuddin Muslim Hall and Library. Established in 1932 it has at its disposal a very rich collection of books in English, Bengali and Urdu; old palm leaves and paper manuscripts; inscription on stones of historical importance and other archaeological relics. A monthly and a fortnightly journals are also published by the Hall. The Arya Pustakagar is another library of importance. The Naoroz Sahitya Majlish, Sanskriti Sansad, Dinajpur Dramatic Club and Dinajpur Mahila Samiti are other important cultural institutions of the town. Cultural functions and meetings are usually held in Dramatic Hall of the Boostan Cinema. The town has a modern hospital equipped with X-Ray plant. In addition, there is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, a T.B. Clinic and a School Health Centre.

Public
Institutions.

The important commercial and shopping centres of the town are Pulhat, Suihari, Maldapatty, Chawkbazar, Barabandar and Bahadur Bazar. An Industrial Estate has been set up by the Bangladesh Small Industries Corporation at Pulhat. There are a number of rice mills, shoe factories and soap factories in the town.

Trade and
Commerce.

The branches of the National Bank of Bangladesh, Habib Bank and Muslim Commercial Bank situated on Murshidabad Road in Maldapatty and Nimtala are the commercial buildings, which serve as landmarks of the town.

The main articles of trade are paddy, jute, sugarcane, potato, quality lichis and *Gopalbhog* mangoes which are produced locally. *Kataribhog*—a name given to the fine grained white rice is a highly praised article of food.

Places of Interest.

Among the historical and other places of interest, which deserve special mention, are the palace of the Maharaja of Dinajpur, the Gora Shahid Mazar, Jail Khana Mosque, Shahi Mosque, Kanchan Bridge and Bara Maidan. The Bara Maidan is situated on the southern side of the Dinajpur Railway station. It is nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference dotted with handsome trees all round. It has a park-like appearance. The Paharpur Ausadhalaya and Ayurvedic Manufacturing Laboratory of indigenous medicine situated on the western side of the town are famous throughout Bangladesh. In Kalitala there is a temple of Kali of some antiquity called the Mashan Kali temple and in Ganeshtala a temple of Ganesh with an idol of great antiquity, brought from Bannagar, the city of *Bana Raj*, the mythical prince round whom so many of the local traditions centre. On the west of the Bara Maidan, behind the Police Superintendent's bungalow, there is a large tank, called the *Zulum-Sagar*, from its having been excavated by a former Collector with jail labour. The tank was partly silted up and in 1909-10 it was re-excavated and cleaned. The most picturesque tank in the district, the Ramsagar, is situated at a distance of five miles from Dinajpur town. It was dug by the then Maharaja in the beginning of the 18th century and he maintained a comfortable rest-house at this spot.

Administration.

The town is administered by a Municipal Committee, consisting of 44 members with the S.D.O., Sadar as its *ex-officio* Chairman. It looks after sanitation, public health, maintenance of roads, lighting of the town etc. A few primary schools are also run by the Municipal Committee.

Dinajpur Satellite town.

The construction of a satellite town or a housing estate in the vicinity of Dinajpur town was taken in hand by the Government in 1960-61 to rehabilitate the refugees and the low-income groups of Dinajpur district. It is situated at Ananda Sagar Par, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Dinajpur, at latitude $25^{\circ}38'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}39'$ E. Government acquired 364 acres of land here, passed and executed a plan for the construction of 1,888 low-cost houses and 1,700 residential plots and other utility buildings at a total cost of Rs.2,60,00,000.

