

Names of the
big Zamindaries
at the time of
State acquisition

At the time of State Acquisition the Government took the decision to give relief to the defaulting zaminders and to collect arrear rent from them deducting from their amount of compensation money. For their arrear of rent they were left free from attachment or sale of their property. The Government decided to pay the compensation money through cash payment and bonds. At the outset of state acquisition the names of big zamindaries with their amount of compensation money are given below : (1) A.K. Devi Estate—Tk. 7,524, (2) D.S. group—Tk. 2,08,563, (3) Thakur Raj Estate—Tk. 5,57,655, (4) B.L. Roy—Tk. 4,33,683·62, (5) B. L. Mitra—Tk. 23,988·46, (6) B.N. Dutta—Tk. 44,885·69, (7) M.T. Brown—Tk. 84,448·98, (8) R.N. Dutta—Tk. 62,083·75, (9) L.T.R. Lukas—Tk. 41,609·75, (10) S.D. Ghoshal—Tk. 35,178·25, (11) S.P. Ghoshal—Tk. 2,947·50, (12) S. Ghoshal—Tk. 561·1, (13) S.S. Ghoshal—Tk. 12,842·56, (14) R.K. Roy—Tk. 1,18,948·69, (15) D.C. Roy—84,986·30, (16) Chara-moddi Estate—Tk. 1,502·05, (17) Bank of Commerce—Nil, (18) D. Cilva—Tk. 46,530·99, (19) Kalam Zamindari Co.—Tk. 77,817·81, (20) B.K. Bosh—Tk. 10,404, (21) Shudhir Chandra Estate—Tk. 15,159·06, (22) Sufia Banu—Tk. 16,450·37, (23) Jala-bari—Tk. 3,83,987, (24) Kalashkati—Tk. 1,90,199·50, (25) N.N. L. Estate—Tk. 30,295·18, (26) Bank of Calcutta—Tk. 1,22,150, (27) Faridpur Chandrari Estate—Tk. 51,785·22, (28) Ularia Chawdhury Estate—Tk. 2,76,671, (29) Aushok Gupta—Tk. 94,024·75, (30) Saydabad Wakf Estate—Tk. 1,39,586·76, (31) Kirtipasha—Tk. 52,000, (32) Kutba—Tk. 84,023·35, (33) Mejing Ham—Tk. 80,719, (34) Upashi—Tk. 2,02,172·19, (35) Bazpai—Tk. 1,16,414·68, (36) Shaympur—Tk. 28,964·56, (37) R.N. Das—Tk. 37,920·37, (38) Anantakremar Mandal—Tk. 3,260·75, (39) Gopalpur Mirzangar—Tk. 14,505·12, (40) P.K.-Bose—Tk. 887·50, (41) Lakutia Roy Chawdhury Estate—Tk. 52,798·02. The zamindaries who did not receive the compensation money are as follows : (42) Abani Kumar Sen Gupta, (43) Faridpur Banking Corporation, (44) Habiganj, (45) S.L. Das, (46) Silangshu Kumar Acharya, (47) Bhawal Raj, (48) Ajit Kumar Das, (49) Kasper Estate, (50) S.N. Tribedi. Besides there were some other zamindaries whose owners belonged to other districts. These were : Narail Estate, Bhagayakul Raj Estate, Taki Small Taraf, Nawab T.k. Bahadur, Taki (big taraf), Bhabendra Roy Chawdhury, Narail Estate and Nawab Khan Bahadur. In this district due to State Acquisition the total compensation money paid to the Tenure holders for cash payment stood to Tk. 1,90,42,581·00. and paid through bond Tk. 19,15,000. The total number of the Estates acquired by the Government was 2,22,957.

The Land reform measures as envisaged in the Act mainly consisted of the following: East Bengal State Acquisition Act of 1950

- (i) Acquisition of all rent-receiving interests in land in order to bring all tenants in actual occupation land directly under Government.
- (ii) Acquisition of khas lands of non-retainable classes, viz. *hats*, bazars, forests, fisheries and ferries etc.
- (iii) Acquisition of all lands of retainable classes in excess of 100 standard *bighas* or ten standard *bighas* per head of members in the family, whichever was greater.

The limit was relaxable in cases of large scale farming with power driven appliances, large scale dairy farming, cultivation of tea, rubber and coffee and cultivation of sugarcane by a company for manufacture of sugar.

- (iv) Assessment and payment of compensation for the properties acquired.
- (v) Conferment of permanent heritable and transferable rights on all cultivating tenants in their holdings, irrespective of their pre-existing status. Incidents of Maliks and tenants of non-agricultural land (item No. V-XXIII).
- (vi) Consolidation of holdings.
- (vii) Rationalisation of rent rates of agricultural and non-agricultural lands on the basis of productivity of the soil and value of the lands respectively.
- (viii) Prohibition of sub-letting of any land by any person.
- (ix) Prohibition of transfer of agricultural lands except to a *bona fide* cultivator and of any land except to a person who held lands for himself and his family of a total area which added to the area to be transferred would not exceed 100 standard *bighas*.
- (x) Conferment of the right of pre-emption not only on the co-sharer tenants but also on the tenants holding contiguous lands when a share or portion of a tenancy was transferred.
- (xi) The nomenclatures of "raiyat" and the "rent" payable by a *raiyat* were changed to "Malik" and "land revenue" respectively.
- (xii) When the Government lease out any land for a particular period, the rights and liabilities of the lessee shall be governed by the terms and conditions of the lease.

- (xiii) Non-agricultural tenants coming directly under the Government as a result of acquisition of their superior interests will continue to be governed by the provisions of the Non-agricultural Tenancy Act, 1949 and in other cases, they will be governed by the terms of the lease and the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.
- (xiv) Non-agricultural or non-agricultural tenancy shall in law be created even after the acceptance of *salami* and of rent till a deed of lease had been executed by a competent authority and duly registered.
- (xv) When any land of any holding is lost by diluvion, the Revenue-Officer shall grant abatement of land revenue for such land and it will not be necessary for the *Malik* concerned to apply for such abatement.
- (xvi) The maximum period for which a *raiya*t can enter into an usufructuary mortgage in respect of his land is 7 years.
- (xvii) An aboriginal *Malik* is permitted to mortgage land to the Government or to the Agricultural Development Bank or to the Agricultural Development Corporation or to a Co-operative Society for obtaining loans for agricultural purposes.
- (xviii) Lands held by a tenant under more than one tenancy in the same village are to be amalgamated into one tenancy and the provision for filing any objection by the tenant is done away with.
- (xix) Subdivision of a joint tenancy has been made easier by removing the restriction regarding the quantum of rent, with the proviso that if by such subdivision the rent of any portion works out at less than a rupee (Taka), it shall be rounded off to Taka one.
- (xx) In order to prevent the grabbing of lands of small farmers by big jotders and other greedy money-lenders through various devices such as agreement, *kabalas*, *agrim khajnar patta*, etc. section 95A was enacted declaring all such transactions as complete usufructuary mortgages within the meaning of section 95 of the Act, and
- (xxi) In order to avoid disputes and bloodshed over the possession of char and accreted lands and also to make more lands available for getting settlement of agricultural khas lands, sections 86 and 87 of the State Acquisition Act, 1950, were amended abolishing

the right of a riparian landowner to any land accreted to his holding and also of an ex-owner to his diluviated land on its reformation *in situ*. Provisions have, however, been made to the effect that in giving settlement of any diluviated land reformed *in situ* preference will be given to the families affected by diluvion provided they hold less than 25 standard *bighas* of land.

After the Act was passed, it was decided that only big estates with good collection papers and the estates under the management of Courts of Wards would be acquired by a summary produce immediately and that the remaining rent-receiving interests would be acquired after regular revision of the record-of-rights, without which correct preparation of rent-rolls and compensation assessment rolls would not be possible. Accordingly, big estates were acquired between 1952 and 1955. A new revenue administrative-set-up was created in the district at all levels, beginning from tahsils up to the district level. Posts were created of *Tahsildars*, Thana Circle Inspectors, Sub-divisional Managers, District Manager and of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, and in smaller districts of Joint Deputy Commissioners, for proper management of the newly acquired estates. They undertook the preparation of preliminary rent-rolls on the basis of existing record of rights within 6 months so that they could form the basis for collection of rent by Government after wholesale acquisition. A settlement organisation was set up in each district under a Settlement Officer and after fresh recruitment and training of a large number of field officers and staff, this stupendous task of preparation of preliminary rent-rolls was completed in time under the supervision of the Director of Land Records and Surveys.

The Acquisition of all rent-receiving interests from 14-4-1956 was made under the summary procedure without any proper plan and without making adequate arrangements either for the collection of land revenue from acquired properties for the assessment of various kinds of compensation payable to the ex-rent receivers. This brought troubles both for the Government and the people. Due to defective rent-rolls, it was difficult for Government to collect revenue and for the tenants to pay them. In many cases no data were available for the assessment of interim compensation or compensation for pre-acquisition arrear rents and cesses in respect of properties acquired prior to April, 1956. Even when final compensation had been assessed, no arrangement could be made for their prompt payment.

In a word, the entire machinery of the Land Revenue administration was out of gear.

Land Revenue
Commission,
1958

The Government of former East Pakistan therefore, appointed a Land Revenue Commission in December, 1958 to study the whole question. The Commission submitted its report in July, 1959 and made recommendations regarding payment of compensation and reorganisation of the administrative set up of the Revenue Department to enable it to cope with the new situation arising out of the summary acquisition of rent-receiving interests all over the province including this district. They also made certain recommendations to ensure correction of the record-of-rights and speedy collection of rents and cesses. Most of their recommendations were accepted by Government and given effect to as stated below.

The State Acquisition Act had been amended to provide for a simpler basis of assessment of interim compensation and compensation for pre-acquisition arrear rent and cesses where the assessment could not be made under the original provisions. According to the revised procedure, the annual interim compensation where due is to be paid at 1/6th of the net income out of the total rental assets instead of $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the net income out of the collection actually made by Government from the property concerned, which in many cases worked out at nil. As regards compensation for pre-acquisition arrear rents and cesses according to the new procedure, payment is to be made at 50% of the realisable arrears on the date of acquisition or 70 per cent of the total arrears actually collected by the Government.

To avoid hardship to the ex-rent receivers it was decided that pre-acquisition arrear dues payable by them to the Government would be realised from their compensation money where the compensation would cover the arrears, instead of recovering the same by the attachment and sale of their unacquired assets.

Compensation and annuity rolls were gradually prepared and finally published upto 1962-63 and made over to the Deputy Commissioner who started payment of compensation on a 5 years scheme from 1963. The total amount of compensation assessed in this district was Taka 4,04,76,000 for 2,99,417 compensation rolls. The total amount paid in cash and bonds upto December 1973 is Taka 2,27,85,598 and 31,72,500 respectively for 2,26,115 compensation rolls.

The work of eliminating all chains of intermediate interests were then started. Accordingly record-of-rights were modified

showing only the ground tenants under the Government. Thus the process of acquisition was legally completed.

The abolition of the feudal system of land tenure in the country including the district of Bakarganj was a crying need for many years. It was sought, however, only as a means to an end. That end was the economic emancipation of the tillers of the soil and the quick development of our agricultural economy to produce more food and cash crops for our growing population.

The Government of former East Pakistan constituted a Land Revenue Administration Enquiry Committee with Mr. Sayed Muazzamuddin Hossain as Chairman in September, 1962. This Committee thoroughly examined all aspects of Land Revenue Administration in the light of whole-sale acquisition by Government of all grades of rent-receiving interests and submitted its report to Government in April, 1963 with a number of recommendations for the improvement of Land Revenue Administrative system.

Report of the
Land Revenue
Administration
Committee

The Committee proposed a re-organised revenue administrative machinery in all the districts with the Deputy Commissioner in overall charge at the district level to be assisted by an Additional Deputy Commissioner-in-charge of revenue, as senior former E.P.C.S. Officer with the designation of Additional S.D.O. (Revenue) at the subdivisional level, who would work under the general supervision and control of the Subdivisional Officer, one former E.P.C.S. Class II officer, designated as Circle Officer (Revenue) at each Thana Level, to be assisted by a Field Kanungo and one Tahsildar-in-charge at tahsil level to be assisted by two Assistant Tahsildars.

The Government accepted this recommendation of the Committee but the recommendation in respect of the Additional Subdivisional Officer (Revenue) could not be implemented for want of suitable experienced former E.P.C.S. Officers required for the post. As a result, the Subdivisional Office is still being managed by a non-gazetted Subdivisional Manager, who works under the direct control of the S. D. O. the implementation of the recommendations of the Land Revenue Administration Enquiry Committee with effect from February, 1967, the Land Revenue Administration of the district

is being managed by the gazetted and non-gazetted officers at various levels as shown below:

District	..	1. Deputy Commissioner	..	1
		2. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev.)		1
Subdivisional Level	..	1. Subdivisional Officer	..	5
		2. Subdivisional Managers	..	5
Thana Level	..	1. Circle Officer (Rev.)	..	22
		2. Field Kanungo	..	26
Tahsil Level	..	1. Tahsildars	..	101

Rent structure of the District

According to the provisions of the State Acquisition Act, all tenants were liable to pay rent at a fair and equitable rate to Government. The maximum rate at which the rent of agricultural lands could be assessed in future was limited to one-tenth of the annual gross produce of the land.

The rate of rent realized by the rent-receivers from the tenants prior to abolition of the zamindari system varied from tenant to tenant in the same area for lands of the same class with similar advantages. The landlords followed no equitable or standard rate of rent for different classes of lands. In fixing rate of rent, the landlords were guided by socio-economic factors and the demand for and availability of *khas* lands for settlement. This discrepancy in the rate of existing rents at the time of Acquisition were generally retained except in cases of abnormally high and exorbitant rents which were brought down to a reasonable level. The area of *khas* land allowed to be retained by the proprietors and tenure-holders was also assessed at a new rate, on the basis of rent generally paid by occupancy *rai-yats* in the locality.

System of Collection of Land Revenue

Prior to acquisition of rent-receiving interests by Government the tenants had to pay their annual rent at the landlord's local tahsil *kutchery*. The Tahsildars also sometimes used to go out to villages with prior intimation for collection of rent from the tenants but they did not come up in sufficient numbers to pay their rent. There was also the provision for payment of rent by money-orders for which a special money-order form was in vogue, but payment of rent by money-order was never popular.

The old system of collection of land-revenue continues in the district. The Government Tahsildars now go out for Mofussil Collection more often than their predecessors in zamindari days used to do. The system of payment by money-order is still there. Of late, Government introduced another system of payment of land-revenue through some local branches of the former National Bank (now Sonali Bank) on an experimental basis, but response from the tenants was not very encouraging.

Till 1977 the amount of khash lands in this district was 30,845.93 acres. Out of this 19,166.67 acre was settled till 30-10-1977. The total amount of agricultural land in the district was 11,62,552 acres and non-agricultural land was 473,738 acres. Land area

According to an Ordinance issued by the Government on the 13th of December, 1976 (amendment—1976 Ordinance No.95) the land development tax are as follows : tax for agricultural land per decimal is .15 paisa but the lowest amount must be .90 paisa. For industrial and business purpose per decimal is Taka 3 and for homestead land per decimal is Tk. 1.50. But if the amount of land tax prevailed before this Ordinance is higher, than the previous rent must remain in force. Land develop-
ment tax.

The following table shows the position of annual demand and collection of Land Revenue. Development and Relief Tax, Additional Development Relief Tax, Education Cess, Local Rates etc. for the years 1969-70 to 1976-77. Position of
Annual Demand
and Collection

An account of land revenue arrear and current collection from the year 1969-70 to 1976-77 are given below :

Year	Arrear	Collection	
		Arrear	Current
	Tk.	Tk.	Tk.
1969-70	98,07,309	66,25,492	134,08,778
1970-71	55,17,965	4,59,751	9,57,105
1971-72	3,67,091	60,080	3,58,284
1972-73	5,72,911	1,15,020	11,78,716
1973-74	57,29,798	15,75,750	37,01,153
1974-75	80,39,055	48,85,901	88,69,899
1975-76	53,49,106	49,04,632	108,89,996
1976-77	21,99,778	16,10,258	77,57,560

POSITION AFTER LIBERATION

Remission of Land-revenue

To give relief to the agriculturists and to enable them to begin with a clean slate, all arrears of land revenue and allied dues payable in respect of agricultural land upto the end of 1378 B.S. together with interest and certificate cost due in respect thereof were totally remitted and all pending certificate cases relating to such arrears were abated.

Exemption of small farmers from payment of land-revenue

The State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950, was amended by the P.O. No. 96 of 1972 exempting all families holding agricultural land not exceeding twenty-five standard bighas each from payment of land-revenue in respect of such land with effect from 1379 B.S. They are, however, to pay the allied dues, namely, the Development and Relief Tax, the additional Development and Relief Tax, Education Cess and Local Rate for such lands.

Reduction of ceiling of land holding

By the Bangladesh Land Holding (Limitation) Order, 1972, (P.O. No. 98 of 1972) the maximum quantity of land which a family can retain or acquire was reduced to 100 standard bighas from the previous ceiling of 375 standard bighas. The definition of "Family" was also modified so as to prevent the retention or acquisition of more land by the splitting up of families for circumventing the provisions of the law. The excess lands that will be available to Government by such reduction of the ceiling will be distributed among the agriculturists having no land at all or less than 1·50 acres according to the order of priority laid down by the Government.

President's order no. 96

In 1972 by the President's Order No. 96 the families who have lands above 25 bighas but below 100 bighas their number is given below (1977):

Name of the Revenue Circle.			Number of families.	Total amount of rent.
				(Taka)
Gournadi	..	..	404	..
Muladi	..	..	840	..
Hijla	..	..	715	30,036·00
Mehandiganj	..	..	1,053	84,317·00
Banuripara	..	..	128	..
Nazirpur	..	..	628	24,187·00
Amrajuri	..	..	543	40,565·00

Name of the Revenue circle.	Number of families.	Total amount of rent.
		Tk.
Pirojpur	1,000	66,721·00
Bhandaria	413	..
Mathbaria	1,829	1,66,400·00
Wazirpur	352	11,919·00
Babuganj	131	7,766·00
Kotwali	703	1,11,748·00
Bakerganj	642	52,350·00
Jhalakati	676	41,243·00
Nalcity	302	5,830·00
Kathalia	676	27,432·00
Bhola	3,384	91,125·00
Daulatkhan	708	..
Borhanuddin	125	2,16,176·00
Tajumuddin	861	48,220·00
Lalmohan	1,464	2,55,750·00
Charfession	1,461	19,400·00

In 1972 by the President's Order No. 98 the families who have more than 100 bighas of land their number is given below: **President's order no. 98**

Name of Revenue Circle.	Number of families.	Name of Revenue Circle.	Number of families.
Gournadi	..	Bakerganj	2
Muladi	6	Jhalakati	2
Banaripara	1	Nalcity	3
Pirojpur	6	Katakalia	3
Nazirpur	5	Bhola	5
Bhandaria	4	Daulatkhan	13
Mathbaria	14	Borhanuddin	13
Wazirpur	2	Tajumuddin	14
Babuganj	..	Lalmohan	23
Kotwali	2	Charfession	21

Khash lands
distributed free
of Salami.

Due to State Acquisition the excess khash lands were distributed to the landless cultivators. The amount of land and the number of the finally selected applicants for the distribution of khash lands free of Salami, are given below (1977) :

Name of Revenue Circle.	Number of finally selected applicants.	Amount of Agricultural khash lands for settlement.	Proposed amount of agricultural khash lands for settlements.
		Tk.	Tk.
Bakarganj ..	399	597.35	275.34
Kotwali ..	82	1,074.00	86.10
Babuganj ..	402	416.20	314.86
Wazirpur ..	45	240.98	85.25
Gournadi ..	307	325.52	263.45
Muladi ..	485	1,014.84	606.00
Hijla ..	2,600	3,231.36	323.36
Mehandiganj ..	8	2,055.42	12.11
Jhalakati ..	486	657.51	293.62
Nalcity ..	180	327.08	12.50
Pirojpur ..	250	832.60	265.00
Amrajuri ..	236	279.75	260.30
Bhandaria ..	19	82.67	19.23
Mathbaria ..	680	989.98	989.98
Banaripara ..	50	211.32	67.52
Nazirpur ..	537	1,236.96	779.24
Bhola ..	4,552	4,658.00	4,658.00
Daulatkhan ..	127	334.50	189.50
Borhanuddin ..	1,593	2,573.70	2,388.50
Tazumuddin ..	5,000	3,944.84	3,944.84
Lalmohan ..	100	451.88	240.05
Charfassion ..	1,978	2,970.55	2,965.60
Total ..	20,116	21,948.24	..

It came to the notice of Government that in many cases **Easement lands** lands having public right of easement were unauthorisedly settled with, or occupied by private persons. The Bangladesh (Resumption of Easement Lands) Order, 1972 (P.O. No. 35 of 1972) was, therefore, promulgated authorising the Deputy Commissioners to resume such lands when needed for any public purpose or in public interest on payment of compensation where such payment is justified.

In order to prevent the grabbing of lands of small farmers by big jotders and other greedy money-lenders through various devices such as agreement *kabalas*, *agrim khajnar patta*, etc., **Amendment of Section 95 and section 95A in the State Acquisition Act** section 95A was enacted declaring all such transaction as complete usufructuary mortgages within the meaning of section 95 of the Act. With a view to providing an easy forum to a mortgagor for the redemption of any usufructuary mortgage and also restoration of the mortgaged land after the expiry of the period of the mortgage it has been provided in section 95 that a mortgagor may apply to the Subdivisional Magistrate or any other officer authorised by the Government for such redemption or restoration, and the officer concerned will take necessary action for the purpose. All Circle Officers (Revenue) have been authorised by Government for receiving and disposing of such applications.

In order to avoid disputes and bloodshed over the possession of char and accreted lands and also to make more lands available for distribution to agriculturists eligible for getting settlement of agricultural khas lands, section 86 and 87 of the State Acquisition Act, 1950, have been amended abolishing the right of a riparian landowner to any land accreted to his holding and also of an ex-owner to his diluviated land on its reformation *in situ*. Provisions have, however, been made to the effect that in giving settlement of any diluviated land reformed *in situ* preference will be given to the families affected by diluvion provided they hold less than 25 standard bighas of land. Elaborate instructions have been issued by Government about the principles to be followed in making settlement of such lands. **Amendment of section 86 and 87 of the State Acquisition Act**

For the control, management and disposal of property abandoned by persons inimical to Bangladesh, provisions were made in the Bangladesh Abandoned Property (Control, Management and Disposal) Order, 1972, (P.O. No. 16 of 1972). The Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reforms are concerned only with the abandoned agricultural, horticultural and non-agricultural land not connected with any commercial or industrial undertaking and the residual properties not allotted **Abandoned property**

to any other Ministry [*vide* rule 6 of the Bangladesh Abandoned Property (Taking over Possession) Rules 19]. The abandoned property allotted to this Ministry are to be managed according to the provisions of the Bangladesh Abandoned Property (Land, Building and any other Property) Rules, 1972.

Abatement of legal proceedings

The Bangladesh (Legal Proceedings) (Third) Order, 1972 (P.O. No. 90 of 1972) was promulgated for the abatement of all legal proceedings the legality or validity of the State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950, or of any amendment thereto or of the acquisition of any property made under any provisions thereof. This was necessary for expediting the completion of the State Acquisition Operation in order to facilitate the implementation of the various land reform measures undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh.

Temporary restriction on transfer of immovable property

With a view to checking clandestine transfer of non-resident and abandoned immovable property and other *mala fide* transfer of such property, the Bangladesh Transfer of Immovable Property (Temporary Provisions) Order, 1972 (P.O. No. 142 of 1972) was promulgated. Under this order no document of transfer of immovable property can be submitted for registration unless it is accompanied by an affidavit affirming certain facts. Any wrong statement in such affidavit will make the transfer void and liable to be forfeited to the Government.

Abolition of the Board of Revenue and exclusion of the Divisional Commissioners from the field of Land Administration and Land Reforms

With a view to streamlining the administration relating to land and land reforms, the Bangladesh Laws (Repealing and Amending) Order, 1973 (P.O. No. 12 of 1973) was promulgated abolishing the Board of Revenue and excluding the Divisional Commissioners from the field of land administration and land reforms and transferring their functions in these respects to other agencies.

Management of Government Hat, and Bazars

(i) The *ejaradari* system of auction settlement of Government *hats* and bazars was abolished and their management was entrusted to non-official Committees according to the provisions of the Bangladesh Government *Hats* and Bazars (Management) Order, 1972 (P.O. No. 73 of 1972). This step was taken to introduce public participation in management of the *hats* and bazars, to save the sellers and buyers from illegal exactions and harassment by *ejaradars* and to quicken the development of the *hats* and bazars in a planned manner with the ultimate objective of helping the growth of new townships in rural areas and creating greater job opportunities for the local people thereby.

(ii) Government have also undertaken an ambitious scheme separately for the development of all the rural *hats* and bazars and during the year 1972-73 a total sum of Taka two crores and forty-three lakhs was distributed to different districts for the purpose. There is a provision for Taka three crores and twenty-five lakhs for the upkeep, maintenance and development of hats and bazars in the current year's budget and a sum of Taka eight lakhs has already been distributed for general upkeep and maintenance. The balance amount of the money will be allotted in due course.

The *ejaradari* system of auction settlement of Government fisheries also has been abolished in the interest of the fishermen, and it has been decided that, as a rule, Government fisheries should be settled with genuine Fishermen's Co-operative Societies. Auction settlement of fisheries is to be made only where a genuine Fishermen's Co-operative Society is not available for settlement. A new system of selecting genuine Fishermen's Co-operative Societies for such settlement and deciding any disputes or other questions arising out of such settlements through *Mahakuma* and *Zilla Jalmahal* Committees composed of officials and non-officials has also been introduced and elaborate instructions in this respect were issued in G.O. No. IM-373/73/1219(38)-J.M., dated 1-8-1973.

Management of
Government
fisheries

Besides land revenue there are other sources such as Hats and Bazar and Ferry Ghats which are leased every year. In this district there are 401 hats and bazars. In 1977 an amount of Tk. 21,83,857.00 was collected. There are 88 Jalmahals from which Tk. 2,13,598.00 was collected. There are also 100 ferry ghats leasing which Tk. 54,162.00 was earned in 1977.

Hats and Bazars
and Ferry Ghats
etc.

There are also 23 I. W. T. A. ghats. These ghats are located at Barisal, Jhalakati, Nalcity, Sawrupkati, Kawkhali, Inderhat, Hularhat, Banaripara, Chawdhurirhat, Muladi, Sreeramkati, Jugirkanda, Shaheberhat, Chakhar College ghat, Shekher hat, Nandirbazar, Chawkhigata, Rahimganj, Jululhar, Halta, Mirerhat, Bhandaria and Tushkhali. These ghats are leased by the Bakarganj Collectorate every year. The leasing started from 1967 and from that year till 1976 the demand of revenue amounted to Taka 1,89,850.00 and the collection was Taka 1,62,300.00.

I. WT. A. Ghats.

In the matter of settlement, the following decisions were taken:

Policy regarding
settlement of
agricultural land

- (i) The lands would be settled with *bona fide* agricultural families having no land or less than 1.50 acres of land according to a certain order of priority.

- (ii) Except in cases of cultivation on co-operative basis, the total quantity of land to be settled with a single family would be such as added to the total quantity of land held by it, if any, does and exceed 1·50 acres.
- (iii) The settlement would be made free of *salami* and rent but subject to the payment of the allied dues which used to be realised along with rent.
- (iv) Where compact blocks of more than 50 acres of land were available, settlement will be made subject to the condition that the settlement holders will form Co-operative Societies and will abide by the bye-laws of the Societies in all respects. In cases of cultivation on co-operative basis, an extra acre of land will be given to each family subject to payment of *salami* at the usual rate of 50% of the market value realisable not more than in ten annual instalments.
- (v) Where compact blocks of 500 acres or more are available, attempts will be made to establish clustered villages in such blocks for cultivation of the block lands on co-operative basis.
- (vi) Where regular settlement of land cannot be completed in time, the lands should be settled on *eksona* basis so that not an inch of land may lie fallow.