Each house consists of one room ($12' \times 9'-6''$) with a verandah, sanitary latrine ($3' \times 4'$) and a platform for bath, but without kitchen. The walls are 5" thick and the compound wall $6' \times 3''$

high. The cost of the house including the land, is being realised from the allottees in easy monthly instalments at Rs.15 and at Rs.29 per month extending over a period of 15 years. Residential plots for distribution among displaced persons have been developed by raising and levelling the land and providing necessary community facilities, roads, water-supply, sewerage and electricity. The plots are mostly 144 sq. yards and 200 sq. yards each and there are a few bigger plots. The area contains a primary school, a dispensary-~~cun~~-maternity home, a vegetable, fish and meat market, a shopping centre with 42 shops and commercial plots of three acres. Roads and water-supply are maintained by Municipal Committee, electricity by BWAPDA, school by Education Department and Health Centre by the Directorate of Health Services.

This is a village in Thakurgaon subdivision, with 2,317 **Gareya.** inhabitants and an area of 2,001 acres. It is a big market and jute centre. The village is under the Gareya union and Thakurgaon thana situated 8 miles east of Thakurgaon, on the road from Thakurgaon to Nilphamari. A good deal of jute is grown in the vicinity. There are several jute godowns and *Marwari* shops in the village. During the jute season 1,500 to 2,000 cart-loads of jute are sold on every *hat* day. The place is devoid of attraction, the country round about being flat and without anything in the way of antiquities to relieve the monotony. The village contains a high school (estd. in 1964) and a primary school.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision. It is situated **Ghoraghat.** at latitude 25°15' N. and longitude 89°17' E. The thana covers an area of 57 sq. miles having jurisdiction over 115 villages with a population of 37,916 according to the 1961 Census. The village is situated on the bank of the Karatoya river in the south eastern corner of the district, 18 miles east of the railway station of Hill in Bogra. It is one of the oldest and the most attractive places in North Bengal. It has an area of 533 acres and population 353 according to the 1961 Census. There are a high school, a primary school, a club and a library, Government offices, a charitable dispensary and a post office at Ghoraghat. But there is no telegraph or telephone office, nor any Sub-Registrar's office. The Thana Training and Development Centre is being constructed near Ghoraghat under the Works Programme.

During the Mughal period it was the divisional headquarter of Revenue Administration. It is also the resting place of Shah Ismail Ghazi, Daria Bokhari, Moulana Nuruddin and others.

A considerable trade in rice is carried on there. Ghoraghat was an important place in ancient times. Buchanan Hamilton says "Ghoraghat is the place where Virat Raja kept his horses, from which circumstances its name is derived. In the time of Nazrat Khan, king of Gaur, it belonged to a certain Nilambar Raja, who resided at Kantadwar in Rangpur district. In the conquest of this infidel Nazrat employed Ismail Ghazi, a very holy man and a good officer. He reduced all the neighbouring country, and took up his residence in the fort of Ghoraghat, which had formerly been constructed by the Hindus, and changed the name of the place into Nazratabad after his master's title. He then cleared the adjacent woods, and a city arose, which was much increased by the addition of Arangabad to the north and Narangabad to the south".

Hakimpur.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision. It is situated at latitude 25°17' N. and longitude 89°01' E. It covers an area of 78 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 120 villages under 4 unions. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 52,311. The village itself has a population of 1,475 and an area of 315 acres. It contains a customs post, one Bangladesh Rifles out-post, a high school, a junior high school and a primary school. The thana as a whole contains two high schools and 28 primary schools.

Haripur.

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision. It is situated at latitude 25°50' N. and longitude 88°08' E. It covers an area of 77 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 8 unions and 75 villages. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 38,170. The village Haripur itself has an area of 625 acres with 664 inhabitants.

It lies 37 miles north-west of Dinajpur and close to the main road to Purnea (India). One of the smaller annual cattle fairs is held here and there is also a large weekly market. It contains a charitable dispensary, a high school (estd. in 1957) and a primary school. The thana as a whole contains 29 primary schools.

Joyganj.

It is a big village with 2,355 inhabitants in Thakurgaon subdivision. It is situated on the Thakurgaon-Nilphamari road, 19 miles east of Thakurgaon on the east bank of the Atrai. It used to be an important centre of jute and other trade, but its importance in this respect has declined in recent years. A small cattle fair is held at Joyganj every year in the month of March.