Present administrative set up of Revenue Administration.

For the convenience of Land Revenue Administration the district has been divided into 22 revenue circles with one Circle Officer (Revenue) in each. These circles are—(1) Kotwali, (2) Bakerganj (Kalashkati), (3) Wazirpur, (4) Babuganj, (5) Gournadi, (6) Muladi, (7) Hizla, (8) Mehendiganj, (9) Jhalakati, (10) Nalcity, (11) Pirojpur, (12) Amrajuri, (13) Banuripara, (14) Nazirpur, (15) Bhandaria, (16) Mathbaria, (17) Bhola, (18) Daulatkhan, (19) Borhanuddin, (20) Tazumuddin, (21) Lal-mohan and (22) Charfession.

Tahsils.

Under every Revenue circle there are a few Tahsil Offices depending upon the area and the volume of works. There are 101 Tahsil Offices in the district. These are : (1) Barisal (Municipality), (2) Chawdda Rashi, (3) Rupatali, (4) Charkawa, (5) Kaliganj, (6) Chandramohan (Kotwali circle) ; (7) Kazalkati, (8) Faridpur, (9) Hanua Lakshipasha, (10) Charamoddi, (11) Kalashkati, (12) Falaghar, (13) Chamta, (14) Padrishibpur, (15) Lakshmipasha, (16) Nalua, (Bakerganj circle), (17) Wazirpur, (18) Gutia, (19) Harta, (20) Dhamura, (21) Jahapur, (22) Deherghati, (23) Madhabpasha, (24) Rahmatpur (Wazirpur

circle), (25) Tarki Bandar, (26) Paysher hat, (27) Chadshi, (28) Nalchira (Wazirpur circle), (29) Tyka, (30) Nazirpur, (31) Khasherhat, (32) Harinathpur, (33) Kawria Bander, (34) Barajalia, (35) Babuganj (Hizla circle), (36) Lata Sonapur, (37) Biddaya Nandapur, (38) Patarhat, (39) Khantakhali (40) Legutia (Mehendiganj circle), (41) Gavaramchandrapur, (42) Navagram, (43) Jhalakati, (44) Gabkhan, (45) Saturia, (46) Kanudashkati, (47) Rajapur, (48) Baghri, (49) Amua, (50) Banai, (51) Jhawa Bunia, (Jhalakati circle), (52) Gopalpur, (53) Baraikaran, (54) Timirkati, (55) Nalcity, (56) Sujabad (Nalcity circle), (57) Kadamtala, (58) Daudpurhat, (59) Perojpur, (60) Parerhat, (61) Kalipara (Pirojpur circle), (62) Sohagdal, (63) Sawrupkati, (64) Jalabari, (65) Amrajuri, (66) Kawkhali (Amrajuri circle), (67) Banaripara, (68) Baishari (Banaripara circle), (69) Matibhanga, (70) Satkasima (Nazirpur circle), (71) Nadmulla, (72) Bhandaria, (73) Telihkali (Bhandaria circle), (74) Tushkhali, (75) Mirukhali, (76) Mathbaria, (77) Shapleza (Mathbaria circle), (78) Ilisha, (79) Dheukhali, (80) Bhola, (81) Alinagar, (82) Dighali, (Bhola circle), (83) Jaynagar, (84) Madna, (85) Modhupur, (86) Bhabanipur, (87) Daulatkhan, (88) Hajipur (Daulatkhan circle), (89) Batamara, (90) Kaliganj, (91) Kachia, (92) Shibpur, (93) Borhanuddin circle, (94) Bara Malanchora, (95) Chandpur, (96) Manpura (Tazumuddin circle), (97) Mrigel Sikder, (98) Debirchar, (99) Lalmohan (Lalmohan circle), (100) Charfassion, (101) Shashi Bhusan, (102) Dhularhat (Charfassion circle).

CHAPTER XII

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The area of the district which is now called Bakarganj was acquired in 1765 under the Dewani grant to the East India company sanctioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam. The district was included in Dacca-Jalalpur which comprised the present districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Bakarganj.¹ As early as 1781 a Civil Judge with magisterial powers was appointed with his seat at Baraikaran in thana Nalchiti. In 1784 the Commissioner of Sundarban joined at Baraikaran to suppress the dacoits. "Mr. Middleton is said to have removed the offices from Baraikaran (Baraikaran thana was latter move to Nalcity in 1824) to Bakarganj. Probably this was in 1792, when he was appointed Commissioner." ¹According to Mr. Beveridge, Collector and Magistrate of Bakarganj, the office of Commissioner of Bakarganj had at first only preventive powers, and did not acquire judicial powers until 1794. These seem to have been conferred by the repealed Regulation 9 of 1793. The same regulation (Sec. 40) made Bakarganj one of the stations of the Dacca Court of Circuit. The office of the Commissioner was abolished by Regulation 7 of 1797, which divided Dacca Jalalpur into two divisions—the northern to be denominated the Zila of Dacca—Jalalpur and the southern division the Zila of Bakarganj. ²The District of Bakarganj was created for magisterial purposes by the same Regulation in the same year. The district officers stayed in Dacca and rarely visited Bakarganj (Till the 8th of December 1817 when Mr. Hunter took independent charge as a Collector).

Creation of the district and the early jurisdiction

Section 1 of that Regulation states that one object of the Regulation was to provide for the more effectual administration of justice in the Sundarbans and the district adjacent, heretofore included in the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Bakerganj who was invested with the powers of a Magistrate, but was not authorized to exercise any civil jurisdiction. Mr. Middleton worked as a Commissioner for long eight years and in 1800 he was succeeded by Mr. Spedding. Mr. Spedding was again succeeded by Mr. Wintle who removed the offices to Barisal in 1801. The head quarters of the district of Bakerganj was at first at the town of Bakerganj, the junction of

¹ H. Beveridge, B. C. S. The District of Bakarganj its History and statistics. 1876. Reprints Published by Bakarganj District Council January, 1970. P. 286.

² Of Dacca—Jalalpur, Jalalpur Portion was the former name of Faridpur. The present villages of Nandapur, were Rupshi, Auliapur and Boaliarhat within the district

the Krishnokati and Khairabad rivers. It was on north Latitude $20^{\circ}32'45''$ and east Longitude $90^{\circ}23'10''$

The headquarters was situated on a small river called the Srimantapur khal. The place was not healthy or pleasant. It became worse in consequence of the formation of a char in front of the Kutcheries. Its advantage was that it was situated in a central place with a large market and was near the gola-bari, where the tahsildar of Buzurgumedpur had his Kutchery. Portuguese settlement of Sibpur (now called padrisibpur) was near to it. There was a jail higher up the khal on the bank of a small stream known as the Jail khana khal. There was a good deal of correspondence about the change of site. Mr. Middleton recommended Mohanganj, but eventually Barisal was fixed upon. A letter of Nizamat Adalat, dated 1st May 1801, directed the Magistrate to move to Barisal. The Dacca Court of Circuit also recommended for this place as Barisal was the healthiest and most conveniently situated town in the district.²

According to a letter of the Collector dated the 26th September 1800, the jurisdiction of the Judge and Magistrate comprised ten police circles (thanas) namely—Bauphal, khelakhali or Kaukhali (Shifted to Kotwali), Angaria, Tugra, Chandia or Sandwip, Bokainagar Nalchira, (Now in gaurnadi), Kachua, (Now in Bagerhat subdivision of Khulna) khalsakhali (now galachipa) and Baraikaran (Now Nalcity).

Early jurisdiction

The district included the Kachua (Now in Bagerhat Subdivision in Khulna district) thana west of the Baleswar river and the islands of Shahabazpur (Present Bhola subdivision) and Hatia (now in Noakhali district) in 1806. In the same year Gaurnadi thana with the eastern part of Madaripur Subdivision (of Faridpur district) was transferred to Bakerganj. In 1811 a portion of Hatia island was transferred to Chittagong. Pargana Idilpur which belonged to the jurisdiction of the city of Dacca, was transferred to Bakerganj in 1816. Owing to defective means of communication in large rivers these boundaries were found widely and the islands of Dakhin Shahabazpur and Hatia were transferred to Noakhali in 1822, although they still remained under the jurisdiction of the Judge of Bakerganj.

In 1861 the Baleswar or Haringhata river was made the western boundary and the whole of the police circle (thana)

¹ The jail Khana Khal with a bridge over it and the remnants of the gate of the jail still exist.

² H. Beveridge, B.C.S. the District of Bakerganj, its History and statistics 1876. Reprinted and Published in 1970 P. 288.

of Kachua was transferred to Jessore, and the villages east of the Madhumati, a local name for the Baleswar or Haringhata river in the upper portion of its course (i.e. north-west) in the district were transferred to Bakarganj. On the first of April, 1869 in accordance with the government notification Dakshin Shahbazpur and the adjacent Sandbanks (chars) and islands including Manpura which had been subject to the civil jurisdiction of the district were transferred to Bakarganj at the request of their inhabitants. But to prevent the district becoming unweildy by this addition, the northern parts consisting of the modern thanas of Palong, Madaripur and Kotwalipara were transferred to Faridpur in 1873 along with the sub-division of Madaripur.

The district was divided into five subdivision namely—Sadar, Dakshin Shahbazpur, Madripur, Prioypur and Patuakhali.

The subdivision at the headquarters at Barisal was established in May 1801. In 1870-71 at Sadar there were eight Magisterial and Revenue courts and a total police force of 385 officers and men. There were 2622 village watchmen. The headquarters comprised five police circles (thanas) namely—Barisal, Jhalalkhati, Nalchiti, Bakarganj and Mehndiganj. Subdivisional system

The island of Dakshin Shahbazpur was a subdivision of Bakerganj from the time when Bakerganj was created into a separate district. In 1822 the island was separated from the Bakerganj and was annexed to Noakhali. In 1869 it was retransferred to Bakarganj in accordance with a petition from the inhabitants of the island, who found the courts of Bakarganj nearer and readier of access than those of Noakhali. In 1870-71 there was one court, a regular police force of 750 officers and men, and 482 village watchmen. This subdivision comprised two police circles (thanas), Daulatkhan and Dhania Mania. The area of this subdivision was 818 square miles according to the census of 1892.

The subdivision of Madaripur in the northern part of the district, was created on the 17th of May 1845. At the end of 1870-71 it contained one Court, a regular police force of 72 officers and men, and 834 village watchmen. It comprised four police circles of Gaurnadi, Kotwalipara, Madaripur, and Mulfatganj. The area of this subdivision was 1,070 square miles according to the census of 1872.

The Pirozpur subdivision, in the east of Bakarganj, was created on the 28th October, 1859. In 1870-71 there was one court, a regular police force of the strength of 69 officers

and men, and 755 village watchmen. In Pirojpur there were three police circles of Kewari, Pirojpur, and Mathbaria. Two subdivisions of Madaripur and Pirojpur were originally established with the object of suppressing river robberies as the Kachua river was in former times notorious for such robberies. The whole extent of the country along this river was formerly unprotected, and hence great facilities were afforded to gangs of water-thieves. The establishment of subdivision at Pirojpur and afterwards another sub-division at Bagerhat (now in Khulna) in the district of Jessore had a very good effect in checking these river robberies.

A new subdivision, with its headquarters at Patuakhali or Laukati, was constituted on the 27th March, 1867 with the intention of bringing the distant southern tracts of the district within easy access and control. In this subdivision the police circles were Bauphal, Mirzaganj, Gulsakhali (present Amtali P.S.) and Khalsakhali (present Galachipa P. S.)¹.

Present Jurisdiction

For convenience of administration the head-quarters subdivision was divided into two subdivisions, namely, Sadar north and Sadar South subdivisions. In 1915 the district had five subdivisions—namely, Sadar south (492 sq. miles), Sadar north (679 sq. miles), Pirojpur 1,700 sq. miles), Patuakhali (1,356 sq. miles) and Bhola 813 sq. miles). At that time the total number of police stations was 34. The police stations distributed in different subdivisions were (1) Kotwali (2) Bakarganj, (3) Jhalakati, (4) Nalchiti, (5) Rajapur in Sadar south subdivision ; (6) Gournadi, (7) Babuganj, (8) Wajirpur, (9) Mehendiganj, (10) Muladi, (11) Hizla, in Sadar north subdivision ; (12) Pirojpur, (13) Kowkhali, (14) Nazirpur, (15) Swarupkati, (16) Banaripara, (17) Pathorghata, (18) Mathbaria, (19) Bamna, (20) Bhandaria, (21) Kathalia in Pirojpur Subdivision ; (22) Bhola, (23) Daulatkhan, (24) Borhanuddin, (25) Tazumuddin, (26) Lalmohan in Bhola subdivision ; (27) Patuakhali, (28) Bauphal, (29) Galachipa (30) Barguna, (31) Betagi, (32) Amtali, (33) Mirzaganj, and (34) Kalapara in Patuakhali subdivision.

Patuakhali subdivision was created an independent district

This subdivisional system with its distribution of the police stations continued without change till December 1968. With effect from 1st January, 1969 an independent district of Patuakhali was created taking the entire Patuakhali subdivision along with two thanas of Bamna and Patharghata from Pirojpur subdivision and the new district was included in Khulna Division.²

¹ W.W. Hunter, statistical Account of Bengal Vol V Dacca, Bakerganj, Faridpur and Mymensingh, (1875) P. 158.

² Patuakhali District was created by the government notification No. GAL-242/68-1815, dated the 7th December, 1968.

After the formation of Patuakhali district the arrangement of the remaining Subdivisions and the distribution of the police stations therein continued till the 1st July, 1971 when a new subdivision of Jhalakati was created and consequently changes in the distribution of the police stations also took place¹. From that date Sadar south subdivision included Kotwali, Bakerganj, Wazirpur, Babuganj and Sadar north subdivision included Gournadi, Muladi, Mehendiganj and Hizla. Bhola subdivision has been kept in tact as it was. Changes took place in Pirojpur subdivision which included Pirojpur, Nazirpur, Banaripara, Swarupkati, kawkhali, Bhandaria and Mathbaria. With the creation of the new subdivision of Jhalakati the police stations of Jhalakati, Rajapur, Nalchiti and Kathalia were included in it.

Creation of Jhalakati subdivision and the rearrangement in the jurisdiction

The district administration is headed by the Deputy Commissioner (known as the District Magistrate and Collector till 1960) under the Establishment Division, Ministry of Cabinet Affairs. The Deputy Commissioner combines in himself the functions of a District Magistrate and the Collector of land revenue. He is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. He is the Chairman of the *Zila Board* and Co-ordinator of all nation building departments in the district. He is assisted by five Additional Deputy Commissioners, of whom one is for general administration and helps the Deputy Commissioner in the administration of criminal law, one for revenue administration, one for literacy, one for project and the other for developmental works. The additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, exercises practically all the powers of the Deputy Commissioner in revenue matters except a few specific functions. Besides, there are 29 Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors who are assigned different duties by the Deputy Commissioner in the running of the district administration (1977).

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, Establishment Division

Present administration

There are five subdivisions in the district—namely-Sadar North, Sadar South, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola. Each subdivision is under the general control of a Subdivisional Officer who is also the Subdivisional Magistrate and who performs the criminal and revenue administration with the help of a few Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors. He looks after the over-all development of the subdivision. In Sadar South subdivision there are eight Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of whom 3 are with first class powers including the S.D.O. 2 with second class powers and 3 with third class

¹Jhalakati subdivision was created under Memo No. C SV PC-51/63-1027 (15), dated 15-12-1970.

powers. In North Subdivision there are 6 Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collectors of whom 3 are with first class powers including the S.D.O., 2 with third class powers and one remains as O.S.D. In Perojpur Subdivision there are 5 Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of whom 3 are with first class powers including the S.D.O. one is with second class powers and one remains as O.S.D. In Jhalakati subdivision there are 4 Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of whom 3 are with first class power including the S.D.O. and one with second class powers. In Bhola subdivision there are 5 Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of whom 4 are with first class powers including the S.D.O. and the other has no power. There is a Magistrate with first class powers who acts as the Treasury Officer. Besides there are 7 Deputy Magistrates of whom one acts as the Assistant Director, Rural Development, one acts as the Revenue Deputy Collector, one acts as Land Acquisition Officer, one as Special Land Acquisition Officer, and three as Additional Land Acquisition Officer.

There are one Administrative Officer and one Assistant Controller, Narcotics and Liquor. There are also Six Sub-divisional Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (S.D.R.R.O.), one in each subdivision with one extra at the district Headquarters.

After the creation of Patuakhali district on 1-1-1969 and the creation of a new Subdivision of Jhalakati on 1-7-1971 there are 26 thanas in the district. In eight of these thanas there are Circle Officers and in the remaining 18 thanas there are Circle Officers, Development, one in each thana who are responsible for works programme and other developmental activities within the jurisdiction of the thana.

In each thana there are several Union Parishads. The Union Parishad is the primary unit of Civil administration. In Bakarganj district there are 225 union Parishads. In each Union Parishad there is one Chairman elected by the people.

**Ministry of Law
and Parliamentary
Affairs
Administration of
Criminal Justice**

The offices of the District and Sessions Judge and of Election Officers are under the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs under Law Division. Criminal justice is administered by the District and Sessions Judge who is assisted by two Additional Sessions Judges and two Sub-Judges. There is a District Magistrate (who is the Deputy Commissioner) and 28 Magistrates of whom three are first class Magistrates including one Lawyer Magistrate and two second class and three third class Magistrates at Barisal Sadar South Subdivision; three first class Magistrates including one Lawyer Magistrate and two third class Magistrates and one act as O.S.D. at Sadar North subdivision;

three first class Magistrates and one second class at Jahalakati subdivision; three first class Magistrates including one Lawyer Magistrate and one second class Magistrate and one act as O.S.D. at Pirojpur and four first class Magistrates with one Magistrate without power at Bhola

After the promulgation of Pakistan Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1958 (Act XL of 1958) read with section 21, general clauses Act 1897, all session Judges, Additional Sessions Judges and Assistant Session Judges who have, for a period of not less than three years' experience, continuously or not, the powers under the code of criminal procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898) are appointed *ex-officio* Special Judges and in view of government notification No. 3498-J, dated the 24th October, 1958, all Sessions Judges are appointed Senior Special Judges in respect of their respective session divisions.

In 1970, 11,858 cases were instituted including 6,426 brought forward from 1969. Of these 10,814 cases were disposed of, 7,470 cases remained pending at the close of the year and 185 cases were committed to sessions. In 1971, 11,029 cases were instituted including 7,470 carried over from 1970. Of these cases 5,051 were disposed of, 5,974 cases remained pending at the close of the year and 31 cases were committed to Sessions.

The number of original criminal cases instituted in sessions court and decided in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1970 and 1971 are given below :

	1947		1957		1967		1970		1971	
	Cases insti- tuted.	Cases deci- ded.	Cases insti- tuted.	Cases deci- ded.	Cases insti- tuted.	Cases deci- ded.	Cases insti- tuted.	Cases deci- ded.	Cases insti- tuted.	Cases deci- ded.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sessions case ..	192	..	140	141	204	162	209	200	66	79
Criminal appeal ..	337	..	242	286	201	173	142	191	28	72
Criminal motion cases	203	..	240	215	307	239	205	167	55	140
Special cases ..	..	..	12	48	30	43	13	30	7	4
Criminal miscellaneous cases.	530	...	408	376	455	390	571	586	182	208

A death sentence was passed by the Additional Sessions Judge in 1971 but the Honourable High Court did not confirm it and it was converted into transportation for life.

Administration of Civil Justice

Administration of Civil Justice is headed by the District and Sessions Judge who is assisted by two Additional Sessions Judges, two Subordinate Judges, and eight Munsifs of whom three are at the Bakarganj district headquarters at Barisal, one at Jhalakati, two at Pirojpur and two at Bhola subdivisions. The civil cases instituted and decided in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1970 and 1971 are given below:

	1947		1957		1967		1970		1971	
	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Title suits (including mortgage suits).	2,599	..	7254	4990	3245	3294	3777	3366	1341	3071
Money suits	1231	...	869	820	299	294	185	225	62	135
S.C.C. suits	1736	..	1187	1231	40	65	24	22	11	24
Miscellaneous cases	4825	..	4597	3878	1959	1983	1730	1816	994	1464
Rent suits	32271	..	51	1702	..	6	...	2	...	1
Executive cases	24554	..	1851	2323	1390	1161	1030	1098	359	757
Regular appeal	552	..	375	317	274	241	228	217	80	109
Miscellaneous appeals	393	..	590	957	214	185	182	144	77	79

Parliamentary Affairs Division

Election Office

Under Parliamentary Affairs Division there are five election offices in the district. In 1967 Election Offices were established at the subdivisional headquarters of the district with one Election Officer in each. The functions of the Election Officers are to prepare and maintain correct electoral rolls (voter list). They act as Staff Officers, under the Subdivisional Officers who act as the Delimitation Officers under the electoral rolls order, 1972 for the revision of unitwise electoral rolls. At the time of election the Subdivisional Officers act as the Returning Officers and responsible for the maintenance of electoral rolls in safe custody for conducting of elections.

There are offices of district police, district Jail, Civil Defence and Fire Services belonging to their respective departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The police administration was reorganized in 1861 and in 1871 the regular police consisted of three European Officers, 102 subordinate officers, 478 foot constables with a river patrol of 5 boats manned by a crew of 35 men. The cost of police force in 1805 was Tk. 33,360. The total cost of the regular police force was Tk. 1,11,860 in 1871. The village watch in the same year consisted of 5,35 men and the expenditure over them was Tk. 1,84,860. In 1914 the cost of the regular police was Tk. 3,00,266 and of the village watch was Tk. 3,65,444. In 1911 the police force in the district consisted of one Superintendent, one Assistant Superintendent, two Deputy Superintendents, 7 Inspectors, 76 Sub-Inspectors, 79 Head constables and 627 Constables. The total force in that year was 794 as compared to 632 in 1902. The cost of maintaining police force in 1911 was Tk. 2,53,518 and there was one policemen for every 5,059 people. According to the last Gazetteer written by J.C. Jack in 1918 there were 182 foot Constables, and 48 police officers in the district in 1918. In the same year there was river patrol of 14 boats and 182 oarsmen. At present (1972) the police administration in the district is headed by a Superintendent of Police who is assisted by an Additional Superintendent of Police. There are three Deputy Superintendents of whom one is at the district headquarters, one is in charge of Reserve police force and the other is working as a Subdivisional Police Officer at Pirojpur. For police administration the district is divided into six police circles with one circle Inspector in each. Each circle is again divided into several Police stations under the charge of a Sub-Inspector assisted by one or more Sub-Inspectors, a few Assistant Sub-Inspectors and some police forces depending upon the size and population of the place. The police circles and the police stations with statistics of area and population according to 1974 census are as follows:

Subdivisions.	Police Circles.	Police stations.	Area in square miles.	Population (1974)
Sadar (South)	Sadar "A" Circle	1. Kotwali	113	2,70,080
		2. Bakerganj	156	2,64,674
		3. Babuganj	57	1,06,230
		4. Wazirpur	95	1,76,719
		5. Gaurnadi	116	2,49,869
		6. Hizla	177	1,31,932

Subdivisions.	Police Circles.	Police stations.	Area in square miles	Population (1974)
Sadar (North)	Sadar "B" circle	7. Mehandi-ganj.	135	2,05,963
		8. Muladi	101	1,31,015
		9. Jhalakati	75	1,55,266
Jhalakati	Jhalakati "C" circle	10. Nalchity	90	1,49,454
		11. Rajapur	63	1,05,682
		12. Kathalia	61	89,683
		13. Bhola	714	2,45,532
Bhola	Bhola circle	14. Borhanuddin	125	1,74,165
		15. Daulatkhan	116	1,19,747
		16. Lalmohan	262	1,65,733
		17. Charfesion	176	1,66,189
		18. Tazumuddin	129	71,229
		19. Manpura	..	17,173
		20. Banuripara	50	1,08,293
Pirojpur	Pirojpur circle	21. Kaukhali	31	57,152
		22. Nazirpur	87	1,29,43
		23. Pirojpur	102	1,74,019
Mathbaria	Mathbaria circle	24. Sawrupkati	71	1,62,730
		25. Mathbaria	138	1,11,826
		26. Bhandaria	63	1,88,567

There are eight town out-posts of which four are at Alekanda, Bagura Road, Steamerghat and Amanatganj under Kotwali police station in Barisal town and the remaining four are at Nalchity, Jhalokati, Bhola and Pirojpur under the respective thana headquarters.

Besides, there are two out-posts at Rahmatpur under Babuganj P.S. and Batajor under Gaurnadi P.S. There are four floating out-posts at Champta, Tushkhali, Parerhat, and Jhapur with four Assistant Sub-Inspectors in each. There are court police at Sadar, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola with two Inspectors, eight Sub-Inspectors, and six Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

There is a District Special Branch at the district headquarters with two Inspectors, Seven Sub-Inspectors and seven Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

At the district headquarters there is also a reserve office with four Sub-Inspectors and four Assistant Sub-Inspectors for training reserve post and thirteen sub-Inspectors for casualty reserve posts.

There is a Special Arm Force with one Inspector, and six Sub-Inspectors.

There is Rural Police manned by Chawkidar and Dafadar.¹ Rural Police In each village there is one chawkidar and in each Union Parishad there is one Dafadar. The Chawkidars and the Dafadars keep watch and try to prevent the commission of crime in their local areas. They help the local police in detecting and pursuing the criminals. They maintain the birth and death register and collect the union rates under the control of the local chairman of Union Parishad. The number of chawkidars in Sadar South is 441, Sadar north 379, Jhalakati 374, Pirojpur 555 and Bhola 399. The number of Dafadars in Sadar South is 70, Sadar north 73, Jhalakati 60, Pirojpur 89 and Bhola 51. A chawkidar attends the local police station once a week and a Dafadar once a fortnight. A chawkidar gets Tk. 20 a month and a Dafadar get Tk. 25 a month.

The incidence of crime in the district is partly due to Crime environmental influences as in the other adjoining districts. In 1781 the creation of the district was aimed at the suppression of the dacoits. Bakarganj is a riverine district and the profession of the people is mainly cultivation. The influence of physical features and the professional habits have an impact upon the commission of crimes. During and before the Company's administration the riverine areas were infested with portuguese pirates. The prevalence of river dacoity had been mentioned by the Jesuit missionaries in as early as 1600 A.D. There were slave markets at Sandwip and Chittagong and in these markets kidnapped boys and girls were sold. This river dacoity was prevalent in other districts also. Thus the Pabn

¹ Chawkidari system was introduced in the district in 1860.

district was created out of Mymensingh and Jessore to suppress the dacoits in the beel areas there. But these types of crimes gradually decreased. In 1850 there were 15 murders, 5 dacoits with murder and one affray with homicide. There were gangs of criminals and some of the gangs as that of Gagan Mian described by Mr. Beveridge was practically in a state of rebellion against the administration. In 1858, there were 32 cases of murder reported and in 1859, 25. In 1871 there were 28 dacoities and in 1872 there were 26 murders and 189 rioting with the loss of 12 lives.