Kaharole.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision, situated at latitude 25°47' N. and longitude 88°36' E. It covers an area

of 80 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 153 villages under 5 unions. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 49,356. The thana contains three high schools and 37 primary schools.

It is a junction railway station in Biral thana of Dinajpur Sadar subdivision, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}37'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}36'$ E. The village is locally known as Chak-Kanchan. It is under the Farakkabad union with a population of 177 and an area of 222 acres according to the 1961 Census. Kanchan.

It is a small village on the Dinajpur-Thakurgaon road, 12 miles north of Dinajpur, on the bank of the Dhepa and situated at latitude $25^{\circ}47'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}41'$ E. The chief point of interest about the place is a large Hindu temple, which Buchanan Hamilton described as by far the finest he had seen in Bengal. It is situated in the ruins of a fort, which is said to have belonged to Virat Raja. The building was begun in 1704 by Raja Prannath, the greatest of the Dinajpur Rajas, who brought an image of Kantaji (Vishnu) from Delhi and set it up there. The story of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata is depicted in picture on the temple walls. Besides the legendary figures of Ramayana and Mahabharata there are also figures of Akbar, his queens and retinue sailing in boats on hunting excursions. The temple, originally a small one, was extended in construction went on and took a long time in completion. For want of attention it soon fell into disrepair and Mr. Hatch, Collector of the district, had it thoroughly restored less than 100 years after it was first begun. It again became almost a ruin by an earthquake in 1897 and later the Maharaja partly at the instance of Government spent considerable sums in restoring it. The building, a square two-storied brick structure, rests upon a massive plinth of sandstone blocks, brought from the ruins of the ancient city of Bannagar near Gangarampur. The whole exterior of the temple is covered with beautiful reliefs, representing every phase of Hindu social life. The roof was formerly adorned with turrets or cupolas, which, however, were all destroyed in the 1897 earthquake. An annual religious fair is held at Kantanagar on the occasion of *Rash-Jatra*, to which many pilgrims resort. The Kantanagar temple, though beautiful and interesting is of quite modern pattern. The temple has been repaired and being looked after by the Archaeological Department. But the old fort in which the temple stands is of great antiquity. It is said to have been one of the places where Virat Raja, a very ancient and apparently powerful monarch, kept his herd of cattle. The space covered by the fort is about a mile square and is surrounded and intersected Kantanagar.

by high rampart, now overgrown with jungle. Within the fortifications are several large mounds possibly the remains of ancient buildings, but all the ruins seem to be of earth and no bricks or stones are to be found from which any information might be obtained.

Kaugaan.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision situated at latitude $25^{\circ}37'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}43'$ E. It is under the Sasara union and Kotwali police-station. Area of the village is 350 acres and population, 335 according to the 1961 Census. It contains a post office and a big market is held here.

Khansama.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}56'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}44'$ E. It covers an area of 69 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 57 villages under 6 unions. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 48,132. The village itself has a population of 1,798. It is nine miles west of Darwani railway station in the Rangpur district and 23 miles north-west of Dinajpur on the east bank of the Atrai. It is a big centre of jute trade and has a large weekly market. The village contains a high school (estd. in 1964) and a primary school.

Lahiri.

It is a village in Thakurgaon subdivision under the Balia-dangi police-station, 14 miles west of Thakurgaon and 48 miles north-west of Dinajpur. It contains a high school (estd. in 1958), one of the three Guru Training schools in the district, a model primary school and a registration office. It is a large centre for jute trade, and exports not only raw jute but hand-made gunny cloth. There is a big weekly market here.

Mangalpur.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Azimpur Union and Biral thana, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}43'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}32'$ E. Area of the village is 218 acres and population 75 only according to the 1961 Census. There is one primary school near the railway station. A *mela*, named Azad Mela, is held in the village every year. A bi-weekly *hat* is held here, where commodities come from local areas and from Bogra.