The cases of murders were 41 in 1892, 75 in 1893, 82 in 1894 and 94 in 1895. From 1908 to 1914 there was an average of 40 murders in a year. Riotings were committed mainly over the disputed possession of lands, but now-a-days after the Estate Acquisition Act of 1950 the raiyats have got their right of possession and the number has reduced greatly. Dacoities in the rivers are generally committed over the *Mahajani Naukas* (Boats full of paddy or rice). The dacoits with spears, lances and big scythes come in a speeding boat called *Seep Nauka*. But these case have also significantly decreased. It can be said that these types of rioting over land dispute and river dacoity over merchant boats are rare happenings now-a-days. After the liberation of Bangladesh some bands of misguided unpatriotic young people got firearms in their possession and now they occasionally attack people in surprise raids and take to their heels with the booty. These, however, have been largely controlled. The crime figures of 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 (up to June) are given below:

Year	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	
Rioting	..	496	410	478	680	374	362	375	450
Coining	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Note Forgery	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dacoity	..	126	72	48	302	307	421	301	207
Robbery	..	96	69	30	156	148	194	150	116
Burglary	..	955	728	306	576	554	657	555	463
Theft	..	591	229	245	368	473	562	429	335
Cattle Lifting	..	35	45	10	13	..	..	..	..
Murder	..	73	81	95	422	133	195	144	90
Others	..	821	1192	324	894	637	693	665	637
Total	..	3196	2826	1497	1721	3,398	2,626	3,084	2,298

The District Anti-corruption office was started with the name of District Enforcement Branch in 1944. In 1957 it was renamed as District Anti-corruption Bureau. This office is headed by a District Anti-corruption Officer with the rank and status of a Deputy Superintendent of Police who is assisted by two Inspectors, seven Assistant Inspectors (of whom three are at the district headquarters and one in each of the four subdivisional headquarters). The function of this office is to investigate the anti-corruption cases and to hold enquiries into allegations of corruption against government officials, employees of autonomous bodies and members of the public. Anticorruption

In 1970 this office filed 99 cases of which 24 were against government officials (one against a gazetted officer and 23 against non-gazetted officials), 24 against the members of the union council, two against autonomous bodies, eight against other public servants and 41 against members of the public.

There is a first class district Jail at Barisal established in 1867. The area of the jail consists of 19 acres and 26 decimales of land. It is headed by a Superintendent who is assisted by one Jailor and three Deputy Jailors. There are six Head warders, 84 warders and two female warders. Inside the jail there is a hospital with two Sub-Assistant Surgeons and one compounder. The registered capacity of the jail is for 1032 prisoners. In 1970 the daily average prison population in the jail was 434.70 convicts, 665.81 undertrials, 8 criminal lunatics and .02 non-criminal lunatics. The daily average of all classes of prisoners in the same year was 1110.83. The jail building is very old and is in a dilapidated condition. There is a regular problem of accommodation in the jail. There are only 12 cells which are insufficient to accommodate all the dangerous and desperate criminals. Inside the jail there are small industries such as—weaving, tailoring, smithy, carpentry, coir rope making, mustard oil seed pressing, cricket mat making, duri making, bamboo and cane works etc. Convicts are given training in all these trades. There is a dairy inside the jail and the milk produced in this dairy was valued at Tk. 10,519.43 in 1970. This milk is distributed among the patients of the hospital. District Jail

There is a jail garden at Kashipur with an area of 9.04 acres which produced 1,492 maunds, 35 seers and 8 chatacks of vegetables in 1970. Besides, there are fruit trees within the jail campus. The Jail library has 1,500 books. There are facilities for games, such as Hadudu, Dariabandah, volleyball, etc.

There are three sub-jails at Pirojpur, Bhola and Jhalakati. The registered capacity of Pirojpur and Bhola is for 177 and

18 prisoners respectively. Jhalakati sub-jail was constructed in 1971. The daily average prisoners in Pirojpur and Bhola was 187.10 and 59.82 respectively in 1970.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence office is headed by the Deputy Commissioner (*ex-officio* Controller of Civil Defence) assisted by a Deputy Magistrate (*ex-officio* Deputy Controller of Civil Defence). But actually the organisation is managed by a Staff Officer. It is a voluntary organisation and the general public receive training in different services. The number of persons who received training in different services till 31-12-1971 was: Warden service 294, Casualty service 21, Rescue service 33, Stirrup-Pump-party 1216, Auxuliary fire service 18, and Basic General 6,408.

Ansars

Ansar organisation in the district was formed in 1948 under East Pakistan Ansars Act in the same year. It is headed by a District Adjutant of Ansars who is assisted by five subdivisional Adjutants of Ansars posted at Sadar South, Sadar North, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola Subdivision. There are 12 Assistants Adjutants of Ansars posted two at each subdivision with two more at Pirojpur. The Ansars works as a voluntary force who are called upon by the local administration at the time of emergencies. They work as militia and some times as auxiliary defence force. They are also called in by the local authority from time to time to help in development works. The main object of this organisation is to train up the able bodied youngmen in the use of arms and to inculcate the sense of unity, faith and discipline in them. In the district the Deputy Commissioner is the *ex-officio* Commandant of Ansars, the Superintendent of Police is the *ex-officio* Additional Commandant and the Subdivisional officers are the Deputy Commandants of Ansars.

Fire Service

In the district of Bakarganj there are four Second Class fire stations situated at Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, and Bhola with one station officer, two leaders, 16 firemen and four drivers in each. The number of fire calls and the extent of damage in these fire stations in 1970 are given below:

Names of stations.		Number of fire calls in 1970.	Extent of damage in 1970.
1.	Barisal	37	Rs. 26,072
2.	Jhalakati	9	260
3.	Pirojpur	5	50,880
4.	Bhola	15	37,000

Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reforms has under it the Land Revenue Offices under the Deputy Commissioner and the Registration Offices under the District Registrar. In Revenue Administration on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Revenue actually performs all the functions except in some specific cases.

Ministry of Land
Administration
and Land Re-
forms

The Subdivisional Officers in each subdivision are all in all in revenue matters within their respective jurisdictions. There is a subdivisional Manager in each subdivision who is in the subordinate charge of revenue matters in the S.D.O's Office. There is a surveyor attached to each of the offices of the Subdivisional Managers.

Under each Revenue Circle there are some *Tahsils* consisting of one or two Union Parishads. At the district headquarter there is a District Kanungo and in each Revenue Circle there is a Field Kanungo.

There are one general and one special Land Acquisition Offices in the district. In the general side there is a Land Acquisition Officer who is assisted by two Additional Land Acquisition Officers and two Kanungoes. At the special side there is a Land Acquisition Officer who is assisted by another Additional Land Acquisition Officer and two Kuanungoes. There are two Kuanungoes for Estate Acquisition works. Besides, there are 25 Surveyors under the Land Acquisition Offices. After the liberation of Bangladesh Government has adopted land reform policies which included the remission of tax over the cultivable land amounting up to 25 Bighas and the maximum selling of holding land by a person has been fixed to 100 bighas.

Land
Acquisition

Till August, 1971, the Deputy Commissioner or the Additional Deputy Commissioner was the *ex-officio* District Registrar under the power conferred by Section VI of Registration Act of 1908. In August, 1971, departmental officers were appointed as District Registrar. The District Registrar has to inspect all the subordinate offices once or twice in a year. The statutory duties of the Sub-Registrar as enjoined in the Registration Act are primarily to register documents of different nature relating to transfer of property, both compulsory and optional, movable and immovable, realizing stamp duty, Court fees and registration fees, etc. They scrutinise the documents before registration. In case of minority, idiocy and lunacy they are to exercise judicious consideration. There are 24 Sub-registry offices in the district each under the charge of a Sub-Registrar.

Registration

The following are the sub-ordinate offices with their income, expenditure and the number of documents registered in 1976.¹

Names of Registration offices	Date of establishment	Number of Documents Registered.	Total Income.	Total Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
1. Barisal Sadar Joint.	1793	17141	1,98,145·78	1,67,581·02
2. Rahmatpur	1-4-1896	6272	1,51,822·31	18,115·75
3. Bakerganj	1-4-1872	8514	2,11,474·31	20,536·96
4. Patarhat	1-3-1873	11529	2,39,199·09	21,508·27
5. Muladi	1-7-1920	11693	2,23,182·00	17,589·91
6. Gournadi	2-3-1874	8790	2,37,273·18	21,283·99
7. Jhalakati	1-4-1872	7651	2,39,960·07	26,678·75
8. Rajapur	1-4-1895	4233	87,445·62	13,627·62
9. Nalchity	1-4-1872	4064	1,01,602·00	18,987·39
10. Pirojpur	1-4-1865	10193	2,88,359·33	21,543·40
11. Kawkhali	1-4-1895	3427	1,03,914·25	21,199·82
12. Swarupkati	1-8-1873	9452	2,89,641·46	23,730·82
13. Nazirpur	8-2-1902	4280	83,332·75	19,368·32
14. Chakhar	1942	09562	2,59,850·02	25,850·55
15. Bhandaria	1-11-1892	6840	1,98,825·65	24,310·16
16. Kathalia	1924	3473	26,929·61	13,467·17
17. Mathbaria	1-8-1873	8734	2,55,110·75	19,362·50

¹By Government notification No 476-J3/ M-15-70, dated the 7th August, 1971 the previous Power of Section IV of Registration Act of 1908 was superseded. By another government notification No. 477-J3 M-13/70, dated the 7th August, 1971 departmental candidates were appointed as the District Registrar and by an individual notification No. 482-J3/IA-12/71, dated the 10th August, 1971, the District Sub-Registrar of Bakerganj, was appointed as the District Registrar.

Name of Registration offices	Date of establishment	Number of Documents Registered.	Total Income.	Total Expenditure.
18. Bhola	1876	14977	3,78,992.99	22,410.15
19. Radhaballab	1913	3153	75,369.11	10,166.21
20. Borhanuddin	1875	7614	1,71,868.06	19,518.61
21. Tazumuddin	1895	4457	1,16,714.65	12,236.10
22. Charfession	1-5-1951	8645	3,09,030.25	1,766.67
23. Lalmohan	9-2-1970	13440	4,89,115.00	21,050.51
24. Hizla	10-12-1975	46	Nil	Nil
25. Mirza Kalu	10-12-1975	79	Nil	Nil
Total	..	1,88,259	53,87,158.21	5,99,890.65

J.E. Webster has stated in his Noakhali District Gazetteer (1911) that the "Muhammadan Government levied a fee, known as *haldari*, varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 on all marriages, and in the case of a Muhammadan the ceremony had to be performed before the *kazi*, who exacted further fees, and the expense of marriage under these conditions had proved a very serious encouragement to celibacy. The Regulations of 1772 abolished all these fees and prohibited *kazis* from exacting any payment for officiating at a marriage except such as was offered voluntarily. Accordingly, though the appointment of *kazis* in towns and *parganas* continued to be made by Government, these Officers lost their position in the eyes of the people, and it became customary for marriages to be celebrated in the presence of any respectable Muhammadan, who chose to call himself *kazi*. In 1864 the appointment of *kazis* was discontinued but the need of some system of registry of Muhammadan marriages became more and more apparent; the well-to-do indeed often executed marriage deeds, which were registered in the offices of the Registrars of Assurances, but the bulk of the people took no such precaution, and the courts found the greatest difficulty in dealing with questions of disputed marriages of legitimacy. "Bengal Act I of 1876 passed to remedy this evil provides for the appointment of Registrars of Muhammadan marriages, and Act XII of 1880 provides for the appointment of *kazi*, though it imposes no obligation to have marriages performed by them. The Registrar is entitled to a fee of Re. 1

Registration of
Muslim Mar-
riage

for registration, and to receive any gratuity that may be offered him. A *Kazi's* fees for officiating at any ceremony are regulated purely by agreement."

Muslim Family
Law Ordinance
1961 (VIII of
1961)

According to the Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961 (VIII of 1961) the charimen of the Union Parishad have been given powers to issue licences to *Nikah* Registrars, only one Registrar for each Ward. All marriages are to be registered. During the subsistence of an existing marriage no man can contract another marriage without the previous permission in writing of the Arbitration council. The man must submit an application in the prescribed manner, along with fee, stating the reason for the proposed marriage, obtaining beforehand the consent of the existing wife. Any man intending to divorce his wife would have to pronounce *Talaq* giving the Union Parishad chairman intimation in writing of his having done so. Till 1961 the Muslim Marriage Registration Offices are: 1. Barisal Sha-
heberhat, 2. Kotwali ward, 3. School ward, 4. Bakerganj, 5. Wazirpur, 6. Babuganj in Sadar South subdivision; (7) Gaurnadi 8. Muladi, 9. Hizla, 10. Mahendiganj in Sadar North Subdivi-
sion; 11. Jhalakati, 12. Nalchity, 13. Rajapur, 14. Kathalia in Jhalakati Subdivision; 15. Pirojpur, 16. Nazirpur, 17. Banuri-
para, 18. Swarupkati, 19. Kawkhali, 20. Bhandaria, 21. Math-
baria, 22. Tushkhali at Pirojpur subdivision; 23. Bhola, 24. Bapta,
25. Tajumuddin, 26. Lalmohan, 27. Charfession, 28. Daulatkhan
and Borhanuddin in Bhola subdivision.

Ministry of Local
Government, Ru-
ral Development
and Co-opera-
tives

Local Govern-
ment and Rural
Development

This Ministry has the Departments of Local Government, Public Health Engineering and Co-operatives under its control. There is an Assistant Director for Local Government and Rural Development in the district. He is the Secretary of the Zilla Parishad and looks after all its activities under the supervisions of the Deputy Commissioner who is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Zilla Parishad. At the district level Public Health Engineering is headed by an Executive Engineer. He looks after the supply of drinking water by having deep tubewells sunk in the urban areas and shallow tubewells in the rural areas. The Barisal Municipal area was established in 1869. It installed tubewells with handpump to procure drinking water. The people under this Municipality would formerly use the water from the Bibir Pukur for drinking purposes. In 1912 a slow sand filtration tank with a capacity of 50,000 gallons of water was constructed at Amanatganj within the Barisal Municipal area. This filtration plant is still in operation. The plant has two filter beds and two settling tanks. The filtering process includes taking of raw water to the settling tanks from the nearby river and its passage through the filter bed. From the

filter bed it is passed on to coloration tank and then pumped out to the overhead tank. The overhead tank was built in 1932. The Public Health Engineering has installed five big tubewells of six inches diameter with the average depth of 1,000 feet within the Barisal municipal area. They have also installed a big tubewell of the same size at Pratappur in the Residential Model School. In Bhola town a tubewell of 1½ diameter with the depth of 800 feet has been sunk. The responsibility of rural water supply was entrusted to the Zilla Parishad. Bhola town was swept away by tidal bore in 1941. The district Board then sunk shallow tubewells there. For better management the job of supplying drinking water was handed over to Public Health Engineering in 1946 and during that year a scheme was taken up to repair all the old tubewells. At that time a District Supervisor was posted at the district headquarters and in each subdivision there was a Sub-overseer. In 1962 an Assistant Engineer was posted to each Subdivision and in 1972 after liberation of Bangladesh, an Executive Engineer was posted at the district headquarters. At present there are five Assistant Engineers, one in each subdivision.

Public Health
Engineering

The figures for tube-wells up to 1-2-1972 are given below thanawise :

Name of Subdivision.	Name of Thanas.	Number of existing tubewells up-to 1-2-1972.	Number of new sinking in 1972.	Number of re-sinking 1972.
Sadar North Subdivision ..	Gaurnadi ..	778	480	400
	Muladi ..	430	255	200
	Hizla ..	474	210	155
	Mehendiganj ..	593	365	255
	Kotwali ..	612	210	208
	Bakerganj ..	760	525	236
Sadar South Subdivision ..	Wazirpur ..	519	325	192
	Babuganj ..	320	210	144
Pirojpur Subdivision.	Pirojpur ..	619	190	400
	Nazirpur ..	434	258	245
	Banuripara ..	351	197	200
	Swarupkati ..	537	292	310
	Kawkhali ..	261	82	180
	Bhandaria ..	182	341	130
	Mathbaria ..	192	430	150

Names of Subdivision.	Name of Thanas.	Number of existing tubewells up to 1-2-1972.	Number of new sinking in 1972.	Number of re-sinking 1972.
Jhalakati Subdivision.	Jhalakati	515	219	200
	Rajapur	293	238	200
	Nalchity	457	256	210
	Kathalia	118	247	80
	Bhola	633	..	142
Bhola Subdivision.	Daulatkhan	493	..	75
	Borhanuddin	497	..	85
	Tazumuddin	336	..	45
	Lalmohan	504	..	160
	Charfession	644	..	203

Co-operatives

An office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies was established in 1938. The functions of the Assistant Registrar are the acceleration of the Co-operative movement, the audit of the Co-operative Societies and land mortgage Banks. The Assistant Registrar is assisted by two District Auditors, of whom one is in charge of the general administration and the other is in charge of credit and marketing. There are five Subdivisional Co-operative officers, one in each subdivision. There is one Inspector attached to the district headquarters. There are 25 Thana Co-operative Officers, one in each thana, except Manpura.

There are five Inspectors for credit and marketing. One of them acts as the Executive Officer of Land-mortgage Bank. There are six Inspectors for Fisheries Co-operatives. For Weaver's Co-operatives there are three Inspectors of whom one is for Industries (general), one for Industries (audit) and one for Handloom. There is one Field Investigator attached to the district head-quarters for compilation of annual statements and collection of data for assessing national income.

For the training of the member of the Co-operative Societies there are three Instructors and three Assistant Instructors.

Ministry of Finance

The offices under the National Board of Revenue, in the Ministry of Finance are Narcotics and liquor, Taxation, Income Tax, Customs and Excise, Postal Life

Insurance, National Savings, House Building Finance Corporation and Agricultural Development Bank: 1

Narcotics and Liquor (former Provincial Excise) has an Assistant Controller who is under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner. There are four Sub-Inspectors, one each for three circles at Pirojpur, Bhola and Barisal, and one is in charge of ware-house.

The quantity of consumption of different types of narcotics and Liquor and the revenue earned therefrom in 1976-77 are shown below :

Name of Article.	Quantity of Consumption.	Amount of Revenue earned.	Remarks.
		Tk.	
1. Country Spirit	852.0 L. P. Gallon.	45,865.00	..
2. Foreign Liquor	..	..	There is no Foreign Liquor shop in Bakerganj District.
3. Ganja	330 Seers.	87,552.00	
4. Opium	3 Seers.	3,237.00	
5. Bhang	5 Seers.	132.00	
6. Toddy	..	6,670.00	Shop Licence fee.
7. Other sources	..	6,715.00	
Total ..		1,47,171.00	

Taxation office under the name of Agriculture Income Tax Taxation office was established in February, 1946. It was under the Commissioner of Agricultural Income Tax whose office had been set up in 1944 at Calcutta. After partition in 1947, its head-quarters was established at Dacca. In 1963 its name was changed into Taxation Office and it was placed under the Directorate of Taxation and Excise. The office is headed by a Taxation Officer assisted by one Inspector, responsible for

¹* The former Directorate of Taxation and Excise (Excise) has been renamed as the Department of Narcotics and Liquor with effect from first July, 1977 vide notification C No. 1(3) Admn. IV/7(7), dated 22-4-1977.

assessment and realization of taxes. The different sources of revenue and the amount of money realized in 1970-71 are given below¹ :

	1969-70.	1970-71.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. IV-P (Agricultural Income-Tax)"	2,98,306	76,837
2. XIII-Other Taxes and Duties (P)"	..	..
(a) Cinema Slides	623.64	309
(b) Jute Tax	Nil.	Nil.
(c) Toll on vessel plying on inland water	1,32,500	..
(d) Toll on fare and freights on traffic by inland vessels	31,119	26,664
(e) Urban immovable Property Tax	10,752	4,929
(f) East Bengal Finance Tax 1950 as adopted in Bangladesh	45,870.32	21,344
(g) Capital gains Tax	130	9,705
(h) Hotel Tax	Nil.	6,461
(i) Toll on goods carried by road (Toll on truck) ..	3,619	1,385
(j) Electricity duty (Take up by Taxation Office in 1970) ..	..	37,795

Income Tax

There is a circle office of income Tax at Barisal with jurisdiction over Bakerganj and Patuakhali districts. This circle office has got two sections, namely, section I and section II. Each section is under the charge of an Income Tax Officer. Section I has the jurisdiction over Sadar south subdivision except Bakerganj Police Station, and the entire Patuakhali district except Barguna. Section II has the jurisdiction over Sadar north, Pirojpur, Bhola Subdivisions including Bamna thana of Patuakhali district. The Barisal town except Bazar road, Hatkhola, Amanatganj and the western side of Sadar road up to Natullahbad bridge is under the jurisdiction of section II and the rest belongs to section I.

According to the last District gazetteer of the district (1910-11) the realizations were Tk. 89,769 from 1,454 assesses including, trade, especially money-lending and renting of houses. Practically the same amount was realized in 1902-03 from 3,070 assesses, when the minimum income assessed was raised from Tk. 500 to Tk.1,000.

The revenue now comes mainly from business (motor launch plying, brick manufacturing and constructional contract work etc., salaries from non-government employees of different organizations and from house property income. It may be mentioned here that the minimum taxable income was raised to annual income of Tk. 12,000 from the assessment year 1979-80. The different sources of revenue

¹Taxation Office was Separated from the Directorate of Taxation and Excise in 1976 and Tagged with the Income Tax Department.

and the revenue coming therefrom in 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 were as follows :

	1968-69.	1969-70.	1970-71.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Corporation Tax	834	4,800	4,452
2. Super Tax	1,84,029	1,57,720	90,177
3. Income Tax	9,46,722	8,58,288	5,01,392

After partition in 1947 two Circle offices (East circle and Customs West circle) of Central Excise and Land Customs were established in Barisal with—one Superintendent for each. In 1966 after the abolition of duty on betel-nut both these circles were merged into one. After liberation of Bangladesh in December 1971 this department has been named as Customs and Excise. This Circle is now headed by one Superintendent with the jurisdiction over Bakerganj and Patuakhali districts. The Superintendent is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents posted one at Barisal and the other at Jhalakati. Even after liberation there were 33 Inspectors but after the abolition of salt tax their number has been reduced to 22.

There are eight range offices with one Inspector for each. These ranges are—1. Barisal, 2. Jhalakati, 3. Gournadi, 4. Bhola, 5. Pirojpur, 6. Bhandaria in Bakerganj district and 7. Patuakhali, 8. Borguna in Patuakhali district. There are four preventive units with one Inspector for each. These units are at 1. Barisal, 2. Bhola, 3. Jhalakati, 4. Pirojpur and (Patuakhali). There are three Inspectors stationed one each at Standard Tobacco Factory, Textile facility centre, Barisal and Khepupara Match factory (Patuakhali). There are two Land Customs-stations at Barisal with one Inspector for each. Besides, there are five ware houses with one Inspector for each. These are at 1. Jhalakati, 2. Barisal, 3. Pirojpur, 4. Gournadi, and 5. Bhola. The functions of the offices are the realization of taxes on tobacco, match and cigarette and collection of revenue from the textile facility centre on the basis of looms. The total amount of revenue on excise only collected from different sources from June 1968 to June 1971 are given below yearwise.

	Rs.
1968-69	25,81,000
1969-70	30,65,900
1970-71	26,98,500

The duty on salt earned about 50 per cent. of the total revenue but after the liberation this duty was abolished.

Postal Life Insurance

An office of Postal Life Insurance was established at Barisal under an Inspector in 1963 with jurisdiction over Bakerganj and Faridpur districts. In 1968 an Assistant Superintendent was posted there. In 1969 an Assistant Director was posted at Barisal. This office was under the Post Master General under the former Central Ministry of Communication. After liberation of Bangladesh it has been placed under the Ministry of Finance. At present (1972) the Assistant Director is assisted by one Assistant Superintendent and three Inspectors posted at Barisal, Faridpur and Patuakhali. There is also one Town Inspector at Barisal. The main objective of Postal Life Insurance was to help the low paid postal employees. Subsequently this facility was extended to other Government employees also. In 1952 a fact finding committee decided to extend these facilities to the general public who have regular source of income. Till June 1972 there were 20,000 Policy holders in Bakerganj district.

National Savings

National Savings office was started with one District Savings Officer in 1952. In 1970 District Savings Officer was replaced by a National Savings Officer. In the same year an Assistant Director, National Savings was posted at Barisal. The function of this office is to popularize National Savings scheme through the media of publicity and savings drives. The different schemes and the revenue earned therefrom for 1970-71 and 1972 (up to June) are given below:

		1970-71	1971-72 (upto June, 1972)
		Tk.	Tk.
1. Savings certificates	..	4,85,605	2,82,735
2. Post office saving bank	..		
(a) Fixed deposit	..	13,14,750	1,99,300
(b) Ordinary deposit	..	55,15,49,154	80,60,003/35
3. Profit-cum-Bonus scheme	..	15,25,450	11,080
4. Prize bond	..	2,98,475	26,610
5. Postal Life Insurance (premium) (with 434 policies).	40,17,49/34	3,51,686/65 (with 176 policies)	

A Sub-Regional office was established in 1965 under an Assistant Regional officer. This office advances house building loan on easy instalments in the Municipal areas. Since inception this office sanctioned loans of Tk. 29,99,000 out of which Tk. 2,70,000 has been realised. The number of parties who received loans up to 1972 were 155. The rate of interest is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent below Rs.20,000 and 8 per cent above Rs. 20,000.

House Building
Finance Corpo-
ration

There is a Regional office at Barisal with the jurisdiction over Bakerganj, Patuakhali and Faridpur. This office was established in 1971 and is headed by a chief Manager assisted by one Assistant Manager. Under this Regional office there are four Branch offices, one each at Barisal Sadar, Pirojpur, Bhola and Lalmohon. These offices advance agriculture loans either in cash or kind on short term, medium term and long term basis to the agriculturists.

Agricultural
Development
Bank.

Under the Ministry of Health and Family Planning there are offices of Civil Surgeon, Chief Medical Officer and District Family Planning Officer.

Ministry of
Health and Fa-
mily planning.

The Civil Surgeon supervises the different medical institutions and hospitals such as the Lady Health Visitors Training Institute, Red Cross Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Police hospital and the District Jail hospital. The Sadar hospital which was previously under the administrative control of the Civil Surgeon acting as the Superintendent of the hospital has now been placed under the Principal, Barisal Medical College since 1-7-1971¹. In 1967 the Sadar Hospital was modernized. Since then it has been known as the Modernized Sadar hospital. The Principal acts as a Superintendent and performs only supervisory functions. This hospitals is actually under the charge of a Senior Consultant who is assisted by two Junior Consultants, one Pathologist, one Radiologist, two Medical Officers, one X-ray technician, one Assistant Matrons, four Sister Tutors and 21 Staff Nurses.

Under the Contral of the Civil Surgeon there is a Lady Health Visitor Training Centre at Barisal, established in 1966. The functions of this training centre are the imparting of training and practical demonstration to the Lady Health visitor trainees, Dai trainees, treatment of outdoor patients in respect of maternity and Child welfare, undertaking home visits for antinatal mothers and to conduct their delivery. The training is conducted by a Medical Officer with six Instructors and one House Keeper. There are also three Lady Assistant Surgeons, two Sister Tutors and three Lady Health visitors.

¹Barisal Sadar Hospital was provincialized by the government of Bengal vide g.o. No. 607(26) Medl. dated the 4th April, 1944.