Manmathpur.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Manmathpur union and Parbatipur police-station. It is situated at latitude $25^{\circ}40'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}51'$ E. Area of the village is 1,632 acres and population, 2,240 according to the 1961 Census. It contains a high school, a model and a non-model primary schools, a post and telegraph office, the Union Council office and a Co-operative rice mill.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar **Mollapara.** subdivision under the Bochaganj police-station and Atgaon union, situated at latitude 25°45' N. and longitude 88°31' E. Area of the village is 468 acres and population 778 according to the 1961 Census. It contains a primary school and a *hat* is held here.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision, situated at **Nawabganj.** latitude 25°25' N. and longitude 89°05' E. It has an area of 152 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census, with jurisdiction over 257 villages under 8 unions. The village itself is situated seven miles east of Charkai railway station on the old channel of the Karatoya, which is now little more than a string of *heels* or marshes. It was the centre of a police circle of 168 sq. miles and used to be the headquarters of a Munsif in former days. There are some places of antiquarian interest in the vicinity, notably Sitakot or Sitakunda, a square mound of bricks surrounding a cavity in which the goddess Sita is said to have lived during her banishment from Ram. A short distance away, on the banks of the Karatoya, there is a place called Tarpanghat, where the poet and saint Valmiki used to bathe and which owing to its sacred character is still resorted to twice a year by the Hindus of the locality for the same purpose. ~~The thana contains three high schools and 58 primary schools.~~

It is a small village in Thakurgaon subdivision, under the **Nekmard** Nekmardan union and Ranisankail thana, 16 miles south-west of Thakurgaon and 37 miles north-west of Dinajpur. Area of the village is 298 acres and population, 185 according to the 1961 Census. The village is of no importance in itself, but is nevertheless worthy of mention as the place where the biggest cattle fair in Bangladesh is held every year in April. There were several proprietors of the fair, of whom the principal were the Maldwar and Haripur zamindars and they divided the profits of the fair between them. The fair was closed by order of the Magistrate, as it was feared that attracting, as it did, large numbers of up-country men it might bring plague into the district. It remained closed till 1907, when the permission of Government was obtained to reopen it. Since then it has been regularly held and is beginning to regain some of its former importance. The village contains a high school, a dispensary and a post office.

The place derives its name from the Muslim *pir* or saint, Syed Nekmardan, whose remains are preserved in a thatched hut near the site of the fair held in his honour. He appears to have been a very holy man, but little is known about him and it is impossible to determine the period when he lived.

Panchagarh

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, situated at latitude $26^{\circ}20'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}34'$ E. The thana covers an area of 103 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 4 unions and 38 villages. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 49,298. The village is under the Panchagarh union, and it contains an intermediate college, a high school, a primary school, a post and telegraph office, and a C & B Rest House.

Hilli.

It is a village and a railway station in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Hakimpur police station situated at latitude $25^{\circ}17'$ N. and longitude $89^{\circ}01'$ E. It is the last railway station in the southern side of the district, from where Bogra district begins. The village contains a high school (estd. in 1956), a model primary school, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow. It is a centre of trade in jute and rice. There are some 13 rice mills here.

Parbatipur.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision situated at latitude $25^{\circ}40'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}55'$ E. It covers an area of 167 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 14 unions and 193 villages. It is 19 miles east of Dinajpur. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 1,56,732. Parbatipur itself is a municipal town which covers an area of 2,237 acres with a population of 27,245. The administration of the town is run by the Parbatipur Town Committee. The Town Committee consists of 18 members. In the town there are an intermediate college, two high schools for boys and one for girls, a post and telegraph office and an Inspection Bungalow belonging to the District Council.

Parbatipur is an important junction in the Bangladesh Railway. The railway broad-gauge main line runs north and south, in the east of the district between Hilli and North Parbatipur. After the construction of Hardinge Bridge over the lower Ganges the meter-gauge railway line running through Parbatipur was converted into broad-gauge in July 1924. At Parbatipur there are a Police Hospital and Railway Police out-post. A large bi-weekly market is held here. In this market commodities come from Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna and Rajshahi, and are sent to Khulna, Daulatpur, Dacca, Comilla and Mymensingh. Parbatipur town is on the old Parbatipur-Rangpur road. There are many remains in the neighbourhood which are ascribed to Virat Raja. The most important of these are the ruins of a fort and city where Kichak, brother-in-law of Virat, is believed to have lived. The fort is about half-a-mile square and surrounded by a rampart and a ditch now overgrown with trees and scrub jungle. At

a place not very far from the present thana, in a hole under a big tree, are to be seen a plough and other instruments of agriculture in stone which are ascribed to Bhim Raja, a hero of the Solar race, who was hospitably received by Virat Raja, when he and his brothers were expelled from their ancestral kingdom.

It is a thana headquarters in Sadar subdivision situated at ^{at Phulbari.} latitude 25°30' N. and longitude 88°58' E. The thana covers an area of 123 square miles with jurisdiction over 220 villages under 8 unions. Its population is 75,516 according to the 1961 Census. It is 26 miles south-east of Dinajpur and is a railway station of the Bangladesh Railway. It contains an intermediate college, a high school, a sub-registry office, a charitable dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a C & B Rest House. A large bi-weekly market is held in the town. In this market commodities come from Pabna, Bogra and local areas and from here jute is sent to Khulna; rice and paddy to Dacca and Mymensingh. Most of the exports are carried by rail, but in the rainy season a certain amount of trade is carried by the Jamuna river which flows through the village.

~~It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision,~~ ^{Pirganj.} situated at latitude 25°51' N. and longitude 88°22' E. It covers an area of 152 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 180 villages under 9 unions. Its population is 91,562 according to the 1961 Census. The village Pirganj contains an intermediate college, a high school, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow.

It is a village in Thakurgaon subdivision, close to Ranisankail village in the thana of the same name, on the opposite bank of the Kulik river. It is of interest as being the place of residence of the Maldawr Zamindars. They lived in a large brick built house, close to which is a charitable dispensary formerly maintained by them. ^{Ramsagar.}

It is a big *dighi* (tank), 3,540 feet long and 960 feet broad. ^{Ramsagar.} It is situated at a distance of 5 miles from Dinajpur town and has been named after Raja Ramnath of Dinajpur, under whose command it was dug in the beginning of the 18th century. It is famous for its crystal clear water and is a favourite spot for picnic. Of late attempts are being made to turn it into a tourist resort. An angler's cabin has been constructed for those interested in angling as a pastime, as the tank abounds in small and big fishes. Two boats with outboard motors have been

placed in the tank for tourists and a rest house has been constructed on the bank.

Ranisankail.

It is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}54'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}15'$ E. The thana covers an area of 110 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 124 villages under 5 unions. Its population according to the 1961 Census is 57,906. The village Ranisankail itself has an area of 180 acres with a population of 928. It contains a high school, a primary school, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Inspection Bungalow.

Ruhea.

It is a village and a railway station in the Thakurgaon subdivision under the Thakurgaon police-station, situated at latitude $26^{\circ}10'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}25'$ E. It is within Ruhea union, the area of which is 9,525 acres and population 12,608 according to the 1961 Census. The village contains a model and a non-model primary schools, a post and telegraph office and a District Council Dak Bungalow. This is the last railway station in the extreme north of Bangladesh. But a new railway line, 14 miles in length, has been constructed between Ruhea and Panchagarh. A *mela* known as Ruhea Azad Mela is held here every year. There are three rice mills at Ruhea and a big *hat* is held here.

Samihia.

It is a village in the Sadar subdivision with 730 inhabitants, situated on the Atrai, 14 miles south-east of Dinajpur. It is a large market and an important centre of rice trade. There is a commercial despatch of paddy from this place.