The preventive side of former Health Services was under the charge of a District Health Officer under the control of the then District Board. Since 1-10-1949 a District Medical Officer was appointed under the Directorate of Health Services. The District Health Officer was replaced by a Chief Medical Officer on April, 5, 1958. Under the Chief Medical Officer there are two Subdivisional Medical Hospitals one each at Bhola and Pirojpur under a Subdivisional Medical Officer and two Sub-Assistant Surgeons in each. Under the Chief Medical Officer there are four Subdivisional Medical Officers of Health posted at Barisal Sadar, Pirojpur, Jhalakati and Bhola. There are 14 Government Thana Dispensaries with one Medical Officer and one Compounder in each. These dispensaries are located at 1. Rajapur, 2. Jhalakati, 3. Ujirpur, 4. Mahendiganj (Paterhat), 5. Hizla, 6. Gournadi, 7. Lalmohan, 8. Tajumuddin, 9. Borhanuddin, 10. Mathbaria, 11. Bhandaria, 12. Kathalia, 13. Kawkhali and 14. Banuripara. There are 19 Rural dispensaries with one Medical Officer and one medicine carrier. These Rural dispensaries are located at 1. Nalcity, 2. Saistabad, 3. Masang, 4. Mehendiganj, 5. Agarpur, 6. Catlahat, 7. Salimabad, 8. Nalchira, 9. Langutiahhat, 10. Nalcity, 11. Bhashanchar, 12. Lakshmipasha, 13. Matibanga, 14. Chakhar, 15. Tusukhali, 16. Charpankhirhat, 17. Char lord Hagler, 18. Swanganj and 19. Manpura. There are 9 Rural Health Centres with one Assistant Surgeon, one Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon, one Lady Health visitor, one Sanitary Inspector-cum-Malaria Inspector, one Laboratory Technician, one Midwife and one Health Assistant. The Rural Health centres are at 1. Shawrupkati, 2. Nazirpur, 3. Kritipasha, 4. Amua, 5. Bakarganj, 6. Muladi, 7. Baherchar, 8. Charfession and 9. Daulat Khan. In each Rural Health Centre there are three Sub-Centres under it, located within a radius of three to five miles. Each sub centre has one compounder, one Trained Nurse and one Health Assistant.

There is a twenty bed T.B. Segregated hospital at Sadar with one Assistant Surgeon, two Sub-Assistant Surgeons and a Technician. There are three T.B. Clinics at Pirojpur, Bhola and Barisal Sadar with one Assistant Surgeon, one X-Ray Technician, one B.C.G. Technician etc.

There are 24 Sanitary Inspectors one in each thana and one Health Assistant in each Union for inoculation and vaccination. There are five Maternity and Child-Welfare Centre of which three are located at Tikikata (Mathbaria P.S.), North Bijoypur (Gournadi P.S.), Lalmohan (Lalmohan P.S.), managed by Government with one Lady Health visitor and two Daies,

and the other two are at Pirojpur and Bhola, managed by a local Managing Committee for each. In these centres one Lady Health visitor is provided by the Government.

There is a Mobile Medical unit with one Medical Officer and nine Health Assistants and one Medicine Carrier.

There is a B.C.G. Team with one Medical Officer and 12 B.C.G. Technicians. The team has a motor launch to enable it to work effectively in the riverine areas.

There is a School Health Clinic at the district head quarters staffed by a Sub-Assistant Surgeon called School Medical Officer and one Compounder for investigating into the health of school children and Supplying them with medicines and spectacles free of cost.

A Health Education office was established in 1964-65 under a District Health Education Officer for educating the general masses about health and a sanitation. There is a projector with one Operator for holding documentary film shows on health education in public places and educational institutions.

Malaria Eradication has three Zonal offices in Barisal under the Regional office, Comilla. The Zonal offices were established in 1968. These zones were—zone no. 20, comprising Sadar North and Bhola Subdivisions, Zone no. 21 comprising Pirojpur and Jhalakati subdivisions and Zone no-22 comprising Sadar South Subdivision and the Patuakhali district. In each Zone there was a District Malaria Eradication Officer who was assisted by one Administrative Officer, one Malaria Superintendent, one Evaluator/Assistant Entomologist and one Health Educator. The Programme of each zone was for seven years. In the first year a base line survey was conducted to determine the malaria area by Geographical reconnaissance i.e., by mapping and preparing census of population etc. In the next three years remedial measures were initiated by house-to-house spraying of insecticide and primary work for case detection and treatment. Next three years was consolidation phase for case detection and medical treatment. In these zones the maximum detected cases belonged to plase *Media vivax*. Malaria Eradication was merged with the Health Directorate in 1977.

Malaria Eradication

The Family Planning office was established under the Family Planning Board in 1966 with a District Family Planning Officer. The District Family Planning Officer is now assisted by one Technical Officer, one Medical Officer and one Counsellor. Besides, there is one Thana Family Planning Officer and one Lady family planning visitor in each

Family Planning

thana. The functions of the family planning officers in the district are to motivate the general mass with the knowledge of family planning programme and rendering services to every person. Its objectives are to reduce the birth rate from 50 to 30 per thousand, to avoid imbalance in age structure of population, to obtain sufficiency in food and to maintain a planned increased in per capita income.

There is a Family Planning Clinic in each thana and there is one urban clinic at Barisal town. An account of their work from 1966 to 1972 is given below:

Different types of activities.		Number of cases.
1. I.U.D. insertions	..	186,260
2. Vasectomy operations	..	102,175
3. Tube ligation	..	59
4. Condom sold	..	861848½ Dozen.
5. Durafoam	..	22473. bottles.
6. Emko	..	66936 vials.
7. Oral Pills	..	9248 packets.

**Ministry of Food
and Civil supplies**

There are offices under the Department of Procurement and Distribution, Department of Inspection and Control, and the Department of Movement and Storage.

An office of the Regional Controller of Procurement and Distribution was established in 1943. In 1956 after the amalgamation of Civil Supply Department with Food Department an office of the Regional Controller of Food, Khulna was located at Barisal with jurisdiction over Khulna Division¹. At present this Regional office is under the Department of Procurement and Distribution headed by a Regional Controller assisted by a Deputy Regional Controller with the functions of supervision and control over the district offices including storage and movement offices.

Under the same department there is one District Controller who is assisted by one Subdivisional Controller and one Chief Inspector in each Subdivision and one Inspector in each thana.

¹Districts under Khulna Division - Khulna, Jessore, Bakerganj, Patuakhali, Kushtia.

There are 23 Local supply depots in different places of the district. These depots vary in importance and size. Where the transaction of food grains is up to 25,000 maunds, one Store-keeper with the rank of a Sub-Inspector remains in charge and where the transaction exceeds that amount an Inspector remains in-charge. The places of local supply depots with the officers in-charge are given below:

Subdivisions.	Places of Local Supply Depots.	Officer-in-charge, Local Supply Depots.
Sadar	1. Barisal Sadar	Inspectors .. Store-keeper.
	2. Gournadi	Inspector .. Do.
	3. Muladi	Do. .. Do.
	4. Kalashkati	Do. .. Do.
Jhalakati	5. Jhalakati	Do. ..
	6. Amua	Do.
Pirojpur	7. Pirojpur	Do.
	8. Kawkhali	Do. ..
	9. Bhandaria	Do.
	10. Inderhat	Do.
	11. Sreeram kati	Do.
	12. Tushkhali	Do.
	13. Bhola	Do.
Bhola	14. Lalmohan	Do.
	15. Borhanuddin	Do.
	16. Charfession	Do.
	17. Char Shashibusion	Do.

In November, 1970 a devastating cyclone swept away about three lakhs of people and made several lacks homeless in the Bhola Subdivison. There was a serious crisis of food. To meet the food shortage temporary Supply Depots were established for emergency work at some place in Bhola. Of these temporary supply depots 1. Borhanuddin, 2. Nazirpur are under an Inspector in each and 3. Radhaballab, 4. Hazirhat, 5. Kukrimukri and 6. Shoshibhusion are under a Store-keeper in each.

Under the Department of Inspection and Control there is a Chief Inspector who is assisted by two Inspectors, one Chief Inspector and one Operator at Bakerganj district headquarters. In Bhola and Lalmohan there are one Inspector and

one Operator at each place. In Periojpur there is one Operator. The function of this department is the Controlling of pests by the use of insecticide in the food godowns and to examine the quality of food grains coming from abroad at sea port.

Under the Department of Movement and Storage there is one Central Supply depot at Barisal town with one Storage and Movement Officer assisted by a Chief Inspector, four Inspectors and 17 Sub-Inspectors.

Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports.

Under this Ministry there are offices of Deputy Director, Public Instruction and District Education officer. A Range office at Barisal was established in 1939. It was headed by an Inspector of Schools, Bakerganj Range, With the jurisdiction over Bakerganj (including Patuakhali) and Faridpur districts. On the 16th of October, 1961 the Range office was abolished and an office of the Deputy Director, Public Instruction was created with the jurisdictions over the districts of Khulna Division. The Deputy Director, Public Instruction is assisted by a Divisional Inspector, a Divisional Inspectress, an Assistant Inspector, an Assistant Inspectress and two Deputy Assistant Inspectors. The main function of this office is the administration and control of the Secondary schools under Khulna Division. This office gives recognition to secondary schools under Jeassore Board; conducts the P.T.I. examination, Junior and primary scholarship examinations etc. The District Education Officer is responsible for the upliftment of primary education, Madrassa Education Secondary Education within the district. There is also one District Inspector of Schools who is the chief executive officer for primary education and responsible for inspection and development of primary education. There are four Subdivisional Education Officers one in each Sub-division namely-Sadar, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola. There is one Thana Education Officer in each thana except at Hizla which is under the charge of the T.E.O., Muladi.

There are eight Assistant thana Education Officers posted at Bakerganj, Mehendiganj, Jhalakati, Nalcity, Bhandaria, Mathbaria, Babuganj and Banuripara. Besides, there are fourteen Assistants to thana Education Officers. They are posted at Kotwali, Wazirpur Gauradi, Hizla, Bhola, Tajumuddin, Lalmohan, Charfesion, Daulatkhan, Rajapur, Kathalia, Pirojpur, Nazirpur and Swarupkati. There is a District Organizer of Physical Education, working under the supervision of the District Education Officer for inspections in connections with physical education in the High Schools and Junior High schools, and for conducting Inter-school sports organizing scouting; supervising

Bangladesh Cadet corps in Colleges and Junior Cadet Corps in High schools etc.

In 1944 an office of the District Publicity Organizer was established in the district under the Directorate of Public Information of the then Government of Bengal. It was then headed by a District Publicity Organizer (D.P.O.) with subdivis-
 Ministry of In-
 formation and
 Broad Casting

ional Publicity Organizers in each subdivision. In 1958 the designation of District Publicity organizer was changed into District Public Relations Officer (D.P.R.O.). At present there is one District Public Relations officer who is assisted by five Subdivisional Public Relation Officers (S.D.P.R.O.).

Before the establishment of this Department in 1944 there was a National Welfare Unit comprising a cinema section and a medical section which were subsequently merged with District publicity organization just before partition in 1947. This unit visited the rural areas and organized film shows on educative values. The Medical Officer attached to it attended to patients and distributed medicine among the people free of cost with the help of a compounder. This unit moved from place to place. After merging with the District publicity organization one publicity van was provided and the medical section continued till it was disbanded in 1954. The present functions of this office are to educate the general mass on various development works of government through oral publicity delivering speeches; literary publicity by distributing leaflets and audiovisual publicity by showing documentary films in urban and rural areas. This office also covers the V.I.P. tour programmes and sends local news to Radio Bangladesh. There are five mobile units with one cine operator and Assistant Operator for holding documentary film shows in each subdivision. This office sends press reports to Government about development work and matters of public interest.

There are four Information Centres, one at the district headquarters and three at other Subdivisional head-quarters.
 Information
 Centres.

Each Centre has a Library and a Reading room.

There are offices of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. There was only one Directorate of Agriculture which was represented in the district by a District Agricultural Officer but since the second March 1970 the Directorate was divided into Extension and Management Directorate and Research and Education
 Ministry of
 Agriculture

Directorate.¹ In June 1972 the Directorates were re-named as Departments. On the Extension and Management side there is a District Agriculture Officer who is assisted by six Sub-divisional Agricultural Officers of whom five are posted in five Sub-divisions and one extra at the district head-quarters. There are 28 thana Agricultural Strengthening Officers and 211 Union Assistants. For Agricultural Strengthening there are 31 more Union Assistants with four thana Agricultural Officers. Under the District Agricultural Officer there is one Statistical section and one Plant protection section. The statistical section collects statistics regarding crops and land utilization. This section has one Assistant Statistical Officer assisted by one Statistical Inspector, one Computer, eleven Thana Investigators and eleven Chainmen. The plant protection section is run by one Inspector, one Assistant Inspector, 25 Plant Protection Assistants, 25 Spray Mechanics, 64 Mukaddames, one Fitter and one Fitter-cum-Driver.

For the Publicity of agricultural activities there is an Information Service with one Audivisional Operator attached to the office of the District Agricultural Officer. There are two Agriculture Information Centre Organizers of whom one is attached to the office of the Subdivisional Agricultural Officer at the District Head quarters and the other is at Bhola. The Department of Research and Education has a Soil Fertility assistant with 8 Fieldmen. The function of this department is to test the productivity of the soil and to hand over the result to the Department of Extension and Management.

Under the Department of Education and Research there is a Coconut Research Station at Rahamatpur comprising 210 acres of land. This Research station has four schemes, namely, Coconut Research schemes to evolve suitable variety of coconut for coconut copra in Bangladesh ; Coconut Betelnut Amalgamated Scheme for the development of Coconut Betelnut ; Plant Introduction Scheme for introducing new variety of fruit plants and a Zonal station for Sugar-cane Research under the Sugar cane Research Station at Iswardi. The Coconut Research scheme is under a Coconut Research Officer with two Research Assistants and two Field Assistants. The Coconut Betelnut Amalgamated Scheme is under an Assistant Coconut Development Officer with one Horticultural Assistant, two Field Assistants and one Field man. The Plant Introduction scheme is under the supervision of a

¹On 2-3-70 Under the government notification No. Agri/4A-8068- Rant 1/303 the Directorate of Agriculture was divided into the (1) Directorate of Extension and Management and (2) Directorate of Research and Education.

Research Assistant and Sugarcane schemes is under the charge of the Coconut Research Officer. These schemes envisage production of best variety of seedlings and their distribution among the growers.

The Agricultural Marketing Department has a District Agricultural Marketing Officer who is assisted by 3 Subdivisional Market Investigators posted at Barisal sadar, Bhola and Pirojpur. This office disseminates Market information, collects weekly and fortnightly prices of agricultural and animal products, diverts supplies from surplus to deficit areas, collects information about crop condition and market position, suggests improvement of inter-zonal trade and export trade and inspects licenced market functionaries, etc.

Department of
Agricultural
Marketing

Under the Market Regulation Act, 1964 some selected markets namely the markets at Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur Bhola and Sawrupkati have been taken up to eradicate the malpractices of the businessmen and to issue licences to *arātdars* *farias*, whole-salers stockists *Jachandars*, brokers, *dalals*, measurers, graders, weighmen and Commission agents. There are Subdivisional Market Advisory Committees consisting of local growers and consumers in each Subdivision under the Chairmanship of the Subdivisional Officer. The Committee meets every one or two months to consider issue of licences.

There is a Hide, Flaying and Curing Demonstration Party headed by one Grader-in-charge assisted by one Expert curer, two Flayers, and one butcher who demonstrate flaying at the municipal slaughter house in order to teach the correct method of flaying of hides and skins and advise the hide and skin merchants on proper curing and preserving them.

There is a Circle office of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Jessore situated at Barisal with the jurisdiction over Bakerganj, Faridpur, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna and Patuakhali. This Circle office was first established at Jessore in 1968 and was shifted to Barisal in July, 1971. This office is headed by a Deputy Manager with the functions of operation and maintenance of power Pumps, tractors and tillers. Under this circle office there are eight Zonal offices of which three are in Bakerganj district situated at Barisal, Pirojpur and Bhola established in 1968, 1970 and 1971 respectively. Each Zonal office is under an Assistant Engineer who is assisted by one Unit Officer and one Store Officer stationed at each thana.

Bangladesh
Agricultural
Development
Corporation

There are also sub-unit offices under each unit. For mechanized cultivation, power pumps, tractors and tillers are distributed among the cultivators. Till July, 1972 the

machines distributed from these Zonal offices were 1249 power pumps in Barisal, 1066 power pumps in Pirojpur, 617 power pumps and 100 tractors in Bhola.

Ministry of Public works and Urban Development.

The department of Public works and Urban Development got its present name in June, 1972. But its original name was Construction, Building and Irrigation (CB&I) Department under which Construction and Building (C&B) was meant for all construction works of government. In 1959 the department was renamed as Works, Housing and Settlement. From 1962 it was renamed as the Department, of Works, Power and Irrigation having the Building Directorate Roads and Highways Directorate and two other Directorates under it. Roads and Highways Directorate was created out of this Department in 1962 which included Department of R.W. and R.T. At present (1973) under this ministry there is a Building Circle at Barisal headed by a Superintendent Engineer with the jurisdiction over Bakerganj and Patuakhali districts. In this office there are one Head Estimator and four estimators.

There is a Building Division with one Executive Engineer. There are three engineering subdivisions under this Building Division of which Sub-division I and II are at the district head-quarters and the other is at Bhola. In each engineering subdivision there is one Subdivisional Engineer. There are four Sectional Officers under the Engineering Subdivision I and II and three at Bhola. There are two Estimators attached to the office of the Executive Engineer. The remarkable works executed by this department in the district are Barisal Medical College at a costs of Tk. 284.88 lakhs and the Model school at Rahmatpur with of Tk. 64.62 lakh, and Jhalakati Subdivisional Head-quarter at a sanctioned amongst of Tk. 1,48,75,981.

Ministry of Communication

There is a Divisional office with one Executive Engineer under Jessore Circle office. There are three Subdivisional Engineering offices at Bhola, Barisal and Madaripur (Faridpur district) with one Subdivisional Engineer in each. This office completed the road link from Barisal to Madaripur (Faridpur) which is linked it with Dacca.

Ministry of Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs

Ministry Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs has under it the offices of Postal Division, Subdivisional Telegraph office and Telephone office.

The Postal Divisional office is headed by a Superintendent, Post Offices who is assisted by one Supervisor and four Inspectors. There are 57 sub-post offices and 304 Branch

post offices of which 57 sub-offices and 207 Branch post offices have savings bank accounts.

There is one District Head Post Office with a Head Post-Master having jurisdiction over Barisal Municipality including Kashipur, and Jhalakati. The rest of the district is under the Superintendent of Postal Division. The District Head Post-Master is assisted by one Deputy Post-Master, three Assistant Post-Masters, one Postal Inspector, one Wireless Inspector and one Accountant. Under the jurisdiction of this office there are ten Sub-Post offices with a Sub-Post Master in each and nine Branch offices with one Branch Post Master in each.

The Subdivisional Telegraph Office were established in August, 1966. It is under a subdivisional Officer, Telegraph. He is assisted by three Engineering Supervisors. They maintain telecommunication in the district of Bakerganj and in the part of Patuakhali and Faridpur district. For maintenance and supervision of lines and wires, apparatus and plants there are five Sub-Inspectors and one line Inspector. There are also 40 Linemen, four Technicians and 45 telephone operators. Under this Telegraph Subdivision there are Telephone Exchanges at Bhola, Daulatkhan, Jhalakati, Swarupkati, Mathbaria, Pirojpur, Kawkhali, Chakhar in Bakerganj district. Bhanga, Takerhat, Gopalganj, Charmuguria, Madaripur, Jamadi in Faridpur district and one at Patuakhali district. A very High Power Frequency (V.H.F.) Subdivisional office was established in 1952-53. This office is under an Assistant Engineer, Wireless who is assisted by four Engineering Supervisors of whom 3 are at Barisal and one at Bhola. There are 15 Telecommunication Technicians (radio) at Barisal.

Under this V.H.F. subdivision there are outer stations at Daulatkhan, Charfession, Manpura, Borhanuddin which were partly damaged during the occupation army operations in 1971. Another station at Hijla was completely destroyed during the same operation. There are other stations namely Barisal to Dacca via Madaripur and Faridpur V.H.F. station; Mobile Circuit Bhola V.H.F. station; Mehendiganj, Muladi and Hijla V.H.F. (Public Call Office) stations; Barisal to Dacca via Chandpur with three channel V.H.F. system; and Bhola three channel system by V.H.F. (utter short wave) etc.

The phone office was established in 1970. It is under an Assistant Engineer Phone whose jurisdiction extends to Barisal town only. The Assistant Engineer is assisted by four Engineering Supervisors, 30 Operators, eight Technicians, one Batteryman, 8 Linemen, one Sub-Inspector, one Telephone Inspector and one

wireman. The function of this office is to Supervise and control Barisal Auto-Exchange and Trunk Exchange.

The Telegraph Office was established in 1966-67. It is under a Superintendent in charge of Traffic. Under him there are small telegraph offices at Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Mathbaria and Sawrupkati (and Madaripur, Faridpur district) with two telegraphist in each except at Pirojpur, Mathbaria, and Swarupkati where there is only one in each. There are Wireless Public call offices at Muladi, Hizla, Mehendiganj for remittance and collection of revenues.

**Ministry of
Forest, Fisheries
and Livestock**

There are Divisional Forest Office, Forest Nursery Centre, District Pisciculture office and District Livestock office under their respective departments. A Coastal Afforestation Division was created in 1965-66 and was located at Dacca. In February, 1967 this office was shifted to Barisal. This office is now headed by a Divisional Forest Officer with jurisdiction over Bakerganj and Patuakhali district. Under this Division office there are Forest Range offices at Bhola in Bakerganj district and Patharghata and Mahipur (in Patuakhali district) with one Forest Ranger in each. In these Range offices there are seven Deputy Rangers of whom one is at the Divisional headquarters, one is at Bhola in Bakerganj district; two are at Patharghata and three are at Mahipur (in Patuakhali district). This office looks after plantation over WAPDA embankment with Golpata, Saila, Keora, Bain and other plant to protect people against tidal bore.

In 1962-63 a Forest Nursery Centre under Forest Extension South Division, Dacca was established at Kashipur about two miles away from Barisal town.

This Centre is for raising of seedlings of forests and fruit species and for distributing them at a nominal price among the public with instruction of planting technique and maintenance. This Forest Nursery Centre is under a Forest Ranger.

Livestocks

There is a District Livestock Officer who is assisted by four Subdivisional Livestock Officers posted at Sadar, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Bhola. There are two Subdivisional Veterinary Surgeons in charge of Subdivisional Veterinary Hospitals at Pirojpur and Bhola. There is one Thana Livestock Officer in each Thana. There are Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in charge of Thana Veterinary Dispensaries at Daulatkhan, Jhalakati, Kathalia, Lalmohan, Bhandaria, Mehendiganj and Muladi. In each Dispensary there is one Field Assistant and one Compounder. There is one Artificial Insemination Centre at the

district headquarters under a Livestocks Officer who is assisted by one Laboratory Assistant and four Inseminators. There are three Poultry Units at Lalmohan, Jhalakati and Patarhat with one Poultry Technician and one Poultry attendants in each.

A Fishery office was established in the district in 1945 with Fisheries one District Fishery Officer. At present the district office is headed by a District Fisheries Development Officer who is assisted by nine Thana Fishery Officers posted one each at Sadar south, Sadar north, Gournadi, Mehandiganj, Jhalakati, Bhola, Pirojpur, Mathbaria and one at Fish Seed Farm at Kashipur. There are also two Fish culture Assistants. The functions of this office are to increase fish-food by scientific method of fish culture, production of quality fish seedlings and their distribution among the interested fish culturists inducing the public to be fish culture minded and enforcing the Fish Act of 1950 for the protection of immature carps, Hilsa, Aor, Pungus, Siland and Bhola. There are five Field men under Fisheries Extension Service Scheme for surveying the tanks and fishermen population and for bringing the derelict tanks under fish culture by motivation. There is a scheme of re-excavation, desiltation, clearance and de-watering of derelict tanks under Test Relief operation. This scheme is to cover 110 Bighas of land at a cost of Rs.15,000 per bigha. After re-excavation, the tanks will be used for fish culture. After six years for realizing the cost these tanks will again be handed over to their owners.

There is a Marine Engineering workshop at Bund Road near Barisal Steamerghat on the Kritankhola river. It was established in 1960. Its functions are the repairing of marine engines and vessels, construction of pontoons and making of light spare parts. At present it performs mainly the repairing works. This workshop is headed by a Manager who is assisted by a Deputy Manager, one Administrative officer, one Deputy Director Accounts, one Marine Engineer, one Electric Engineer, one Dock Master, one Mechanical Engineer, one Assistant Marine Engineer, one Master Foreman, one Diesel Supervisor, one Shipwright Supervisor, one Mechanical supervisor, one Dock overseer, one Store Officer, one Store-keeper and four Executive Assistants. This workshop has different sections such as diesel shop, vessel operation machine shop, Aga shop, welding shop, Tin smith shop, rebatting shop, black smith shop, crane shop, canceling shop, electric shop, tailoring shop, painting shop, ship way, transport pool, general pool, and carpentry shop. Under the control of the Workshop Manager, there is one Floating Dock near the workshop, in the middle of the Kirtankhola river, where like the Marine Engineering workshop,

Ministry of shipping, Inland Water Transport and Airways

marine engines of I. W. T. A. and government vessels are repaired. The vessels of private companies are also repaired here on payment of usual charges. There is one Fleet base under one Marine Engineer assisted by one Supervisor. Besides there is a Port and Traffic Office with one Port and Traffic officer assisted by one Assistant Port and Traffic Officer and one-Executive Assistant. There is a floating terminal, for the anchorage of public and private vessels. This office collects tolls, regularizes and controls vessels and looks after the overall development of the port area.

There is a Civil Engineering office headed by an Assistant Executive Engineer for construction and maintenance of all I.W.T.A. installations.

There is a Conservancy and Pilotage office headed by one Assistant Conservancy and Pilot Superintendent. They look after the river navigational and piloting works.

There is also one Accounts office for I.W.T.A. Division, Barisal (other than the Marine workshop) headed by one Assistant Accounts officer.

Ministry of
Power, natural
resources and
Scientific and
technological,
research

There are three offices of Power Development Board in the district. These are Western Division II for line constructions, Sales and Distribution Division and outer Division.

In the Barisal Municipal area Roy and Company started supplying electricity from the first of February, 1934. Before this company, Kerosine lantern with poles were used in the Municipal areas. Before Roy and Company, electricity was supplied only at the Barisal steamerghat by the R.S.N. and I.G.N. Company from 1910. In 1959 Ray and Company was replaced by Kamal and Company. In 1960 the power wing of Water and power Development Authority (WAPDA) took up this responsibility. After liberation the WAPDA was split into two Boards. For electric Supply the Power Development Board has created three divisional offices under this Board. Sale and Supply Division was created in 1960. It is headed by a Resident Engineer who looks after electric supply including operation and maintenance of Power houses, gives electric lines to consumers and makes collection of revenues. The Resident Engineer is assisted by three Assistant Engineers and three Sub-Assistant Engineers.

There is a power house at Amanatganj under an Assistant Engineer. The charges for electricity consumption are for domestic consumption 37 paise per unit, for industrial and Commercial use it is 16 paise per unit. The total number of

consumers up to July, 1972 was 4,305. The Outer Division is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by three Assistant Engineers and other subordinate staff. They maintain all the small electric supply power stations located at Bhola, Jhalakati and Pirojpur with one Assistant Engineer for each.

The Western Division II, (line construction) was established in September 1962. It is headed by an Executive Engineer with the jurisdiction over Bakarganj, (except some portions of Pirojpur) and Madaripur subdivision of Faridpur district. This Division office is under the Circle office, Khulna. The Executive Engineer is assisted by three Assistant Engineers and two Assistant Technical officers. There are also eight Sub-Assistant Engineers of whom four are at the head-quarters, and one each at Jhalakati, Bhola, Banuripara, Gournadi and Madaripur (Faridpur). They execute all development works including construction of Power houses and electric lines (132 cabi lines, and 11 cabi lines).

In 1968 a Field office of the Bureau of Statistics under the Planning Department was established before liberation with one statistical Investigator. A Central Statistical field office was established in the district in 1962 with one Field Co-ordinator. These offices were merged into one in February 1972. This office is now headed by a Field Supervisor who is assisted by one Statistical Investigator, six Assistant Field Co-ordinators and four Statistical Assistant. This office conducts survey of population growth, labour force and family expenditure. It also collects data of prices for essential consumers goods, building materials, transport cost, wage rate of construction workers, agricultural workers, fisheries workers, industrial labourers, etc. **Ministry of planning**

There is an Irrigation office with a Flood Embankment Project under the Water Development Board. It is under the charge of a Subdivisional Engineer, Irrigation. This office is under the Irrigation Division, Jessore which is again under the Irrigation Circle, Rajshahi. In 1959 this office was merged with the former WAPDA. In 1970 this office was again revived after separating it from WAPDA. It has now (1972) been changed into Water Development Board. **Ministry of Flood Control and water Resources**

The present water Development Board was known as WAPDA. In 1959 water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) was created which had two wings namely Water wing and Power Wing. Under the Water Wing a Circle office of coastal Embankment Project was started at Barisal in December, 1961. **Water Development Board**

The Circle office is headed by a Superintending Engineer with the jurisdiction over Bakarganj and Patuakhali district. Under this Circle office there are five Division offices namely, Barisal Division, Bhola Division I and II (Charfession) in Bakarganj district and Patuakhali Division I and II (Patuakhali district). Under the Division offices there are Subdivisional offices of which Barisal (Borguna and Patharghata) are under Barisal Division; Tajumuddin, Bhola I and Bhola II Subdivisions are under Bhola Division I; Charfession, Lalmohan and Tajumuddin are under Bhola Division II.

The coastal embankments are meant for protection of land from normal saline inundations and monsoon floods. Excess rain water from within the polders is drained out through sluices. By the unprecedented devastating cyclone of 12th November, 1970 the tidal surges swept away some portions of the embankment in Bhola. This took a toll of about three lakhs of people.

Ministry of Industries

There is one Assistant Director, Industries, assisted by one Inspector.

Bangladesh Small Industries Corporation established an Industrial estate in 1962-63 and a Textile Facility Centre in 1966-67 at Kawina. It is under a Manager. It has an area of 130 acres. The Industrial Estate allots industrial plots, the development of which includes provisions for supply of electricity and water, etc. Entrepreneurs are given loan in cash or kind. They are helped for the import of machineries. There are 403 plots where one cold storage, four flour mills, two biscuit factories, one soap factory, one ice factory, one boat building unit and one Textile factory have been established till July, 1972.

The Textile facilities centre is under the charge of a Manager assisted by an Assistant Manager. There are also one Mechanic one Warper, one Electrician, one Calendar Operator, two Weavers and one Accountant *cum*-Mechanic.

This centre supplies dyed yarn to the weavers. It has power looms. It arranges training course of six months duration in weaving. This Centre produces sharee, dhuti, lungi, shirting and markin cloth etc. This Centre helps the weavers calendaring their products at a cost of 3 paisa per yard.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Shops and Establishment office was established on the first of September 1957 under the former Directorate of Labour. In 1970 the Inspectorate of Factories, Shops and Establishment had a separate Directorate.

There is now (1972) an Inspector, posted at Barisal to look after the welfare of the labourers of shops and factories and manufacturing and repairing establishments. The establishments with more than ten labourers are to be registered. There are 953 shops with 1,141 workers, 109 factories with 279 workers, 28 Commercial establishments with 176 workers, 94 establishments for public amusements with 541 worker. (July 1972). There is one Medical section with one Medical Officer for free distribution of medicine to the labourers.

There are Urban Community Development projects at Social Welfare Bhola, Pirojpur and Barisal; one Youth Welfare office and one probation Offices at Barisal; one Blind School and one Destitute Women Rehabilitation Centre at Sagardi; and three sarkari Shishu shadhan (state orphanages) at Sagardi, Bhola and Charfesion. The Urban Community Development projects at Barisal, Pirojpur and Bhola were established in 1959, 1965 and 1969 respectively.

The main function of the project is socio-economic development in the project area. In Barisal project there are several programmes namely-Typing and Shorthand Training Centre, Radio workshop, Sewing Centre, Wool knitting Centre, Recreation centre etc. In these centres training is imparted in different trades.

In 1971-72 these centre received a grant of Tk. 3,500 from the National Council of Social Welfare. There is one Self-Help Centre for imparting professional training in rope making and doormat making by coir. This Centre received Tk. 4000 in 1971 from the same Council. There are also 112 registered voluntary agencies for the betterment of socio-economic condition of the local people. These agencies received Tk. 3,850 in 1971-72 from the National Council of Social Welfare.

There is one Sarkari Shishu Shadan at Sagardi which was established in 1946. It is under a Superintendent. Both boys and girls can read in this institution free of cost up to class VI. There is one Head-Master and four Assistant teachers. The strength of this institution is for 270 boys and girls. After the devastating cyclone on November 12, 1970 in Bhola many boys and girls lost their parents. For these orphans two Sarkari Shishu Shadan were established of which one is at Bhola and the other at Charfesion with the Capacity for one hundred boys and girls in each. Professional training is imparted in tailoring and carpentry in these institutions. Each inmate of these institutions is allotted a sum of Tk. 30 per month. There is a proposal to increase the amount to Rs.60 per month. A school for the Blind was established in July, 1964

at Sagardi. It has one Braille teacher, one craft Teacher, one Religious Instructor and one Music Teacher. The blind boys are taught up to class X through braille system. Professional training in coir matmaking is also imparted.

There is one Probation Office which was established in 1963 for reformation of the delinquents and making them productive citizens. There is also one Youth Welfare Centre at Barisal with one Youth Welfare Organizer. The Urban community Development projects at Pirojpur and Bhola have the same type of programmes for the socio-economic development within their project areas.

Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation

A Relief office at Barisal was established in April 1972 with one Assistant Zonal Relief Co-ordinator. This office is under the direct control of the Zonal Relief Co-ordinator, Khulna. This office ensures the storage and movement of Relief articles. These are distributed by the Relief Committees consisting of local leaders.

The names of District magistrates/deputy commissioners who held charges of Bakerganj district are listed below:

Sl. No.	Names of officers.	Period		Remarks.
		From	To.	
1	Mr. Day (1st Collector)	..	..	
2	Mr. Doglas (2nd Collector)	..	..	
3	Messrs. Thompson (third Collector)			
4	Mr. Armstrong (4th Collector)			
5	Mr. Massie (5th Collector)	..	..	
6	Mr. Hunter	..	8th December, 1817	6th November, 1819
7	Mr. Barlow	..	6th November, 1819	
8	Mr. Lara	..	5th April, 1820	
9	Mr. Hunter	..	30th October, 1820	2nd January, 1821
10	Mr. Masewell	..	22nd January, 1821	
11	Mr. H. Tufnell Barret, I.C.S.	..	22-2-1935	23-3-1938
12	Mr. J.L. Llowlynn, I.C.S.	..	23-3-1938	9-2-1941
13	Mr. R.S.T. John, I.C.S.	..	10-2-1941	24-2-1941
14	Mr. F.O. Bell, I.C.S.	..	25-2-1941	12-4-1943
15	Mr. W.J. Palmer, I.C.S.	..	13-4-1943	3-10-1943

Sl. No.	Names of officers.	Period		Remarks.
		From	To.	
16	Mr. A.H. Chowdhury, ..	4-10-1943	29-10-1943	
17	Mr. W.J. Palmer, I.C.S. ..	30-10-1943	23-12-1943	
18	Mr. T.I.M. Nurunnbi Chowdhury, I.C.S. ..	24-12-1943	31-8-1944	
19	Mr. Abdus Sobhan Mahmood, M.Sc. ..	1-9-1944	15-1-1946	
20	Mr. B.K. Acharya, I.C.S. ..	16-1-1946	12-10-1946	
21	Mr. J. George, I.C.S. ..	13-10-1946	24-4-1947	
22	Mr. K.A. Majumder ..	25-4-1947	18-5-1947	A.D. M. in charges of DM.
23	Mr. S.B. Hateh Barnwel. I.C.S. ..	19-5-1947	28-9-1948	
24	Mr. G.A. Faruqui, P.A.S. ..	29-9-1948	16-10-1950	
25	Mr Md. Barkatullah, M.A., B.L. ..	17-10-1950	30-8-1951	
26	Mr. D.K. Power (CSP) ..	31-8-1951	19-10-1953	
27	Mr. M.H. Rahman (CSP) ..	19-10-1953	4-6-1954	
28	Mr. Hossain Haider, (CSP) ..	4-6-1954	1-8-1955	
29	Mr. S.A. Majumder ..	2-8-1955	25-8-1955	A.D.M. in-charge of D.M
30	Mr. A.G. Raziur Rahman (CSP) ..	26-8-1955	27-4-1956	
31	Mr. M.H. Choudhury (CSP) ..	28-4-1956	1-8-1956	
32	Mr. Ali Ahmed, M.A. ..	1-8-1956	1-4-1957	
33	Mr. W.A. Khan (CSP) ..	2-4-1957	23-4-1957	A.D.M. in-charge of D.M
34	Mr. A.K. Dutta Choudhury (CSP) ..	23-4-1957	13-5-1958	
35	Mr. S.M. Usman (CSP) ..	14-5-1958	19-9-1959	
36	Mr. S.B. Das ..	20-9-1959	30-9-1959	A.D.M. in-charge of D.M
37	Mr. B. Ahmed (CSP) ..	1-10-1959	15-11-1961	
38	Mr. A.S. Ncor Mohammad (CSP) ..	16-11-1961	14-4-1963	
39	Mr. A.G. Halder ..	15-4-1963	16-5-1963	A.D.M. [in-charge of D.C.
40	Mr. A.S. Noor Mohammad (CSP) ..	16-5-1963	25-2-1964	
41	Mr. M. Murshed (CSP) ..	25-2-1964	20-3-1964	A.D.C. in-charge of D.C.
42	Mr. A.H.F.K. Sadique (CSP) ..	21-3-1964	9-7-1965	
43	Mr. Mafizur Rahman (CSP) ..	9-7-1965	9-7-1966	
44	Mr. Masud Ahmed (CSP) ..	10-7-1966	17-7-1966	A.D.C. in-charge of D.C.
45	Mr. Syed Sohail Ahmed (CSP) ..	18-7-1966	23-4-1967	

Sl. No.	Names of officers.	Period		Remarks.
		From	To	
46	Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman (CSP)	24-4-1967	22-1-1968	
47	Mr. A.Z.M. Shamsul Alam (CSP)	23-1-1968	7-2-1968	A.D.C. in-Charge of D.C.
48	Mr. A.T.M. Shamsul Haque (CSP)	7-2-1968	7-10-1969	
49	Mr. Abdullah J. Menon (CSP) ..	8-10-1969	10-11-1969	A.D.C. in-Charge of D.C.
50	Mr. A.T.M. Shamsul Haque (CSP)	11-11-1969	26-1-1970	
51	Mr. Md. Nurul Amin Khan (CSP)	27-1-1970	4-11-1970	
52	Mr. Md. Ayubur Rahman (CSP)	4-11-1970	27-4-1971	
53	Mr. Matiar Rahman Khan ..	28-4-1971	10-5-1971	Additional Sessions Judge in charge of Deputy Commissioner.
54	Mr. Abdul Waheed	11-5-1971	15-6-1971	A.D.C. (in-Charge of D.C.
55	Mr. A.K.M. Siddiqullah ..	16-6-1971	18-7-1972	
56	Mr. Mohammad Khalid Shams ..	22-7-1972	3-11-1973	
57	Mr. M.A. Karim	1-2-1973	21-11-1973	
58	Mr. M. Shamsuddin	21-11-1973	1-8-1974	
59	Mr. Noor-Al-Ahad	19-8-1974	16-10-1975	
60	Mr. Md. Abdul Hakim	16-10-1975	1-5-1977	
61	Mr. S.N.I. Akbari	1-5-1977	..	

CHAPTER XIII

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As early as in 1816 the Government of Bengal was authorised to levy tax for the maintenance of ferries and the repair and construction of roads, bridges and drains. A local committee was appointed in each district to advise Government in administering the fund. Government tried to associate the people with the management of local affairs such as education roads and sanitation. This resulted in the appointment of a committee by the Government of Bengal with V.H. Schlach as the president to enquire into these matters. On the recommendation of this committee a District Road Cess Bill was passed in 1871. The Act provided for the creation of a committee in each district. Two-thirds of the members were to be non-officials and one-third officials. There was provision for election in special cases. The District Magistrate was the President of the Committee. The main function of the Committee was to determine the rate of cess, subject to the maximum limit fixed in the Act. The Committee decided how to raise and spend the cess. **Brief History.**
District Road Cess Act, 1871.

The District Road Committee had been in operation from 1871 to 1885. This was the first experiment in local self-government outside the towns. The experiment was made on the basis of three principles: (i) the district was to be the unit, (ii) the local body was to consist of officials and non-officials with the District Magistrate in the chair, and it was to be confined to only one function, namely the construction and maintenance of roads. **District Road Committee.**

In 1885 the Local Self-Government Act was passed and the District Committee under the Act of 1871 was transformed into District Board. According to the Act a Local Board would be set up in each subdivision and a District Board would be set up over its head. Two-thirds of the members of these bodies would be elected. In actual practice the District Board performed most of the work though they were created for supervision and control. The Local Boards became their agents and exercised those powers which were delegated to them at the discretion of the District Board. The Act made the District Boards the corporate bodies, while the Local Boards were not to have any independent authority on any source of independent income of their own. Elections to the District Boards were indirect. The Local Boards acted as electoral Colleges from 1885 to 1936. When the Local Boards were abolished in 1937, the elective elements of the District Boards were elected by **District Board.**

qualified voters. In 1936 two-thirds of the members of the District Boards were elected and one-third nominated.

The Bakerganj District Board was created in 1887 and consisted of 25 members. The District Officers were *ex-officio* members, viz., the Civil Surgeon, the Khas Mahal Deputy Collector, the Deputy Inspector of Schools and the Subdivisional Officers. Of the remaining members 12 were elected by the Local Boards and 6 were nominated by Government from non-Officials. Of the elected members, 5 were pleaders, 6 landlords and one a mukhtear. Of the nominated members 6 were officials, 3 pleaders and one landlord. The Vice-Chairman was nearly always chosen from amongst the elected members.

Chairman

The Chariman was the key figure in the administration of the District Board. From 1885 to 1920 the District Magistrate acted as the Chairman of the Board. Since 1921 the Board was given the privilege of electing its own Chairman from among its members, subject to the approval of the Government. The success of the Board dependent largely on his personality, ability, drive and initiative. He was to preside over the meeting of the Board and was responsible for the execution of its policy.

Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

The Chairman was always assisted by a Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman was elected by the District Board from among its own members. The District Board might also elect a second Vice-Chariman. He was to preside over the meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairman. He was in charge of the medical department. The successful working of the Board was dependent, to a large extent on the harmonious relations between the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. The District Board also had a Secretary. His function was to carry out the directions of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman in conducting meeting and to correspondence with the Government and its local offices.

Committees

The District Board had a few standing committee, some of which were statutory and other created at the discretion of the Board. Originally, the Finance Committee was the only statutory Committee. Later on, two other statutory committees, Education Committee and public Health Committee were created. The Finance Committee was to consist of 9 members from among its members. The Education Committee consisted of seven members, three members of the Board, the District Inspector and three non-member residents of the district. The Public Health Committee also consisted of seven members—three members of the Board, the Civil Surgeon and other three opted from outside.

The Board was empowered to manage primary, middle and Secondary schools of all descriptions. In actual practice the education activities were confined to primary education. The District Board was the chief medical and sanitary authority in rural areas. It was responsible for the supply of water and might construct, repair and maintain water-works, wells and tanks. It had the power to manage and supervise public vaccinations in the district. The opening and maintaining of communications in the district was the most important function of the District Board. It was also empowered to take relief measures in cases of famine and serious distress. It established dak-bungalows and *sarais* for the use of travellers. **Functions**

The immediate administration of roads was vested in the District Engineer, who was responsible also for the management and repair of the dak-bungalows, inspecting houses, and other buildings belonging to the District Board. The mileage of the roads under the maintenance of the District Board was 385, of which 18 miles were metalled up to 1910-11. As the country was low-lying, all roads required high embankments and the initial cost was very great. The District Board, however, built practically all the roads in the District. The Board also controlled 54 ferries and 190 pounds, which were generally leased out to the highest bidder.

For the supervision of education the Board maintained a staff of 10 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools. It maintained and aided 32 middle schools, besides aiding one industrial school, 156 upper primary and 231 lower primary schools and aided 2,050 lower primary schools. Its grants-in-aid was amounted to Rs. 89,156 annually. It also awarded some scholarships.

For the relief of sickness, the District Board maintained 30 Charitable dispensaries. Of these except for those situated within the municipalities, the District Board grants were practically their sole income. When Cholera and other epidemic diseases broke out in the interior, the Board despatched doctors with medicines to the affected villages. The sanitary work done by the District Board included preventive measures against epidemics, the excavation, clearing and preservation of tanks, the clearance of jungle, excavation of drain and small streams. It also maintained, for the benefit of rural people, a staff of 4 Veterinary Assistants.

Until 1914 only the road-cess belonged to the District Board, but subsequently the income from rates was doubled by the surrender of the public works cess by Government to the District Board. During the period 1892-1901 the income **Income**

averaged Rs. 2,71,000 and the expenditure Rs. 2,70,000. Since 1899 the income from rates had amounted to Rs. 2,20,000, while pounds contributes about 10,000, education 3,000, medical about 3,000, civil works about Rs. 15,000 and miscellaneous about Rs. 4,000. Contributions by the Government until the first partition in 1905 averaged Rs. 34,000. The chief heads of expenditure were civil works, education and medical. Civil works included not only the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, rest houses and buildings, but the pay of the District Engineer and his staff and the expenditure increased from an average Rs. 1,35,000 in 1892-95 to an average of Rs. 2,31,000 in 1905-11. Medical expenditure rose from Rs. 2,31,000 in 1905-11. Medical expenditure rose from Rs. 5,000 a year in 1892-95 to Rs. 30,000 in 1902-03 and Rs. 52,000 in 1908-11. The expenditure on education rose still further from Rs. 39,000 in 1892-95 to Rs. 91,000 in 1908-11. In this case the increase was chiefly in the payment of an inspecting staff.

District Council

With the introduction of Basic Democracies under the provisions of the Basic Democracies Order, 1959, the District Council replaced the District Board. Elections to the Basic Democracies were held in 1960. One of the avowed principal aims of the Basic Democracies was the association of the people with the administration at each level and making the functionaries of the Government accountable to the elected representatives of the people. The tiers of the Basic Democracies with their structure and composition are indicated in the table below:

Names of Councils/Committees.	Number of Council/Committee	Number of members	
		elected	Appointed
1. District Council	1	..	38
2. Thana Council	34	..	323
3. Union Councils	306	3340	1,626
4. Town Committees . .	5	40	20
5. Municipal Committee ..	11 (16 Union Committees)	80	..

The Bakerganj District Council consisted of 38 members of whom 19 were appointed officials and 19 non-officials members. The representatives of the different Government departments in the district were members of the District Council.

The Commissioner of the Khulna Division was the controlling authority of the District Council. The Deputy Commissioner was an *Ex-officio* member and Chairman of the Council. The Chairman presided over the meetings of the Council and its executive powers were vested in the Chairman. There would be a Vice-Chairman in the District Council. He is elected by the District Council from amongst its elected members. The term of office of the Vice-Chairman was co-extensive with the term of office of the Council. The Vice-Chairman would preside over the meetings of the Council in the absence of the Chairman. There was also a Secretary and other members of the staff to dispose of the day to day business of the District Council.

Composition of
the District
Council.

Achievements of the District Council and other local bodies under Works Programme for the year 1967-68¹.

Description of work done						Total mileage.	Total cost in Rupees.
1. Kutchia Roads:							
(a) Old	..	..	..	..	..	838	11,31,718
(b) New	..	..	..	..	..	391	4,45,852
2. Pucca Roads:							
(a) Old	..	..	..	..	..	11	4,38,492
(b) New	..	..	..	..	..	37	5,06,324
3. Canals:							
(a) Excavation	..	..	..	..	..	30	1,37,301
(b) Re-Excavation	..	..	..	..	..	246	6,48,372
4. Embankments:							
(a) Old	..	..	..	..	..	127	2,87,210
(b) New	..	..	..	..	..	52	1,85,233
<i>Total number of works done.</i>							
5. Bridges and Culverts:						548	16,89,937
6. Buildings:							
(a) Thana Development and Training Centre	..	..	..	..	..	10	3,16,249
(b) Community Centres	..	..	..	..	..	12	74,078
(c) Town Hall	..	..	..	..	..	1	5,000
7. Re-Excavation of Tanks	..	..	..	..	..	4	4,044
8. Parks and Playgrounds	..	..	..	..	..	1	2,146

Taken from the *Performance Report on Rural Works Programme, 1967-68*, published by the Basic Democracies and Local Government Department of the Government of former East Pakistan.

Zilla Board

After liberation of Bangladesh the Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972, was passed. According to this order, all the local bodies formed under the Basic Democracies Order were dissolved with effect from January 20, 1972. The Bakerganj District Council was replaced by a Zilla Board. A Committee was to be appointed by the Government to administer the Zilla Board consisting of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and such number of members as the Government might determine. Until a Committee was formed the powers and functions of the Zilla Board would be exercised by an Administrator to be appointed by the Government. The functions would be the same as before and might include any other functions that might be delegated to it. The staff of the defunct District Council, however, continued in service.

Revised budget of the Bakerganj Zilla Board for the year 1971-72*

Part I Current Account			
Heads of Receipts	Taka	Heads of Expenditure	Taka
1. Local Rate	78,000	1. Establishment	2,38,083
2. Taxes	1,75,000	2. Tax Collection Establishment	15,000
3. Tolls	17,000	3. Agriculture	26,868
4. Fees	1,200	4. Health and Sanitation ..	87,670
5. Rent and Profits from Properties.	15,000	5. Roads, Building and communication.	2074,302
6. Contribution	96	6. Education	1,75,900
7. Government Grants ..	2,86,600	7. Irrigation and Embankment	1,200
8. Miscellaneous	60,000	8. Miscellaneous	..
	<u>6,32,896</u>		<u>27,58,573</u>
9. Surrendered amount of previous year.	17,54,836	Closing balance	1,66,235
10. Opening balance	5,37,076		
	<u>29,24,808</u>		<u>29,24,808</u>
Part II: Capital Account			
1. Debts, deposits and Advances.	1,10,000	1. Repayment of loans ..	5,000
2. Opening balance	1,09,486	2. Advances & and Deposits.	1,40,000
	<u>2,19,486</u>	3. Closing balance	74,486
			<u>2,19,486</u>
Total of Part I and Part II	31,44,294	Total of Part I and Part II	31,44,294

*Taken from the Budget Estimates for the year 1972-73 of the Bakerganj Zilla Board.

Subject to the control of the District Board the Local Boards had jurisdiction in each subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer was the *ex-officio* Chairman and members were 18 in Sadar subdivision, 16 in Perojpur and 10 in Bhola. The duties of Local Boards were confined to the management of village roads and pounds. The average expenditure in the Sadar subdivision was Rs. 12,500 in Perozpur Rs. 10,500 and in Bhola Rs. 11,000 per annum during 1902-11.

The Local Boards were not to have any independent authority and any source of income of their own. They became the agents of the District Board and exercised those powers delegated to them at the discretion of the District Board. The Local Boards acted as Electoral Colleges from 1885 to 1936. These Boards elected the members of the District Boards either from their own members or from outside. The Local Self-Government Act of 1885 was amended in 1932 in some minor respects but the fundamentals remained unchanged. A major amendment of the Act was made in 1936 when the Local Boards were abolished.

The Barisal Municipality was established in 1876 and was administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 15 Commissioners, of whom 10 were elected, 4 nominated and one was *ex-officio*. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were elected. The area within Municipal limits was $7\frac{1}{2}$ square miles and the number of rate-payers in 1914 was 3,382 or 15 per cent of the population. The average annual income in 1891—1900, excluding loans, was Rs. 22,676 and in 1901—1910, Rs. 27,735 in 1914 the income was Rs. 14,174 in 1914. The latrine tax accounted for Rs. 13,793 and water-rate for Rs. 16,167. The incidence of rates per head of population was Rs. 2-4-11. Of the expenditure in 1914, 35.6 per cent was spent of conservancy 1.7 per cent on education, 23.2 per cent on public works, 16.4 per cent on water-supply and 2.6 per cent on medical relief. Establishment charges amounted to 5.8 per cent of the expenditure. The water supply was obtained by pipes from the river at Amanatgarj and was distributed by standard pipes in the streets. The water-works were constructed in 1911-12 and cost Rs. 1,60,000, of which Government contributed Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 30,000 was obtained from private subscription. The District Board gave a donation of Rs. 35,000. And the rest was obtained from its own resources.

The Barisal Municipality was reconstituted under the Basic Democracies Order, 1959, as a Municipal Committee as per provisions of the Municipal Administration Ordinance, 1960.

The jurisdiction of the Municipal Committee spreads over an area of 7.50 square miles with a total population of 70,066 according to the 1961 Census. According to the 1974 census the population is 98,127. The Municipality was divided into 16 Union Committees. The Municipal Committee looked after roads, public health, water-works and street lighting.

Budget estimate of the Barisal Municipal Committee for the year 1969-70¹.

<i>Part I: Current Account.</i>					
Rs. Taka.			Taka.		
1. Taxes	...	7,87,000	1. General Establishment	...	75,463
2. Rates	...	4,65,000	2. Collection Establishment	...	77,073
3. Fees	...	56,000	3. Health and Sanitation	...	3,53,018
4. Fines	...	93,000	4. Water Supply	...	11,37,256
5. Grants	...	2,31,740	5. Slaughter House	...	50,000
6. Miscellaneous	...	65,000	6. Road Maintenance	...	5,82,909
Total	...	16,97,740	7. Works Programme	...	1,85,640
Opening balance	...	2,21,842	8. Education	...	75,112
GRAND TOTAL	...	19,19,582	9. Miscellaneous	...	1,43,279
			Total	...	16,79,750
			Closing balance	...	2,44,932
			GRAND TOTAL	...	19,24,682

<i>Part II: Capital Account.</i>					
1. Deposits and Advances	...	80,000	1. Deposits and Advances	...	75,000
2. Special Fund	...	1,500	2. Chairman's Discretionary Fund.	...	1,400
Total	...	81,500	Total	...	76,400
Total of part I and II	= 20,01,082		Total of part I and II	= 20,01,082	

Barisal Poura Shava Barisal Municipal Committee was replaced by Barisal Poura-Shava by the Bangladesh Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972. By this order all the previous

¹A. dated from a Budget Report sent by the Chairman, Barisal Municipal Committee.

local bodies, including the Municipal Committees, were dissolved. A Committee would be appointed by the Government to administer the reconstituted Poura Shava. The Committee would consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and such number of Commissioners as the Government might determine. This continued until elections for the Pourashavas were held in 1977.