Sanka.

The village Sanka is in Sadar subdivision under Birganj police-station, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}51'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}42'$ E. It has a population of 423 and an area of 778 acres. It is under the Paltapur union. It bears the legendary background associated with the myths of Behula Sundari and Chand Sawdagar. The village is close by a silted up river and is surrounded on three sides by the rivers Punarbhaba and Atrai. Brickbats and relics are found in abundance one to two feet under the ground. There are seventy-two big and small tanks in the vicinity, among them, is Chhatraghati measuring 51 *bighas* and the other is Anandi Dighi having an area of 22 *bighas*. The village in course of time became obscure and turned into jungles. Of late, it has been reviving its old glory. A *hat* sits in the village. The Union Council Office, a seed store, a charitable dispensary and one Community Development Centre have been built here. The Anandi Dighi has recently been re-excavated at an expense of Rs.17,000 and is now

a beauty-spot of the village. Every year an agricultural, cultural and industrial exhibition is arranged here by the Union Council.

It is a village in Dinajpur Sadar subdivision under the Bocha^m Setabganj. ganj police-station, situated at latitude $25^{\circ}48'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}28'$ E. It is connected by rail and road with the district headquarters. There is an intermediate college in the village, known as Setabganj College. It also contains a high school and a post and telegraph office. There is a sugar mill, which is one of the biggest mills in Bangladesh. A big bi-weekly *hat* is held here, where a large trade in jute, rice, pulses and molasses is carried on.

It is a railway station in the Thakurgaon subdivision and Sibganj. Thakurgaon thana, situated at latitude 26° N. and longitude $88^{\circ}24'$ E. A bi-weekly *hat* is held here. Commodities from this *hat* are sent to Rangpur, Mymensingh, Bogra and Gaibandha. There is also a post office here.

Tetulia is a thana headquarters in Thakurgaon subdivision, Tetulia. situated at latitude $26^{\circ}30'$ N. and longitude $88^{\circ}20'$ E. It covers an area of 74 sq. miles with jurisdiction over 7 villages under 4 unions and has a population of 35,185 according to the 1961 Census.

The village itself is situated on the Mahananda river. It is an old river port. Area of the village as well as of the Tetulia union is 13,896 acres and population 10,832.

The place is a charming scenic spot situated on the left bank of the Mahananda river near the extreme northern border of the district. The river begins to take a winding course, a few miles above this point, after leaving the foot-hills of the Himalayas. The old Dak Bungalow stands on a small hillock rising right out of the river bed. It commands a panoramic view of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas on clear days (September to November). The Mahananda which is a rushing torrent after a shower and full to the banks in the monsoon, shrinks to a narrow murmuring stream in winter. It is then fordable in many places with big broad sand-banks on both sides. These sand-banks with sparkling red sand invite sun-bathing and beach-combing. Away from the beach the land of the country-side is full of brush-wood and in some places thick jungle. Till recently there were plenty of tigers and leopards in the surrounding areas and many *shikaris* (hunters) used to visit the place in winter in search of big games. Now-a-days big games have become rare.

Formerly this place was a centre of both commercial and industrial importance. After Partition this place has lost its past glory. Now it is situated in the extreme northern-most part of Dinajpur district. It used to be the headquarters of a subdivision of Rangpur, comprising the police circles of Boda, Sanyasikata and Fakirganj, but in 1867 the criminal jurisdiction of the subdivision was made over to the Deputy Commissioner of the Western Duars; and in 1879 it was completely separated from Rangpur and united with the Western Duars to form the district of Jalpaiguri. Traces of former importance of Tetulia can still be seen: there are a number of good masonry houses in the bazar and the old race-course is even now well defined and is left uncultivated by the villagers. There is a fine open *maidan* where the Government offices used to stand and this is still used as a camping ground for troops. A road passes through Tetulia to Siliguri the distance being 16 miles; another road runs due east and connects it with Jalpaiguri. An independent police out-post is located here. A severe type of malarious fever was prevalent in the villages in the neighbourhood and the death rate was heavy. It is not obvious why this should be the case, as the country is generally high and open and not subject to floods. But at present with the mass campaign of the Malaria Eradication Programme this malaria has been eliminated to a great extent.

Among the places of interest at Tetulia are the Shalbahan tank of prehistoric origin and a Hindu temple of mythological importance at Bhadeswar, four miles away. The Hindu pilgrims come from far and wide for a dip in the tank on the Puruni day. There is a high school attached to the thana on the eastern side of the Mahananda. The offices of the Circle Officers, Development and Revenue, a charitable dispensary and a post office are situated at Tetulia.

Thakurgaon.

It is the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name, situated at latitude 26°02' N. and longitude 88°28' E. on the eastern bank of the Tangan. It is also a thana headquarters. The thana covers an area of 249 sq. miles according to the 1961 Census with jurisdiction over 190 villages under 14 unions, including Thakurgaon Town Committee. The town is 35 miles by road from the district headquarters and is connected by bus-service and train. It has an area of 309 acres and a population 7,940. It contains the Subdivisional offices, Civil and Criminal Courts and a Registration office. There is a degree college in the town, known as Thakurgaon B.C. College (estd. in 1959). One of the finest buildings in

the town is the boy's high school (estd. in 1904), a handsome brick-building with hostels for Hindu and Muslim boys attached to it. It also contains a high school for girls (estd. in 1937), Subdivisional Hospital (16 beds), a post and telegraph office and a C & B Inspection Bungalow. The BIRC constructed a sugar mill at Thakurgaon, which produces quality sugar. There is an old temple of Govinda (Vishnu) at Govindanagar, on the other bank of the Tangan, opposite the town, close to which a small annual fair is held. Govindanagar was formerly the favourite country seat of the famous Raja Ramnath, and the ruins of his house are still to be seen there overgrown with jungle. On the western bank of the Tangan, opposite Thakurgaon, is a patch of jungle, some two miles long and half a mile wide. This, in places is so thick as to be almost impenetrable and is said to be a refuge for leopards and panthers.

APPENDIX

District Officers of Dinajpur (Before partition of 1947.)

Name :	Date of joining :
Mr. V. N. Ranjan, I.C.S. (offg.) ...	.. 2nd January, 1941.
Khan Bahadur Mazharul Islam --	.. 2nd July, 1943.
Mr. H. T. Ali, I.C.S. (offg.) ..	.. 22nd December, 1946.

(After partition of 1947.)

Mr. S.A.F.M.A. Sobhan ...	.. 24th December, 1948.
Mr. Panaullah Ahmed ..	.. 9th September, 1949.
Mr. Md. Shamsuddin ..	.. 8th January, 1953.
Mr. A.O. Raziur Rahman ..	.. 16th June, 1954.
Mr. Abdus Salam Chaudhury --	.. 21st August, 1955.
Mr. S. N. H. Rizvi ..	.. 24th April, 1958.
Mr. S. M. Wasim ..	.. 18th December, 1958.
Mr. A. Khair ...	.. 20th August, 1960.
Mr. Anwaruddin Hasan ..	.. 14th November, 1961.
Mr. A. H. F. K. Siddique --	.. 13th August, 1963.
Mr. Syed Shamsuz-Zoha ..	.. 16th May, 1964.
Mr. Abdur Rob Chowdhury ..	.. 31st August, 1965.
Mr. A. K. M. Zakariah ..	.. 13th April, 1967.
Mr. Shaful Alam ..	.. 27th July, 1969.
Mr. Fayazuddin Ahmed ..	.. 30th September, 1970.
Mr. Md. Habibul Islam ...	.. 19th May, 1971.
Mr. Md. Amanatullah 21st December, 1971.
Mr. Md. Hasinur Rahman 17th February, 1972.

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