Revised budget estimate of the Barisal Poura Shava for the year 1971-72.¹

Heads of Receipts.			Taka	Heads of Expenditures.			Taka
Part I: Current Account.							
			Taka				Taka
1. Taxes	...	...	8,29,000	1. Establishment	...	...	4,82,086
2. Rates	...	...	5,60,000	2. Collection Establishment	...	...	12,500
3. Fees	...	...	68,500	3. Health and Sanitation	...	...	1,84,392
4. Fines	...	...	14,000	4. Water-supply	...	...	1,64,500
5. Rents and Profits from properties	...	...	85,000	5. Slaughter Houses	...	...	50,000
6. Grants	..	...	7,50,000	6. Public Works	..	...	12,55,000
7. Miscellaneous	...	...	15,000	7. Civil Defence	..	...	5,000
Total			23,21,500	8. Arboriculture	..	...	5,000
Opening balance			2,24,212	9. Education	..	...	49,000
Grand Total			25,45,712	10. Miscellaneous	...	...	32,271
				Total			22,39,749
				Closing balance			3,05,963
				Grand Total			25,45,712
Part II: Capital Account.							
1. Loans	...	...	5,20,000	1. Repayment of loans	...	...	20,000
2. Deposits and advances	...	...	85,000	2. Deposits and advances	..	...	75,000
3. Opening balance	...	...	70,000	3. Improvement of Trenching Ground.	...	...	5,00,000
Total			6,75,000	4. Closing balance	...	...	80,000
Special Fund			1,700	Total			6,75,000
Total of Part I, Part II and Special Fund.			32,22,412	Special Fund			1,700
				Total of part I, part II and Special Fund.			32,22,412

¹Budget estimate supplied by the Administrator, Barisal Poura Shava.

Jhalakati Municipality

The Jhalakati Municipality was established on the 1st April, 1875. It was administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 9 elected members. The area within municipal limits was 1.12 square miles and in 1914 the number of rate-payers was 963 or 16.3 per cent of the population. The average annual income in 1891-1900, including loans, was Rs. 4,235 and in 1901-10 Rs. 7,676. The chief source of income was a tax on persons, which brought in Rs. 6,387 in 1914. The income was Rs. 14,662 and the expenditure was Rs. 11,391. Of the expenditure in 1914, 30.3 per cent was spent on conservancy, 7.8 per cent on education, 20.3 per cent on public works, 8.7 per cent on medical relief. Establishment charges amounted to 6.1 per cent.

Jhalakati Town Committee

With the promulgation of the Basic Democracies Order, 1959, the Municipality was reconstituted as a Town Committee. There were 9 elected members in the Town Committee. According to the 1961 Census the town had a population of 10,724 in an area of 1.12 square miles. The population of the town is 21,272 according to the 1974 Census.

The total mileage of roads in the town was 9.22 miles, of which 8.62 miles were *pucca* and the rest *kutchha*. The Town Committee had under its control 3 ferry-ghats, one primary school and aided five more primary schools, one market, one Community Centre, one grave-yard and two burning-ghats. For water-supply in the town there were 3 deep tubewells and 23 shallow tubewells. The Town was electrified by WAPDA in 1963. The actual budget of the Jhalakati Town Committee for the year 1967-68 is given below :

Budget of the Jhalakati Town Committee for the year 1967-68.¹

Heads of Receipts				Heads of Expenditures			
Rs.				Rs.			
1.	Taxes	..	50,973	1.	General Establishment	..	10,171
2.	Rates	..	31,559	2.	Health and Sanitation	..	4,343
3.	Fees	..	1,532	3.	Water-supply and Drainage		8,477
4.	Grants	..	6,100	4.	Conservancy	..	18,922
5.	Miscellaneous	..	23,812	5.	Education	..	5,609
	Total	..	1,13,976	6.	Civil Works	..	24,939
	Opening balance	..	9,809	7.	Miscellaneous	..	36,789
	GRAND TOTAL	..	1,23,785		Total	..	1,09,250
					Closing balance	..	14,535
					GRAND TOTAL	..	1,23,785

After independence the Bangladesh Local Council and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order was passed in 1972. According to this order Jhalakati Town Committee was constituted as the Jhalakati Paura Shava.

The Nalchity Municipality was established in 1875. It was administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 9 nominated members. The number of rate-payers in 1914 was 306, or 15.6 per cent of the total population. The average annual income during 1891-1900 was Rs. 1,752 and during 1901-10 was Rs. 2,532. In 1914 the income was Rs. 3,140 and the expenditure Rs. 2,175. The chief source of income was a tax on persons, which brought in Rs. 2,254 in 1914. The incidence of rate per head was Rs. 1-4-5. Of the expenditure in 1914, 12.2 per cent was spent on conservancy, 4.1 per cent on water supply, 11.5 per cent on medical relief. Establishment charges amounted to 26.2 per cent.

With the introduction of Basic Democracies in the country in 1960, the Nalchity Municipality was renamed as the Nalchity Town Committee.

After independence of Bangladesh the Nalchity Town Committee was reconstituted as the Nalchity Paura Shava.

The Perojpur Municipality was established in 1885. It was administered by a Municipal Board of 11 elected members. The area within municipal limits was 11 square miles and the number of rate-payers 2,361, or 19.6 per cent of the population. The average annual income in 1891-1900 was Rs. 5,516 and in 1901-1910 Rs. 6,681. In 1914 the income was Rs. 10,090, and the expenditure Rs. 9,630. The chief source of income was a tax on persons which brought in Rs. 5,115 in 1914. The latrine-tax accounted for Rs. 1,939. The incidence of rate per head of population was Re. 0-11-5. Of the expenditure in 1914, 18.5 per cent was spent on education, 23.09 per cent on conservancy, 3.06 per cent on water-supply, 13.5 per cent on medical relief. Establishment charges amounted to 9.9 per cent.

As per provisions of the Municipal Administration Ordinance under the Basic Democracies Order, 1959, the Perojpur Municipality was renamed as Perojpur Town Committee.

After independence of Bangladesh the Town Committee was constituted as the Perojpur Paura Shava according to the Bangladesh Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972. The population at the town is 22,218 according to the 1974 Census.

Bhola Municipality

The Bhola Municipality was established on the 1st October 1920 at the headquarters of the Bhola subdivision (formerly known as Dakhin Shahbajpur). The first official Chairman was the Subdivisional Officer. There were eleven Commissioners besides the Chairman in the Municipal Board. At least one-third of the Commissioners were appointed by Government.

Bhola Town Committee

After the promulgation of the Basic Democracies Order, 1959 the Municipality was reconstituted as the Bhola Town Committee. The area under the Town Committee was $1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles and the population was 8,428 according to the 1961 Census. The population of the Town is 12,774 according to the 1974 Census. The Town Committee consisted of 6 members all of whom were elected. The number of rate-payer was 2,200 and the number of holding 2,630.

There were a total of 4 miles of metalled and 2.23 miles of unmetalled roads in the town. There were two primary schools controlled by the Town Committee and three aided primary schools. Besides there were two libraries, one Community Centre, one market, two grave-yards and two burning ghats in the town. For water-supply there were 6 deep tube-wells and electricity was supplied by the Bhola Electric Supply Authority.

Statement of income and expenditure under different heads of Bhola Town Committee for the year 1968-69.

Heads of income			Heads of Expenditure		
		Rs.			Rs.
1. Taxes	..	24,626	1. General Establishment ..	..	3,830
2. Lighting Rate ..	..	4,529	2. Tax Collection Establishment		7,792
3. Conservancy Rate ..	..	19,372	3. Health and Sanitation ..	..	24,211
4. Fees	..	3,547	4. Water supply and Drainage		1,848
5. Rents and profits from properties.		78	5. Roads maintenance ..	..	1,170
6. Grants	..	7,457	6. Street Lighting ..	..	4,319
7. Miscellaneous ..	..	75	7. Education	..	12,741
8. Deposits and advances ..	..	10,860	8. Miscellaneous ..	..	493

Total	..	70,544	9. Advances and Deposits		9,494
		-----			-----
			Total	..	65,898

By the Bangladesh Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972, the Bhola Town Committee was reconstituted as the Bhola Poura Shava with effect from January 20, 1972.

Budget estimate of the Bhola Poura Shava for the year 1971-72.¹

Heads of Receipts				Heads of Expenditure			
<i>Part I: Current Account.</i>							
Taka				Taka			
1. Taxes	..	..	48,710	1. General Establishment	..	..	8,911
2. Rates	..	..	39,100	2. Tax Collection Establishment.	..	..	12,380
3. Fees	..	..	2,300	3. Health and Sanitation	..	..	34,462
4. Rents and Profits from properties.	..	..	2,000	4. Water supply	..	..	8,968
5. Grants	..	..	60,350	5. Slaughter House	..	..	5,000
6. Interest on Investments	..	..	750	6. Road Maintenance	..	..	69,450
7. Miscellaneous	..	..	250	7. Civil Defence	..	..	250
Total	..	..	1,53,460	8. Arboriculture	..	..	100
Opening balance	..	..	5,456	9. Education	..	..	9,082
GRAND TOTAL	..	..	1,58,916	10. Miscellaneous	..	..	6,350
				Total	..	..	1,54,953
				Closing balance	..	..	3,963
				GRAND TOTAL	..	..	1,58,916
<i>Part II : Capital Account.</i>							
1. Accounts repaid	..	..	5,000	1. Repayment of loans	..	..	9,500
2. Deposits and Advances	..	..	1,500	2. Deposits and Advances	..	..	2,250
3. Opening balance	..	..	7,750	3. Amount spent from loans	..	..	2,500
Total	..	..	14,250	Total	..	..	14,250

¹Adapted from a Budget Report sent by the Administrator, Bhola Paurashava.

Thana Councils

According to the Basic Democracies Order, 1959, a Thana Council was formed in each of the 24 thanas of the district. A Thana Council consisted of the Chairman of the Union Councils and Union Committees, if any, within the thana and such number of official members as might be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner. The Collector appointed the official members from the holders of such offices as might be specified by the Government. The total number of official members, however, would not be more than the total number of Chairmen of the Union Councils within the thana. The Subdivisional Officer within whose jurisdiction the thana was situated would be an *ex-officio* member of the Thana Council and its Chairman. The Circle Officer (Development) concerned would be an official member of the Thana Council and its Vice-Chairman. Generally 50 per cent of the members were elected and 50 per cent were nominated officials and non-officials.

A Thana Council might and, if required by the District Council, would undertake such functions in the thana as the District Council was competent to undertake in the district. The main function of the Thana Council was to co-ordinate the activities of all Union Councils and Union Committees within the thana. All development schemes prepared by the Union Councils were to be channelled through Thana Council. In performance of their function, however, the Thana Council concerned would be responsible to the District Council, and would act in accordance with such directions as the District Council might from time to time give. A Thana Council thus could at best be called a coordinating Committee. It had no power of taxation.

Thana Development Committee

After Bangladesh became independent all local bodies formed under the Basic Democracies Order were abolished. According to the Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972, the Thana Council would be called Thana Development Committee. A Committee would be appointed by the Deputy Commissioner in each thana. Until a Committee is appointed the powers and functions of a Thana Development Committee would be exercised and performed by the Circle Officer (Development) concerned. The official members would remain the members of the Thana Development Committee.

Chaukidari Union and Panchayets

There were altogether 488 unions (including those of Patuakhali district) in the district for the management of the village watch in 1914. In each union there was a *panchayet* and each *Panchayet* ordinarily consisted of five members. The Collecting panchayet was the principal member, who did most of the work.

In addition to the assessment of the *Chaukidari* Tax, he was in general charge of the *chaukidars* and *dafadars*, although they had to report to the thana once a week and were generally considered rather as members of the police force. The collecting panchayet obtained 15 per cent of the collections of *Chaukidari* Tax as his remuneration. The other members of the panchayet were not paid. A great deal of miscellaneous work was entrusted to the panchayets in connection with collection of crops and agricultural statistics. They were expected to give information and assistance to the police in the prevention and detection of crime. The Magistrates sent a certain number of petty criminal cases to the *panchayets* for compromise or report. The *dafadars* and *chaukidars*, were, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. Later on with the establishment of circles the system was changed.

The Bengal Self-Government Act was passed in 1919. **Union Boards**
According to this Act a Union Board was formed at each union with certain executive and municipal functions. The office of the Circle Officer was created to guide and supervise the Union Boards. It was the responsibility of the Circle Officer to see that the proceedings of the Union Boards were in conformity with law. He was responsible for arranging Union Board elections. He could impose a fine on the *dafadar* or *chaukidar*, if empowered by the District Magistrate. The Subdivisional Officer had the authority to appoint and dismiss the *chaukidars*.

The Basic Democracies Order, 1959, replaced the Union **Union Councils**
Boards by Union Councils. The Union Councils according to this order, were the primary units of local government in rural areas. Each Union Council consisted of ten to fifteen electoral units, each unit comprising approximately 1,000 persons. In other words the Union Council concerned a number of villages with a population ranging between 10,000 to 15,000 persons. There were 225 Union Councils in Bakarganj district, excluding Patuakhali district.

A Union Council consisted of ten to fifteen members. Two-thirds of the members were elected and one-third nominated up to 1962. The nominations were made by the Subdivisional Officer with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner. The system of nomination was, however, abolished with the promulgation of the constitution of former Pakistan in 1962. After that all the members were elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. A Union Council sat for five years. Each Union Council elected one of its members as its Chairman. There was also a Vice-Chairman similarly elected by the Council.

**Constitution
the Union Councils**

According to the Electoral College Act of 1964, elections to the electoral college were held in November, 1964 and all the members of the Union Councils were elected. After electing the President of former Pakistan and the then National and Provincial Assemblies, the members of the electoral college were notified to perform their functions as members of the lowest tier of Basic Democracies, Union Councils in rural areas and Union Committees in urban areas. The election of Chairmen of the Union Councils was held in August, 1965.

Functions

The functions of the Union Councils were to maintain roads and other means of communication and local law and order, to look after preventive and curative measures of diseases, sanitation and conservancy, water-supply by wells, pumps, tanks, ponds, etc., relief measures in the event of fire, flood, storm and other natural calamities, promotion of education, games and sports, agricultural and industrial activities and development of cooperative movement, forests, livestock and fisheries.

Union Panchayet

Bangladesh Local Councils and Municipal Committees (Amendment) Order, 1972, abolished all Union Councils. All the persons holding office as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members ceased to hold office. The former Union Councils would be known as Union Panchayets and a Committee would be appointed for each Union Panchayet by the Subdivisional Officer concerned. Until a committee is formed the powers and functions of a Union Panchayet would be exercised by a Chairman to be appointed by the Subdivisional Officer. The Secretary of the defunct Union Council would act as Secretary of the Union Panchayet, and the former *mahalladars* (*dafadars*) and *chaukidars* would remain in service. The functions of the Union Panchayet would be the same as before and might include any other functions that might be delegated to it.

CHAPTER XIV

PLACES OF INTEREST

Bakerganj is a village in the Barisal Sadar South sub-division situated about 13 miles to the south-east of Barisal near the junction of the Krishnakati and Khairabad rivers. There is a steamer-ghat in the village which is under the Bhar Pasha union and Bakerganj Police Station. Area of the village is 58.05 acres and population 446, according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, which is called Bakerganj J. S. High School (established in 1919), a primary school, a Hospital and a dispensary, a Post Office and an Inspection Bungalow. It is also the headquarters of the Bakerganj Police Station which has under its jurisdiction 14 unions and 158 villages in an area of 156 sq. miles with a population of 2,12,000 persons according to the 1961 Census. **Bakerganj**

The name of the village is derived from Aga Bakar, who was a fauzder of the Nowab of Murshidabad and was the proprietor of Pargana Buzrugumedpur and owned $11\frac{1}{2}$ annas share of Selimabad. He had his tehsil Cutchary in this village. It was formerly the headquarter town of the district. Since 1801 the headquarters have been transferred to Barisal. All that remains of the old town is a side wall which probably belonged to the Jail. The police station of Bakerganj is now located within the site of the old town. The market here is largely attended, the principal commodity being rice, the best that can be obtained in the district, Sibpur, a former Portuguese settlement is situated three miles to the south of this village. The road between the two places is one of the oldest in the district.

Bakla, a village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision under the Bakerganj thana and Charmaddi union has an area, according to the 1961 Census, of 830.40 acres and a population of 1,088 persons, Bakla (Ismailpur) was a Sarkar in Todar Mull's assessment of 1582 A. D., and was the ancient name for the tract of country which is now Bakerganj. Abul Fazl described it in the "Ain-i-Akbari" as being overwhelmed by an inundation, apparently a cyclone, in 1584 A. D., It was visited and briefly described by Ralph Fitch in 1586. One Faria of Sousa in his "Asia Portuguesa" (published in 1666) related that the kingdom of Bakla was destroyed by the king of Arakan apparently in revenge for aid given to the Portuguese adventurer Gonzales. Later the name occurs in a story told by one of the Rajas of Chandradwip, Udai Narayan, who was deprived **Bakla**

forcibly of his Zamindari by the Mazumdars of Chakhar whose beautiful sister was married to the Nawab of Dacca. Uday Narayan pleaded his cause before the Nawab at Dacca and was asked to exhibit his prowess in a fight in the arena with a tiger, which he killed. He craved a boon and the Nawab's wife (the Mazumdar's sister) scornfully threw him the rind of a plantain (Bakla in Bengali) which she was eating. Picking it up, gracefully, he asked the Nawab for restoring his Zamindari of Bakla to him. The name Bakla has now disappeared and if there was ever a town of that name no trace of that remains now. The name Bakla Chandradwip, however, has long been used to indicate the pargana.

Banaripara

Banaripara is a village in the Perojpur subdivision situated about 17 miles south-west of Barisal. There is a District Board road running from Barisal to the village. It is under the Banaripara union and Banaripara Police Station. Area of the village is 218.65 acres and population, 1,726 (1961). It is one of the most thickly populated villages in the district. The special feature of the village is that there is no paddy field in it and that the houses cluster together so closely that there is hardly any space between one homestead and another. It contains a high school, namely, the Banaripara High School (established in 1889) a hospital and a dispensary, a Post and Telegraph Office and the Union Council Office. It is also the headquarters of the Banaripara Police Station which has under its jurisdiction 7 unions and 83 villages in an area of 50 sq. miles with a population of 85,000 (1961).

The weavers of the village weave *dhotis* of Dacca pattern which still command a sale. A fair is held in the month of December. It lasts for about a month and is attended by thousands of people.

Baraikaran

A village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision Baraikaran is under the Kulkati union and Nalchity Police Station. Population of the village is 1,683 persons according to the 1961 Census. The local tradition points out this village as the old headquarters of the district and this is supported by a reference in the decree for the resumption of the Baraikaran *char* to a piece of land which had originally been the cutchary of Mr. Christopher Keating, who was Civil Judge of Bakerganj in 1793. In 1801 they were removed to Barisal.

Bara Kasba

Barakasba, a village in the Barisal Sadar North Subdivision under the Chandshi union and Gournadi Police Station, has an area of 366.20 acres and population 2,017 (1961). It has one of the three most ancient mosques in the district.

According to tradition it was built by the famous Sabi Khan, who also made a road through the marshes in the 16th Century.

A village in the Bhola Subdivision under the Barhanuddin Police Station, Barhanuddin has a high school, namely Barhanuddin High School (established in 1917), a dispensary and a post-office. It is the headquarters of the police station of the same name, which has under its jurisdiction 8 unions and 63 villages in an area of 125 sq. miles with a population of 1,26,367 persons according to the 1961 Census. **Barhanuddin**

Barisal is the headquarter town of the district of Bakerganj. Geographically it is situated in 22°41' North Latitude and 90°24' East Longitude. It stands on the western bank of a river locally known as the Kirtan Khola, which is an off-shoot of the Arial Khan river. By river route it is about 75 miles from Dacca and more than 100 miles from the Bay of Bengal. **Barisal**

The first headquarter station was at Baraikaran, a village to the west of the present Nalchity police station. Early records describe the district as "Zilla Barai Karan" under Dacca Jalalpur. Subsequently the headquarter station was transferred to Bakerganj, a place close to Shibpur, the old Portuguese settlement where there is still a Portuguese Church. The transfer to Barisal took place in 1801 under the magistracy of Mr. Wintle. In 1801 Barisal was a small village consisting of a few acres of land owned by a Muslim family. This village is a district pargana called the "Gird Bandar", which appears to have been formed out of Pargana Chandra-dwip. Gird Bandar changed hands several times. In 1831 it was the property of Babu Ramkanai Roy, a Govt. pleader. The Government took a permanent lease of the land from him on which all the present offices have been built.

A pleasant feature of Barisal is the Bund Road which runs along the bank of the river. It was probably constructed by Mr. Wintle. One of the bridges of the Bund Road contains a table stating that the bridge was rebuilt in 1811 by Mr. John Battye, the then Magistrate. A gentleman named Chapman incidentally mentions in a letter dated 22nd May, 1819 that he rode along this road. As the town expanded it became necessary to include other villages. In addition to Barisal proper the town now extends to Bagura, Alekanda, Amanat-ganj and Kaunia.

About the climate of the town, the maximum temperature during summer was recorded at 103°F, and the minimum during winter at 50°F. The annual mean temperature is around

70°F. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the months of June, July and August.

Area of the town within Barisal Municipality is 7.50 sq miles and population according to the 1961 Census is 70,066. Of the total population 42 per cent were literate in 1961. The Civil administration is run by the Barisal Municipal Committee. The Municipality is divided into 16 Union Committees. The Municipal Committee looks after the roads, public health, water works and street lighting. The maintenance of law and order in the town is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police.

The town has filtered running water supplied from the water works built in 1912 out of the donations of Sir Abdul Gani, the Nawab of Dacca. Three deep tube-wells had been sunk in 1961 by the Public Health Department to give increased supply of drinking water to the town. Barisal Electric Supply Co. which used to supply electricity in the town is now run by Bangladesh Power Development Board.

Although Barisal is not a trading centre, it is an important river port of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority. There are no railways in the district. For long Barisal could only be reached by country boats. In 1884 a steamer service between Barisal and Khulna (nearest railway station) was opened by the Bengal Central Flotilla Company. In 1896 the steamer service was taken over by the "Joint Companies" namely the "Indian General" and the "Rivers Steam". The Steamer services of these companies are now maintained by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation.

The principal means of communication from the interior of the town is steamer and motor launch services. The town is connected by the following steamer services :

- (1) Barisal-Narayanganj,
- (2) Barisal-Khulna,
- (3) Barisal-Madaripur,
- (4) Barisal-Patuakhali-Khepupara and
- (5) Barisal-Chittagong.

The steamer service between Barisal and Khulna was opened in 1884. Motor launch services connect the town with important places and thana headquarters of the district. The town is also connected by regular motor bus services with Bhurghata, Banaripara and Jhalakati.

The main roads of the town are Bagura Road, Sadar Road, College Road, Chawk Bazar Road and Bund Road. The total length of metalled roads is 33 miles. The Bund Road which runs along the bank of the river with Palm trees on both sides is quite pretty. In the town the usual means of communication is cycle rickshaws. There are a few private cars and taxis. The town is not connected by air service or by railway line.

A Degree College, namely, Braja Mohan College, the Premier institution of the town, in fact of the whole district, was founded by Mr. Aswini Kumar Datta and named after his father.

It was established in 1889 and was nationalised in 1965. There are three other degree colleges at Barisal, viz., the Women's college (established in 1957), Syed Hatem Ali College (established in 1966) and Barisal Night College (established in 1963). A Technical Institute was established here in 1962 and it was upgraded to a Polytechnic Institute with effect from 1968. There are seven high schools for boys, namely, Zilla School, B.M. Institution, Baptist Mission School, Town School, Nuria School, A.K. Institute with the attached Bell Islamia Boarding and Chaitannya Gobinda School; and five girls' high schools, namely, Sadar Government Girls' School, Baptist Mission Girls' School, Catholic Mission Girls' School, Swarashati Girls' School and Halima Khantun Girls' School. The total number of Primary schools in the town is twentyseven, Hamidia and Hussainia are the two madrasahs in the town. There is also a deaf and dumb school run on a small scale.

A Medial College has been established at Barisal and the first batch of students admitted in the session 1968-69. There is also a Sadar Hospital managed by the Government. In 1847 the first charitable dispensary was established. It was rebuilt on a new site in 1912. Police Hospital is meant for police personnels only. There is a Red Cross Maternity Hospital and a T.B. Segregation Hospital.

The most important mosques in the town are Jam-e-Kasi Masjid and Ebadullah Masjid. Hindu temples of the town are Ram Krishna Math, Sankar Math, Bholagiri Asram, Pashanmayee Kalibari, Sonatan Thakurer Kalibari. The town has a Brahma Samaj Mandir and also a centre of Christian Missionery activity. The main Missions are the Oxford Anglican, Roman Catholic and Baptist Missions. The Station Church was built in 1845, the Baptist Church in 1829 and the Oxford Mission Church in 1904.

The old buildings of Lucas, Brown, Jordan, Desilna, Parada and Casparez, the European Zamindars of the East India Company time deserve to be mentioned. There are branches of all the six major Banks of Bangladesh, in the town, namely, Sonali, Rupali, Agrani, Pubali, Uttara and Janata. The shopping centres of the town are at the Bazar Road and the Chawk Bazar Road. The main articles of non-consumer goods trade are rice, paddy, jute, betel leaves, betel nuts, fish, firewood, chillies and pulses.

The Riverside Bund Road running from Steamer Ghat to Sagardi ghat, a distance of two miles along the river-side with rows of weeping willows and bottle palms on either side, is a pleasant sight. An evening walk along this road is very refreshing. The main places of recreation in the town are the three Cinema Halls, namely, Jagadish Theatre, Sonali Cinema Hall and Nurmahal Hall. Aswini Kumar Datta Hall is the Public hall of the town. Barisal Silpi Sangsad, Barisal Music School, Barisal Amateur Dramatic club, District Arts Council are the important cultural societies of the town. Barisal Institute and Barisal Club, apart from the Cinema Halls, are the principal places of recreation in the town. The former admits all classes of people, but in the latter admission is restricted. There are two parks in the town, viz., Bell's Park and the Municipal Park. The Bell's Park was laid out in the open space between the civil lines and the river-side road during the magistracy of Mr. Beatson Bell in 1896. The park has been the principal playground of the town for decades and is the centre of all sports and athletic activities.

There are two Circuit Houses and one District Board and one C & B Dak Bungalows. Barisal Boarding, Gulbag Hotel, Prafulla Canteen are residential hotels. There are very few restaurants which can meet the test of modern standards. The town has an old public library which was founded by the then District Judge Mr. Kamp in 1854. There are also some small libraries in the town including the United States Information Services Library.

Three weeklies namely, *Khadem*, *Nakib* and *Barisal Hitaist*, two fortnightly, *Tablig* and *Jugabani* and a monthly, *Gulistan* are published from the town. These are all in Bengali.

Batajore

Batajore is a village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision situated at a distance of 17 miles from Barisal. The road leading to Madaripur from Barisal passes through it. It is under the Batajore union and Gournadi police-station and has an area of 335.37 acres and a population of 1066 persons.

according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, which is known as Batajore A.K. High School (established in 1927), a primary school, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office, a police outpost and the Union Council Office.

Batajore is the native village of two famous cousins and rivals, namely Dwaraka Nath Datta, for six years Vice-Chairman of the District Board, and Babu Aswini Kumar Datta, a political leader of Bengal (before Partition of 1947) and founder of "The Brajamohan Institution". During the Jagathdhatri Puja a fair is held here. It lasts for seven days and is attended by thousands of people. There is an old tank in the village, said to have been dug by the Maghs in 1657. It is locally known as "Magher Aski". A daily market is also held in the village.

A village in the Pirojpur subdivision, Bhandaria is situated on the bank of a small river which is an off-shoot of the Kachua river. It is under the Bhandaria union and Bhandaria police-station. Area of the village is 1,336.01 acres and population 7,842 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school for boys, viz., Bhandaria Vehari High School (established in 1921), two high schools for girls, viz., Bhandaria Bandar Girls' High School and Bhandaria Thana Girls' High School (both established in 1961), a primary school, a madrasah, a hospital and a dispensary, a post and telegraph office and the Union Council Office. It is also the headquarters of the Bhandaria Police-station, which has under its jurisdiction 7 unions and 38 villages in an area of 63 sq. miles with a population of 90,219 (1961). The thana was established in 1882. It contains many *beels* (marshes) which are gradually drying up and being brought under cultivation. Bhandaria

Bhola is the Headquarter town of Bhola subdivision which was created in 1845. The subdivision previously known as Dakhin Shahbazpur subdivision. Bhola Town Committee consists of three wards in an area of 1.50 sq. miles. Population of the town is 8,428 persons according to the 1961 Census. The climate of Bhola is good. There is a degree college here, namely, Bhola College which was established in 1962. It has I.A., I.Sc., I.Com, B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. courses. The town also has three high schools of which two are for boys and one for girls, viz. (1) Bhola Government High School (established in 1918), (2) Bhola Town High School (established in 1930), and (3) Bhola Girls' High School (established in 1956). It has several primary schools and Madrasahs. Bhola

Besides Government Offices like the Subdivisional office, Munisff's Court, Sub-Registry Office, Jail, etc., which are usually found in all subdivisional headquarters there are a hospital, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office, the Town Committee office and a Dak Bungalow at Bhola. It is also the headquarters of the Bhola thana which has under its jurisdiction 11 unions, including the Town Committee, 103 villages with a population of 157,000 persons (1961). In 1877, immediately after the great cyclone of 1876, the site for Bhola town as the subdivisional headquarters was selected by R.C. Dutt, the then Subdivisional Officer. At the time of acquisition, the place consisted of only paddy fields. In area and population it has expanded manifold since then. There is a rectangular embankment round the area of the headquarters. It is an important centre of trade in betel nuts, chillies, coconuts, jute and betel leaves.

Chakhar

Chakhar, a prominent village in the Pirojpur subdivision, famous for its being the parental home of the Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq, is about 16 miles to the north-west of the district headquarters, with which it is connected by a motorable road and is situated on the north of the Bangladesh Water Development Board canal which connects the river Sandhya in the west and the remnant of the river Sugandhya in the north-east. It is under the Chakhar union and Banaripara police station. Area of the village is 541.91 acres and population 1,761 persons according to the 1961 Census.

It is the home of some aristocratic Muslim families and Zamindars. The Zamindars were reported to have been entrusted with some revenue powers, especially collection of *Chouth*, i.e. *chau-kar* from which probably the name Chakhar originated. One Syed Fazar Ali belonging to an aristocratic Muslim family of Chakhar, gave his daughter in marriage to Kazi Mohammad Amin of Bilbilas, the great grand-father of the Sher-e-Bangla. His son Kazi Akram Ali, in the late thirties, of the 19th century, migrated from Bilbilas (in Bauphal P.S.) to Chakhar and settled in a house known as Kazi Bari, a big house facing south and lying at the very heart of Chakhar. Mr. A.K. Fazlul Huq, popularly known as the Sher-e-Bangla, was the son of Mohammad Wazed, the able son of Kazi Akram Ali. During the early thirties of this century, he bequeathed his entire homestead and other ancestral properties at Chakhar for the interest of education and religion. Chakhar, also patronised and inspired by the Sher-e-Bangla, gradually became an important centre of culture and education.

The degree college at Chakhar, called Fazlul Huq College after the illustrious son of the soil, was established in 1940. Besides the College, the village has two high schools, one for boys (Multilateral) and the other for girls' a free Madrasah, the Jame-Mosque, the Community Centre, the Union Council Office, a Seed Store, a District Council Dak-Bungalow, the Sher-e-Bangla Rest House, a dispensary, a sub-registry office and a post-office. The Sher-e-Bangla himself established a Public Library, a Reading Hall, a Rural Reconstruction Society, a beautiful club and a rural hospital in the village. The Central Co-operative Bank, a branch of the Sonali Bank and a Telephone booth are also there at Chakhar. Recently electricity has been extended to the village by Bangladesh Power Development Board.

The main crops of the village are rice, jute, pulses, mustard seed, coconuts and betelnuts. A few small cottage industries, such as handloom weaving, basket making and pottery exist in the village. A daily market and a bi-weekly *hat* are held here. The roads of the village are partly metalled and partly brick-laid with rows of *krishnachura* and coconut trees on the road-sides. Besides being the birth place of the Sher-e-Bangla, it is a village of scenic beauty and attracts visitors from all over the country.

A village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision, Charamaddi Charamaddi is situated about 8 miles to the south-east of Barisal. It is under the Charamaddi union and Bakerganj police-station. Area of the village is 2,711.72 acres and population 5,921 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a High School, namely, Charamaddi W.K. High School (established in 1924), a primary school, a Madrasah, a dispensary, a post-office and the Union Council office. The finest "balam" rice of Bakerganj is grown in the places around Charamaddi and is sold in the local market. A famous landlord of Charamaddi was Asmat Ali Khan Chowdhury. His son Ismail Khan Chowdhury became a member of the then Provincial Legislative Council.

A village in the Bhola Subdivision under the Osmanganj Char Fasson union and Lalmohan police-station, Char Fasson has an area of 2,480.96 acres and a population of 4,035 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, viz., Char Fasson T.B. High School (established in 1932), and a primary school. The *char* which formed comparatively recently was taken possession of by the Government as an island. The island was named Char Fasson after the then Collector.

Daulat Khan

Daulat Khan is the Headquarter station of the Daulatkhan thana and the former headquarters of the Dakhin Shahbazpur (now Bhola) subdivision. It continued as headquarters of the subdivision for nearly 40 years and was a place of great importance at that time. A tidal wave and a catastrophic cyclone took place on the 18th May 1876, which devastated the whole subdivision. Water rose upto the top of trees and men, beasts, snakes and other wild animals climbed upon the trees and house tops and lived together for many hours without causing any harm to one another. There were terrific sounds throughout the night. After this tidal wave the headquarters of the subdivision were removed to Bhola. It is also the headquarter station of the Daulatkhan thana which has under its jurisdiction 9 unions and 38 villages in an area of 116 sq. miles with a population of 1,18,478 (1961). There are a high school at Daulatkhan established in 1916, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a steamer-ghat. The local market is an important centre of trade in betelnut.

Gaila

A village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision under the Gaila Union and Gournadi police-station, Gaila has an area of 452.94 acres and a population of 1,321 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Gaila High School (established in 1893), a Sanskrit *Tol* and a post-office. The *tol* was originally a Sanskrit College known as "Kabindra College" founded by the late Madan Mohan Kabindra, one of the most erudite Sanskrit Scholars of his time. But in 1950 it ceased to function as a college and continued as a *tol*. The village is also the birth place of Trilochan Kabikantabharan, the author of "Panji", a commentary on the famous Sanskrit Byakaran (Grammar), "Kalap Byakaran". Bijoy Gupta, the author of "Manasha Mangal" written in praise of Manasha, the Goddess of snakes, was born here in the beginning of the fifteenth century. Gaila has a market which sits daily. The place is celebrated for the manufacture of molasses.

Gava

A village in the Sadar South subdivision, Gava is situated about 17 miles to the west of Barisal, with which it is connected by a District Board road. It is under the Gava Ramchandra-pur union and Jhalakati police-station. Area of the village is 797.41 acres and population 1,810 (1961). It has a High school, namely, Gava High School (established in 1899), a primary school, a Madrasah, a post and telegraph office and a police out-post. It was formerly the seat of *Kulin Ghoses*, and there were about 60 such families there. The village is quite densely populated.

An important place and a thana in the Barisal Sadar North Gournadi subdivision, Gournadi was formerly in the district of Faridpur and belonged to the subdivision of Madaripur. It was transferred to the district of Bakarganj in 1807. There is a degree college at Gournadi, established in 1964. There are 14 high schools for boys and one high school for girls in the thana. Area of the thana is 116 sq. miles and population 2,08,151 according to the 1961 Census. It has 12 unions and 204 villages under its jurisdiction. Gournadi contains many *beels* (marshes) and there is a large number of Christians residing in these areas. There are six churches here, three Anglican, two Baptist and one Roman Catholic. The roads of the thana, known as *jangals* were constructed by the famous Sabikhan in the 17th century during Pathan Rule. Main crop of the place is rice, and it is famous for sweetmeat products which are very popular among the people of the district, and especially to the people of Barisal.

A town in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision about 12 miles Jhalakati away from Barisal, Jhalakati is situated at the junction of the Jhalakati and Nalchiti rivers in the 20°0' North Latitude and 90°0' East Longitude. There is a steamerghat here, and the town is connected with Barisal by a metalled road and riverway. It is under the Jhalakati police-station. Area of the town is 1.12 sq. miles and population 10,724 persons according to the 1961 Census. The Town Committee is divided into four wards, viz., Chandkati, Kalibari, Roymongal and Char wards. It has a degree college, namely, Jhalakati college, established in 1964. Three high schools, of which two are for boys and one for girls, viz., (1) Jhalakati Govt. High School (established in 1909), (2) Jhalakati Udbodhan Vidyalaya (established in 1947) and (3) Jhalakati H.C. Girls' High School (established in 1946), with at least 3 primary schools, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a Dak-Bungalow. It is also the headquarters of the Jhalakati Thana and it has under its jurisdiction 9 unions including the Town Committee and 214 villages in an area of 75 sq. miles with a population of 1,23,000 (1961).

It is one of the biggest *bandars* in the district. The principal commodities of trade are timber, rice, paddy, cocoanut and betelnut.

A village in the Bhola subdivision, Joynagar is situated Joynagar about 6 miles from Bhola town. It is under the Joynagar union and Daulatkhan Police Station. It is a big village divided into four parts, viz., (1) North Joynagar, (2) South Joynagar, (3) West Joynagar and (4) Madhya Joynagar. According to the

1961 Census the area and population of these different parts of the village are as follows:

Name	Area (in acres).	Population.
1. North Joynagar ..	4,618·35	4,264
2. South Joynagar ..	1,831·76	4,070
3. West Joynagar ..	3,240·81	7,861
4. Madhya Joynagar ..	2,636·95	3,942
Total ..	12,327·87	20,137

The village has a high school, namely, Joynagar High School (established in 1945), a Junior High School, four primary schools, a madrasah, two dispensaries, a post-office and a union council office. It was originally formed as a *char* of the river, Betua which was formerly wide and deep, but is now almost silted up. It is well-cultivated and contains numerous homesteads and five gardens of cocoanut and betelnut. A District Board road running from Bhola to Lalmohan passes through the village, and another road connects it with Daulatkhan. A tidal canal, navigable at all seasons of the year, runs parallel to the latter road. A market has been established by the Government and four reserved tanks and a pucca well have been dug.

Kalashkati

A village in the Barisal Sadar South Subdivision under the Kalashkati union and Bakerganj police-station, Kalashkati has an area of 502·20 acres and a population of 2,081 (1961). It has a high school, namely Kalashkati B.M. High School (established in 1882), a primary school, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office, the Union Council Office, a Dak Bungalow and a police out-post. There is also a steamer-ghat here. An annual fair is held here in the month of November on the occasion of Ganesh puja. It lasts for a fortnight and is attended by thousands of people.

Kirtipasha

Kirtipasha is a village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision about 4 miles to the north-west of Jhalakati. It is under the Kirtipasha union and Jhalakati police-station. Area of the village is 377·06 acres and population, 1,070 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely Kirtipasha P.K. High School (established in 1903), a primary school, a dispensary, a post-office and the Union Council Office. There

is a road connecting the village with Jhalakati, which was originally constructed by the local Zamindars. It is now managed by the Zilla Board. An excellent library was established in the village by the late Babu Rahini Kumar Sen, an enlightened landlord, who wrote a number of Bengali novels and an interesting account of his ancestors. He died in 1904.

A village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision, Lakhutia is about 6 miles to the north-west of Barisal. It is under the Kashipur union and Kotwali police-station. Area of the village is 246·92 acres and population, 756 persons according to the 1961 Census. It was the seat of one of the principal families holding lands in the pargana Chandradwip. They were the *Rais* of Lakhutia. The founder of the family was Ram Chandra Khan. The ancestors of the family are said to have been the cooks of the Raja of Chandradwip. One of the members of the family was a pleader and an enlightened Zamindar who constructed at his own cost a good road and a *Khal* from Lakhutia to Barisal. One of his sons, Pyarilal, became a leading barrister in Calcutta. A *mela* (fair) is held annually in the village. It takes place in November, on the occasion of "Rath Jatra" and lasts for seven days and is attended by thousands of people. Lakhutia

Madhabpasa is a village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision, about 7 miles to the north-west of Barisal. It is under the Madhabpasa union and Babuganj police-station. Area of the village is 1,127·16 acres and population 638 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Madhabpasa Chandradwip High School (established in 1926), a primary school, a post-office and the Union Council Office. The village was the last seat of the Rajas of Chandradwip. It is connected with Barisal by a road made many years ago by a Hindu lady, named Parbati Chaudhurani belonging to a grocer family, who purchased a share of the estate. There is a large tank in the village called Durga Sagar after Raja Joy Narayan's mother, Durgabati. There is a cannon lying near the Bazar and there is a small tank in the neighbourhood called Kaman Tola. The weavers of the village weave mosquito nets which command a good market in the adjoining localities. Madhabpasa

An island in the Bhola subdivision lying in the extreme east of the district about 20 miles from the mainland of Bhola island, Manpura is under the Tazuddin police-station, and is connected with it by ferry boats. Area of the Manpura village, within the island, is 1,574·14 acres and population Manpura

1,514 persons according to the 1961 Census. Area of the island comprising the Manpura union is 31,627.89 acres and population 20,840 (1961). It has a high school namely, Manpura High School (established in 1963), a primary school, a Madrasah, a dispensary, a post-office, the Union Council office and several mosques.

The island was in existence before permanent Settlement and was resumed in 1833, apparently as an island in the Sundarban forest areas. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, the island of Bhola including other islands of the area were within the jurisdiction of the Zamindars of Bakla-Chandradwip. At this time some European travellers, viz., Verthema Le-Blanc, Caesar Frederik and Maunric came to this part of the land. Maunric mentioned the island of Dakhin Shahbazpur (now Bhola) and another island rich in vegetation, which seems to be Manpura. The name of the island was, however, given at a much later period. The historian Beveridge mentioned that according to local tradition, a person called Mangazi took lease of the island from the then Zamindars in the middle of the eighteenth century and started cultivation. And the island was named Manpura after him. Three-fourth population of the island are now Muslims and the minority community includes Hindu fishermen and farmers. The land here is very fertile and the main crop is rice. The manufacture of salt was begun in 1812, and by 1818 the oppression of the salt contractors compelled 350 families to leave the island. In 1822 and again in 1876 the island was swept by storm-waves, in which all the cattle and many of the inhabitants perished.

Mathbaria

A village in the Perojpur subdivision under the Mathbaria union and Mathbaria police-station. Mathbaria has an area of 677.86 acres and a population of 1,851 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Mathbaria K.M. Latif Institution (established in 1928), a girls' school, namely, Hatem Ali Girls' High School (1968), a College (1969), a Primary School, Central Co-operative Bank (April, 17, 1926), Pioneer Bank (1939), a thana Health Complex, a post and Telegraph office, Khasmahal Circle office. It is also the headquarters of the Khash Mahal Kachari, a Dak-Bangalow, a union Council office, and by far the largest market for rice, betel nut and cattle in the southern part of Bakerganj. It is also the headquarters of Mathbaria police-station which has under its jurisdiction 10 unions and 65 villages in an area of 138 sq. miles with a population of 142,000 (1961). Abad Tushkhali, one of the largest Govt. estates lies in this thana. The important products of the thana are rice and coconut.

Nalchira, a village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision **Nalchira** under the Nalchira union and Gournadi police-station has an area of 263.82 acres and a population of 1103 persons according to the 1961 Census. The Union Council office, a dispensary and a Primary school are situated at Nalchira Khanabari which has an area of 137.35 acres and population, 268 (1961). It is the residence of the Nalchira Mias, who were the proprietors of the pargana Nazirpur. According to their family papers, one Altaf Ghazi of Ghazipur was the founder of the family. He was the vizier of one of the Delhi Emperors and came to Dacca at the time of Jahangir. His son Syed Jan obtained the Zamindari and settled at Terochar. Ainuddin, the grand-son of Syed Jan, removed the family residence to Nalchira, where his descendants still live in straitened circumstances. The Zamindari was sold for arrears of revenue and was purchased by the Tagore family of Calcutta in 1819.

A fair is held here in the month of April and lasts for seven days. It is attended by thousands of people and is celebrated for its horse race.

A town in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision situated **Nalchity** on the south bank of the Nalchity river, about 10 miles away from Barisal town, Nalchity is under the Nalchity police-station. It was constituted a Municipality in 1875. The Nalchity Town Committee has an area of 1.63 sq. miles and population 2,314 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Nalchity Merchants' High School (established in 1829), a primary school, a madrasah, a dispensary, a post and telegraph office, the Town Committee office, a Dak-Bungalow and a steamer-ghat. It is also the headquarters of the Nalchity police-station which has under its jurisdiction 10 unions, including the Town Committee, and 196 villages in an area of 90 sq. miles with a population of 1,15,959 (1961).

It is a famous centre of trade in rice, paddy and especially betelnuts. After capturing power from Aga Bakar, the son of Raja Raj Ballab shifted the capital to Nalchity which became a centre of Hindu influence. There is a locality in the town called Maghpara, which was mainly occupied by Maghs who came to Nalchity in winter to trade in betelnuts. There is an old mill for the manufacture of mustard oil. Coconut oil is also manufactured here.

Padri Shibpur is a village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision, about 5 miles from Bakerganj. It is under the **Padri Shibpur** Padri Shibpur union and Bakerganj police-station. Area of the

village is 1,278·99 acres and population 3,890 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a Roman Catholic Mission, a high school for boys, namely, Padrishibpur St. Alfreds' High School (un-aided, established in 1933), a girls' school, an agricultural school, a primary school, a hospital and a dispensary, a post-office, a police outpost and the Union Council Office.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans who settled at Shibpur towards the middle of the eighteenth century. According to tradition Raja Raj Ballab, the Zamindar of the pargana Buzrugumedpur, thinking that foreigners would be suitable as tenants applied to the Portuguese Mission at Bandel for some settlers. These were accordingly sent to him. A priest was afterwards brought to conduct their religious ceremonies, and four pieces of land or *hawalas* were assigned to the priest for his maintenance. These *hawalas* were subsequently formed into a *taluk* called the Padrian or Mission Taluk. The first priest was Fra Raphaeldas Anjos and the *Patta* or lease of the *taluk* was granted to him in 1764. The first church at Padri Shibpur is said to have been built by one Pedro Gonsalves. In 1823, in accordance with the will of Domingo D' Silva, his son Marel pulled down the old church and built the present larger edifice. The village was once a flourishing place and there are remains of many large houses in it. It is connected with Bakerganj by a road in which there are several masonry bridges. The prosperity of the place was due to rice and betelnut trade. The most conspicuous resident of Padri Shibpur was Domingo D' Silva who made his fortune in the rice trade. The settlers, here, speak Bengali like any other Bengalis and are hardly distinguishable from them except in religion. Many of these people are professional *shikaris* (hunters), killing boars for those who hire them. Their priests endeavour to improve their education.

Patarhat

A village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision under the Mehendiganj union and Mehendiganj police-station Patarhat has an area of 183·35 acres and a population of 1,965 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has three high schools, two of which are for boys and one for girls. They are (1) Patarhat Muslim High School (established in 1924), (2) Patarhat Jublee High School (established in 1936) and (3) Patarhat Girls' High School (established in 1963). There is a post-office here and the Mehendiganj police-station is situated in the village.

Perozpur

Perozpur, the Headquarter town of the Perozpur subdivision, was established in 1859. It is situated on the southern bank of the river Damodar. This river was gradually drying up, but

was re-excavated. The Town Committee comprises an area of 3,968 acres and a population of 15,761 according to the 1961 Census. It has a degree college, namely, Perojpur College (established in 1957), four high schools, three of which are for boys and one for girls; viz., Perojpur Govt. High School (established in 1882), Perojpur Town High School (established in 1946), Perojpur Adarsha High School (established in 1944), and Perojpur Urban Girls' High School (established in 1893), eleven primary schools, two madrasahs, a hospital, two post-offices, one telegraph office, the Town Committee office and a Dak-Bungalow. It is also the headquarters of the Perojpur police-station which has under its jurisdiction 11 unions, including the Town Committee, and 111 villages with an area of 102 sq. miles and a population of 1,35,072 (1961).

The town of Perojpur was established in 1866, though the subdivision was established in 1859. During the intervening period there was no headquarters for the subdivision. Perojpur was constituted a Municipality in 1885. It is not a centre of any commercial importance, but the Rajaganj *hat* on the bank of the river is an important market for rice and betelnut. Tiles and earthen pots are manufactured here. There are arrangements for supply of filtered water in the town. Steamers from Barisal to Khulna touch at Hularhat, from which the town is at a distance of 4 miles.

An old village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision under the Ponabalia union and Jhalakati police-station Ponabalia has an area of 303.89 acres and a population of 192 according to the 1961 Census. It was formerly the headquarters of the zamindars of the pargana of Tappe Havili Selinabad. The Sugandha or Sunda river is said to have flowed past it in old times, when the village Sikarpur in Gournadi thana was on its opposite bank. There is an ancient image of Siva at Shamrail near this village. According to tradition the image was not established by anybody, but rose from underneath the ground of its own accord. Shamrail is regarded as a place of pilgrimage by the Hindus, who come in thousands to worship the image on the *Siva Chaturdashi* day. It is also regarded as a *Pitha-Sthan*, i.e., one of the places where a portion of the body of Sati, the wife of the god Mahadev, fell severed by the discus of Vishnu, when Mahadev was carrying her dead-body. The village was in the zamindari of Ponabalia Chowdhuries, from whom it was transferred to the Nawab of Dacca.

Ramsiddi, a village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision under the Barthi union and Gournadi police-station, has an area of 151.45 acres and a population of 533 persons according

to the 1961 Census. There is an old mosque in the village which is said to have been built by the famous Sabikhan. It is a more imposing building than the one at Bibichini and has four stone pillars. Two of the pillars are slender and are said to have been worn away by the embraces of devotees. A man named Kangali, a resident of the village, is said to have been the first Christian convert in the district.

Rayerkati

A village in the Perojpur subdivision about 4 miles from the subdivisional headquarters, Rayerkati is under the Tona Union and Perojpur police-station. Area of the village is 432.99 acres and its population 391 persons according to the 1961 Census. The name Rayerkati literally means the clearing of the Rays. According to tradition the Nawab of Dacca presented Madan Mohan Ray with the pargana of Selimabad and some other parganas as a reward for good service. Madan Mohan came from Diganga near Calcutta and established himself at Nathulabad. The family is one of the oldest in the district and the Sanskrit inscription on the temple of Kali shows that the image was set up by Rudra Narayan Ray in 1050 B.S. (1643 A.D.), that the temple was erected in 114 B.S. and that Jay Narayan, third in descent from Rudra Narayan, inaugurated it on the 30th Paus 1162 B.S. (1755 A.D.). The Rays of Rayerkati are Dakhin Rarhi Kayasthas.

Sharikal

A village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision under the Sharikal union and Gournadi police-station, Sharikal has an area of 728.61 acres and a population of 2,455 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Sharikal High School (established in 1929), a primary school and a post-office. There is a local belief that some faithful followers of Nawab Serajuddoula having been defeated in the battle of Plassey sought refuge here and erected a fort to give a fresh fight with the British. The fort was seized in 1779. The ruins of the fort and some broken cannons still exist as the token of past heroism.

Shial Ghuni

Shial ghuni is a village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision under the Kabai union and Bakarganj police-station, having an area of 1,741.95 acres and a population of 3,760 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Shialghuni J. H. High School (established in 1950), a primary school and a post-office. There is an old mosque of Mughal period in the village, built by one Nasrat Gani. It appears to have been at one time richly ornamented and still has some carved flowers and arabesques. The villagers say that there was an inscription which fell down and disappeared

A village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision, about 13 miles to the north of Barisal, Shikarpur is said to have been at one time on the east bank of the river Sugandha when Ponabalia Shamrail was on the west bank. It is under the Shikarpur union and Wazirpur police-station. Area of the village is 479.84 acres and population, 1,098 according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Shikarpur G.G. High School (established in 1920), a primary school and a Hindu temple. The temple is dedicated to the goddess Tara or *Ugra-Tara*, a manifestation of the goddess Sati. Shikarpur

A village in the Barisal Sadar South subdivision about five miles to the south-west of Barisal town and situated on the north bank of the Nalchity river, Sujabad is under the Magar union and Nalchity police-station. Area of the village is 1,080.77 acres and population only 91 persons, according to the 1961 Census. It derives its name from Shah Suja, the brother of Emperor Aurangzeb. It contains the ruins of a fort which appears to have been erected by Shah Suja who was at one time the Governor of Bengal. The fort was built in order to defend the country against the incursions of Maghs and Burmese. It was rectangular in size and surrounded by an earthen wall with a mound at each corner. Inside, there were four small tanks and in the centre was the princes' dwelling house. The greater part of the wall has fallen into the river, the tanks are nearly dried up and the greater portion of the grounds are covered with jungle. Collectorate records show that it was given rent-free by Shah Suja to the families of some Pathans who had fallen in battle against the Maghs. Shah Suja's force was, however, victorious in the battle. None of the descendants of those Pathans live here now. It passed into other hands by purchase. There is a tragic story about Asman Singh, one of the last Pathan residents of the village. It is said that his wife was unfaithful to him. On hearing that his wife's paramour was in the house, while he was away at Nalchity, he rushed to the house with a sword in hand. His wife delayed to open the door, and gave her lover time to escape. Asman Singh then burst open the door and aimed a blow at his wife. The blow missed her and fell upon her child, who thus died in her arms. He was then tried for murder and executed. Sujabad

A village in the Perojpur subdivision situated on the east bank of the Swarupkati river, Swarupkati is under the Swarupkati Union and police-station of the same name. Area of the village is 294 acres and population, 1,242 according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Swarupkati High Swarupkati

School (established in 1927), a primary school, a hospital and a dispensary, a post and telegraph office and a steamer station. It is also the headquarters of the Swarupkati police-station which has under its jurisdiction 9 unions and 129 villages in an area of 71 sq. miles with a population of 1,27,947 (1961). Coconut is the most important product of the thana and the *beel* portion of it, which is gradually drying up, produces excellent rice. Coir industries and boat building industries of the district are located here. Sundari woods from the Sundarbans are brought in large quantities and sold here.

Tushkhali

Tushkhali is a village in the Perojpur subdivision under the Tushkhali union and Mathbaria police-station, having an area of 844.35 acres and a population of 2,415 according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Tushkhali High School (established in 1941), a primary school, a madrasah, a dispensary, a dak-Bungalow, a police outpost and the Union Council office. There are good District Board roads running from Tushkhali to patharghata *via* mathbaria and also *khals*, either natural or excavated by the Government, which serve the purpose of irrigation. It is on the bank of Baleswar river with a distance of about 2 miles. It was a steamer station even after partition in 1947. Now launches are plying connecting Dacca and Khulna. The principal articles of trade here are rice, coconut and betelnut.

It is a resumed Sundarbans estate entirely reclaimed from forest. Originally it was a jungle tract, and the Zamindars of the adjoining pargana Saidpur encroached upon the lands and granted lease for its reclamation. The estate was taken over by the Government and Mr. F. B. Kemp, the then Commissioner of the Sundarbans farmed out the estate to one Devnath Roy, Zamindar of Taki for 20 years. In 1864 it was excluded from the Tushkhali estate and given to the adjoining Sundarbans estate of Debnathpur. The remaining area was let in farm for 20 years to Messrs Morrel and Lighfoot in 1871 by the Collector of Bakerganj. The term of the settlement having expired, the estate was resettled *khas* for 15 years. The Settlement Officer was then Babu Pyari Mohan Basu, Deputy Collector.

Wazirpur

A village in the Barisal Sadar North subdivision under the Shikarpur union and Wazirpur police-station, Wazirpur has an area of 452.58 acres and a population of 1,773 persons according to the 1961 Census. It has a high school, namely, Wazirpur W. B. Union High School, and a post and telegraph office. It was the residence of the old Zamindars of the

pargana Kalikapur which was given by the Nawab Alivardi Khan in 1149 B.S. (1742 A.D.) to Ratneswar, who gave his own name to the pargana. Ratneswar was descended from Ram Mohan Mal, a servant of one of the Rajas of Chandradwip. It is said that one Fakir Muhammad, who was a vizier of the Nawabs, resided in this village and hence the village is called Vazirpur or Wazirpur. The village and its neighbourhood is famous for the manufacture of *daos* and cutlery. The weavers of the village make *dhotis* of the Dacca pattern which are much appreciated.

APPENDIX

Population¹, 1974

[Showing area, sex, density and variation, 1961—1974.]

Locality	Area in sq. miles including rivers.	Male	Female	Both sexes	Population variation over 1961, per cent	Density/ sq. mile including rivers 1974.
BAKERGANJ DISTRICT	2,792	20,21,629	19,06,785	39,28,414	28·0	1,407
Pirojpur Subdivision	541	4,72,906	4,59,173	9,32,079	26·3	1,723
Mathbaria Thana	137	95,689	92,878	1,88,567	32·8	1,376
Bhandaria Thana	63	56,202	55,624	1,11,826	24·0	1,775
Pirojpur Thana	102	89,054	84,965	1,74,019	28·8	1,706
Kawkhali Thana	31	28,937	28,215	57,152	15·3	1,844
Swarupkati Thana	71	82,021	80,709	1,62,730	27·2	2,292
Banaripara Thana	50	54,995	53,297	1,08,292	27·1	2,166
Nazirpur Thana	87	66,008	63,485	1,29,493	19·9	1,488
Jhalakati Subdivision	289	2,54,515	2,45,570	5,00,085	24·0	1,730
Kathalia Thana	61	44,936	44,747	89,683	19·0	1,470
Nalchity Thana	90	76,029	73,425	1,49,454	28·9	1,661
Rajapur Thana	63	53,300	52,382	1,05,682	18·8	1,677
Jhalakati Thana	75	80,250	75,016	1,55,266	26·1	2,070
Barisal Sadar (S) Subdivision	426	4,21,034	3,96,669	8,17,703	29·2	1,919
Bakerganj Thana	155	1,33,654	1,31,020	2,64,674	24·5	1,708
Kotwali Thana	113	1,42,533	1,27,547	2,70,080	38·0	2,390
Babuganj Thana	57	54,502	51,728	1,06,230	23·4	1,864
Wazirpur Thana	101	90,345	86,374	1,76,719	27·4	1,750
Barisal Sadar (N) Subdivision	522	3,71,717	3,47,062	7,18,779	22·7	1,377
Hizla Thana	176	69,201	62,731	1,31,932	22·1	750
Mehendiganj Thana	134	1,06,035	99,928	2,05,963	30·2	1,537
Muladi Thana	95	67,558	63,457	1,31,015	17·6	1,379
Cournadi Thana	117	1,28,923	1,20,946	2,49,869	20·1	2,136
Bhola Subdivision	1,014	5,01,457	4,58,311	9,59,768	35·6	947
Daulatkhan Thana	103	62,109	57,638	119,747	1·1	1,163
Tajumuddin Thana	160	37,421	33,808	71,229	25·2	445
Monpura Thana	49	9,179	7,994	17,173	17·6	350
Charfession Thana	190	88,201	77,988	1,66,189	62·2	875
Lalmohan Thana	205	86,533	79,200	1,65,733	31·6	808
Borhanuddin Thana	138	89,810	84,355	1,74,165	37·8	1,262
Bhola Thana	169	1,28,204	1,17,328	2,45,532	56·5	1,453

¹ *Bangladesh Population Census, 1974, Bulletin-2, pp. 28—30.*

APPENDIX

CYCLONE OF 1970

On the 12th November, 1970, a severe cyclonic storm and great tidal bore hit the district. Mankind is hardly acquainted with such great natural calamity. Though the Patenga Meteorological Office gave the news of this imminent danger beforehand to the people, yet the colossal destruction caused was unprecedented and it surpassed all previous records in this regard. For two days, prior to this great disaster, the sky had been threatening and the wind blew with tremendous violence and speed. It blew with great severity right from 8 p.m. of November 12. About 9 at night, this devastating cyclonic storm changed its course and at a speed ranging between 70 and 80 miles per hour ravaged the district. Simultaneously, the whole district was totally submerged at night by tidal waves which were more than 18 feet high. At dead of night, after a brief pause, this cyclonic storm with renewed vigour and energy started blowing again from the west and north-west direction with a velocity of 100—120 miles per hour and further lashed the district uprooting trees, damaging animal lives and destroying all houses that came in its way. In this way the whole district suffered severest damage. This worst natural calamity which was caused by severe cyclonic storm and tidal bore left the most devastating effect in the history of the coastal districts of Bangladesh in general, and Bakerganj in particular.

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PLATES



Qasba Mosque, P.S. Gournadi, built in Khan Jahan Ali style datable to the middle of the 15th Century A.D.

(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)



1. Mian Bari Mosque, village Karapur of late Mughal period (17th Century A.D.).
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)



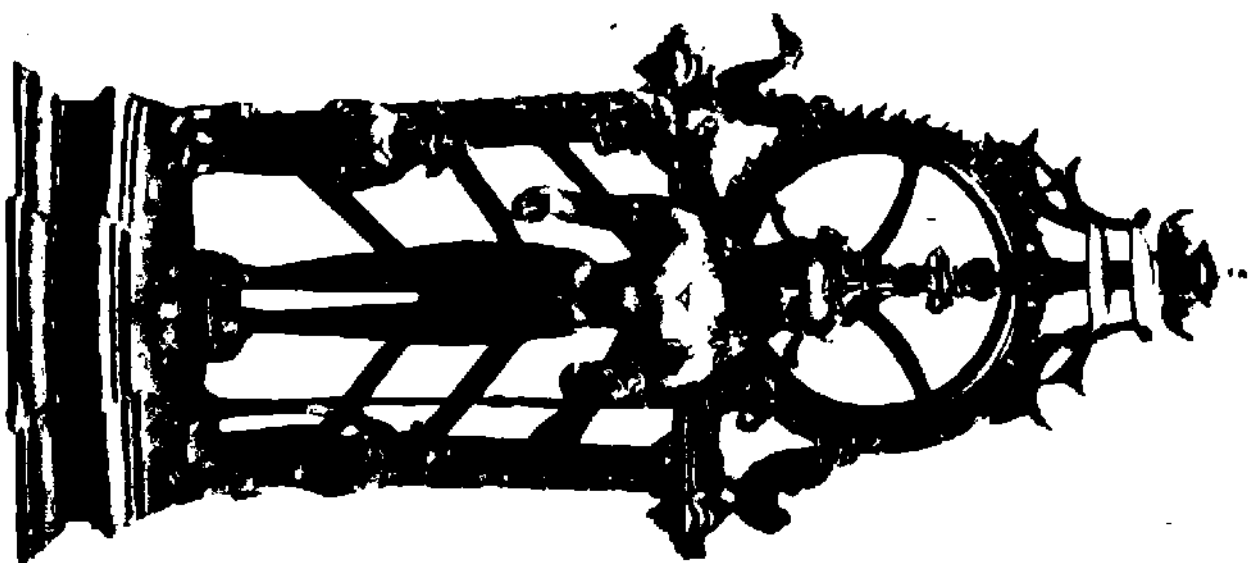
**Kamalapur Mosque near Qasba, P.S. Gournadi.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)**



Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq's Mosque and Minaret at Chakhar.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)



Sarkar's Math at Mahilara, P.O. Gournadi. It is slightly leaning on one side.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)

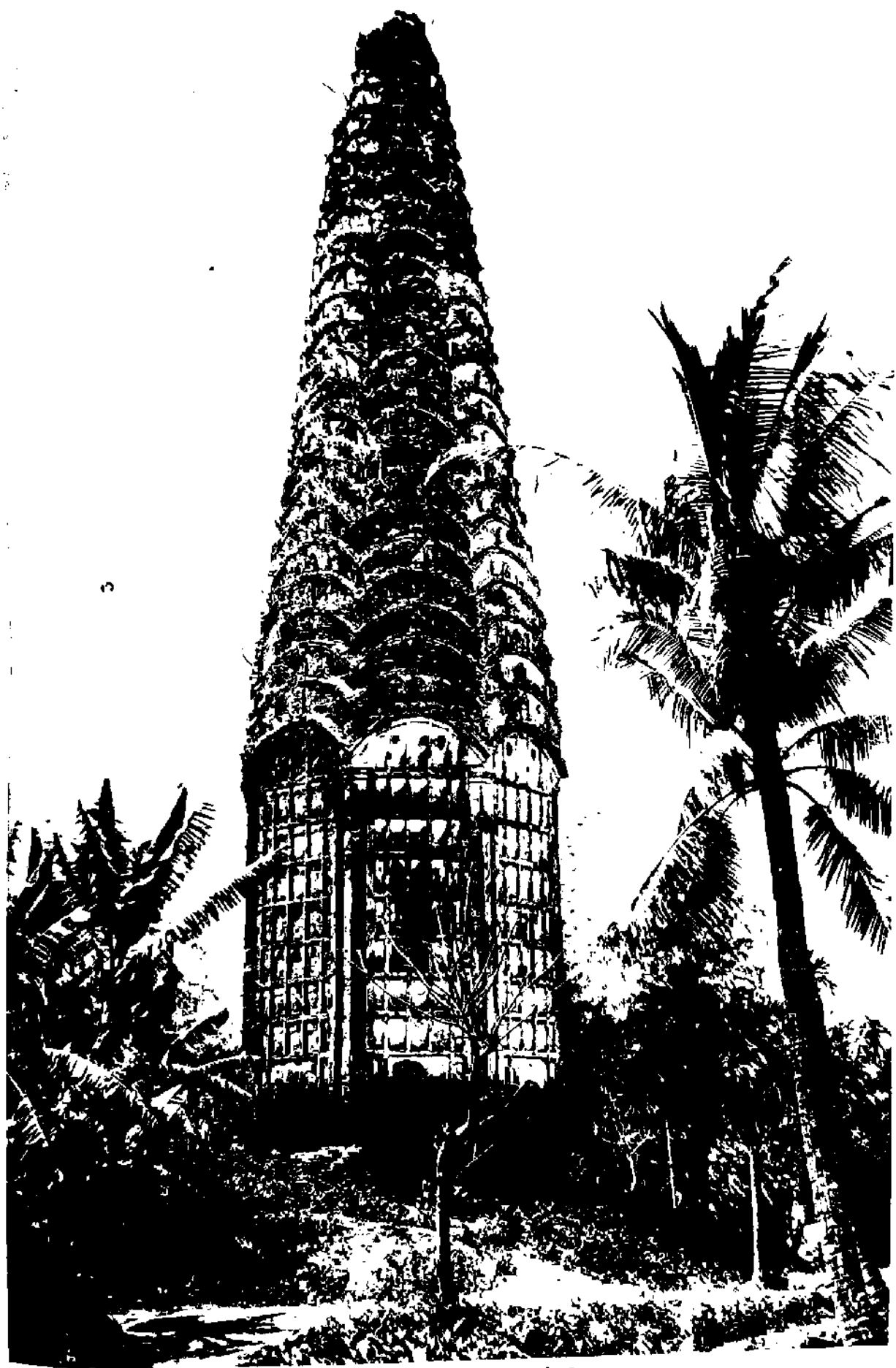


Siva Lokeshvara image in bronze from Barisal, a unique metal image of Hindu Buddhist icons. (Early 10th to the middle of the 11th Century A.D.)

(Courtesy : Department of Archaeology.)



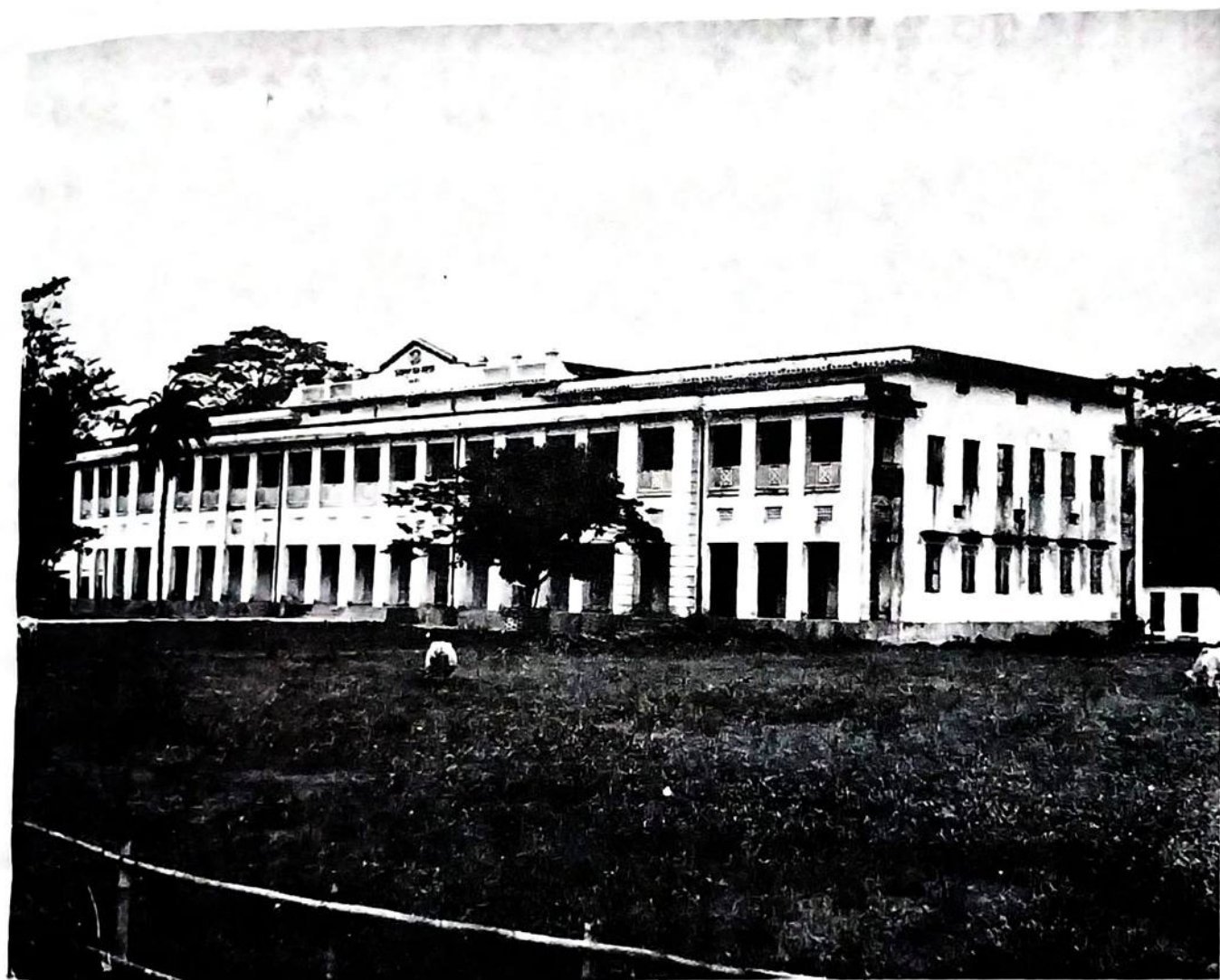
Below: A stone sculpture of Garuda from Chakhr. (Courtesy: Dacca Museum.)



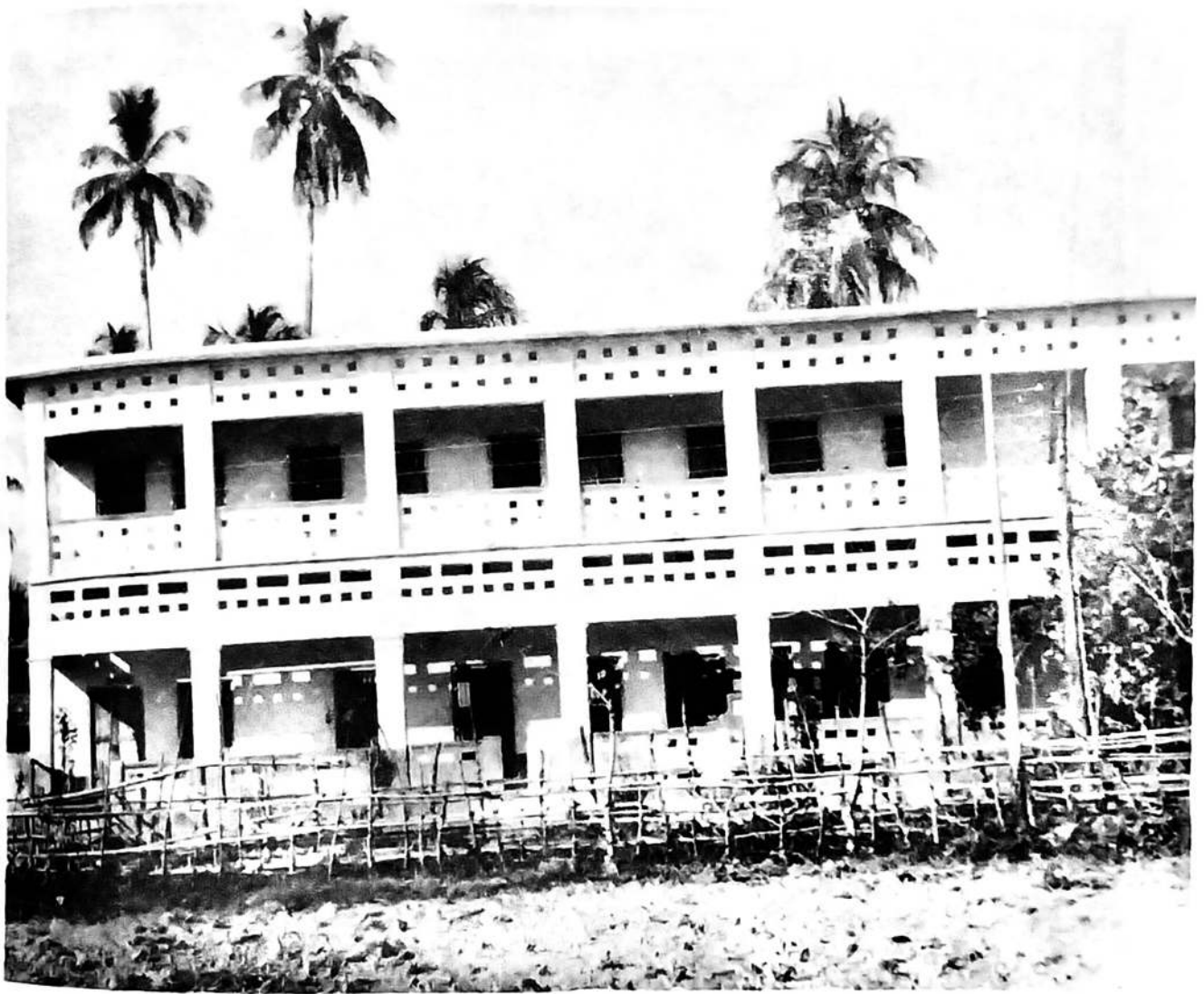
Sutrali Math, near Barisal town.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)



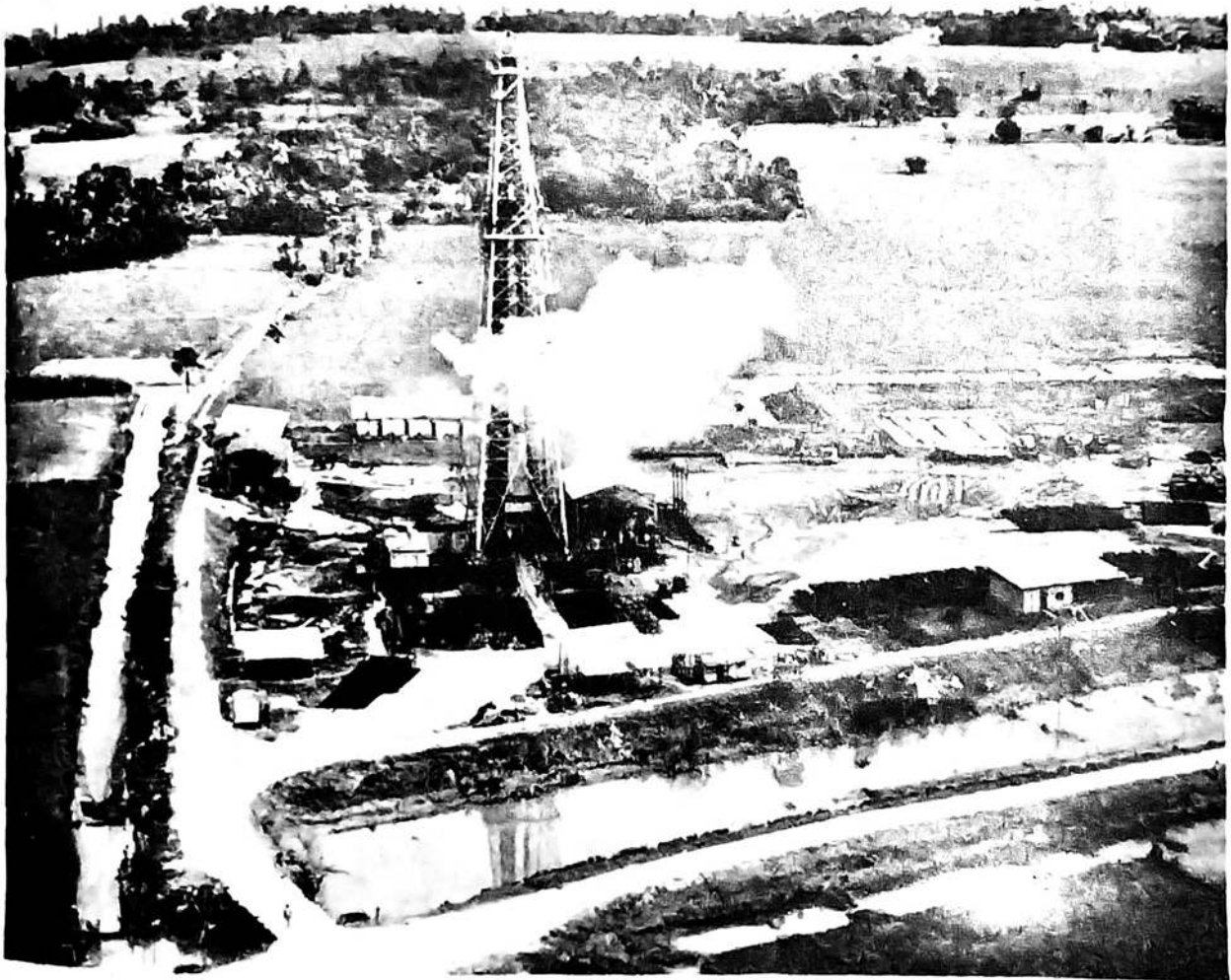
**Kali temple associated with the memory of Poet Mukunda Das of Barisal.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)**



Government Fazlul Huq College, Chakhar.
(Courtesy: Department of Archaeology.)



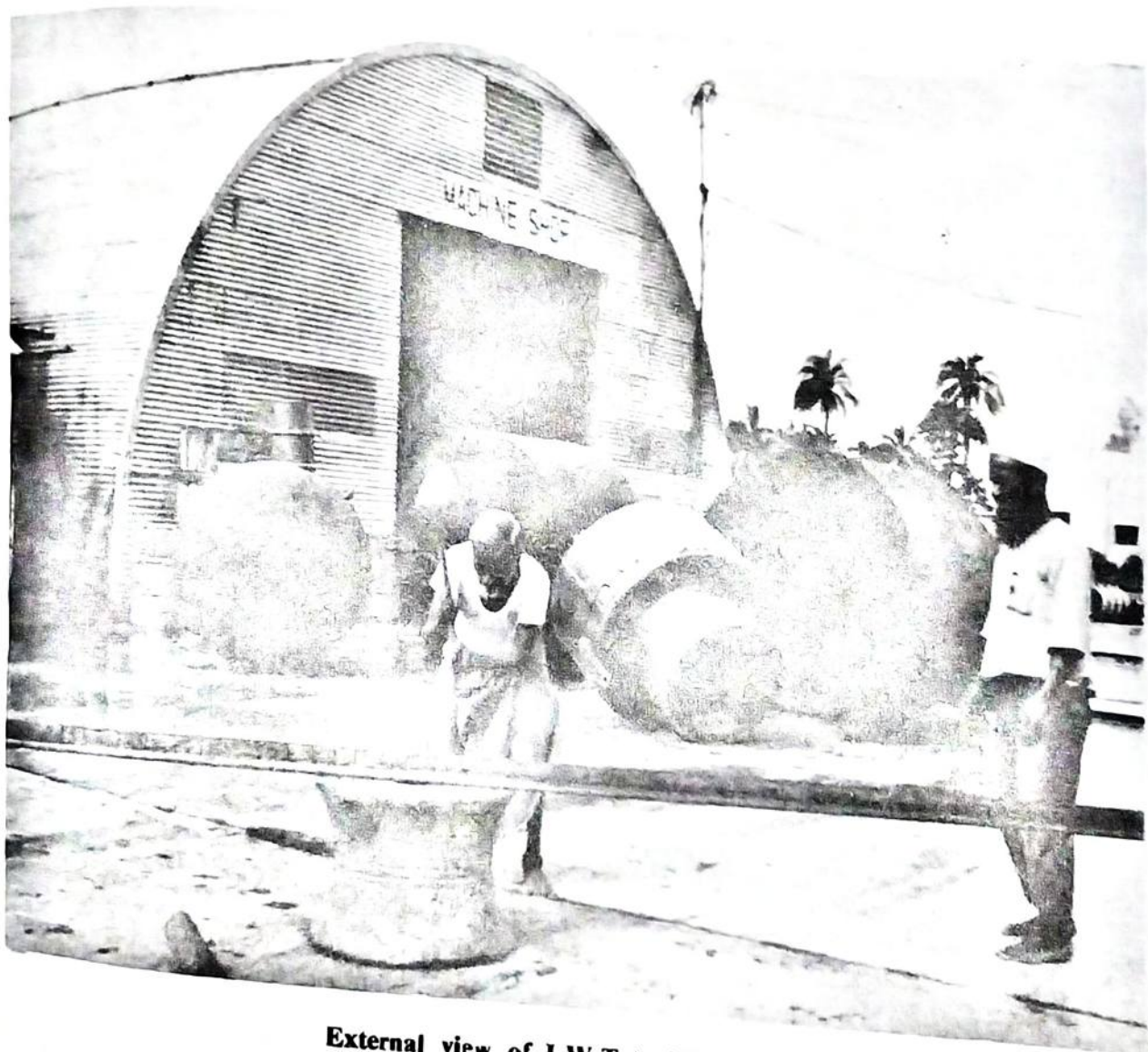
**'Darus Sunnat'—Guest House, Sarshina.
(Courtesy: Deputy Commissioner, Bakergonj.)**



Muladi Gas Boring Centre.
(Courtesy: Press Information Department, Dacca.)



Coir Products, Barisal.
(Courtesy: Press Information Department, Dacca.)



External view of I.W.T.A. Workshop.
(Courtesy: Press Information Department, Dacca.)



**Paddy fields, a common scene of the district.
(Courtesy: Press Information Department, Dacca.)**