

Rangpur Carmichael College

Carmichael--the dream of a bright future

RANGPUR Carmichael College, a traditional and prestigious educational institution setup during the British regime in undivided Bengal is still playing a challenging role in the education sector.

The institute has already gone through 88 long years educating millions of students since its

inception in 1916.

Carmichael College was a proud, historic and reputed institution of undivided Bengal. The dream of setting up a college in Rangpur was first proposed by the Zaminder of Kundi estate, Mritunjoy Roy Chowdhury, the Vice-Chairman of Rangpur Zilla Parishad. He spontaneously endeavoured to set up the college

and initiated its implementation in 1913.

On that note a committee was formed with the District Magistrate J.M. Sen Gupta, ICS as President. The committee began collecting ideas for its implementation. The main contributors were Annanda Mohan Roy Chowdhury Bahadur, zaminder of Tapa estate, Raja Gopal Lal

Roy, zaminder of Tajhat estate, Great King Sir Mondha Chandra Nandi Bahadur, zaminder of Kashim Bazar estate, Rani Bridha Chowdhury, zaminder of Dimla, Dawlatunessa Bibi, zaminder of Laxmipur estate, Bhubansunderi Devi Chowdhury, zaminder of Manthana estate and other eminent persons.

The first principal of

number of existing teaching staff stands at 186 and students nearly about 16,000.

Before the division of Bengal hundreds of students from Assam, Bihar, Jalpaiguri and other places crowded round the institute to study. The reputation of this Institution in the meantime spread far and wide.

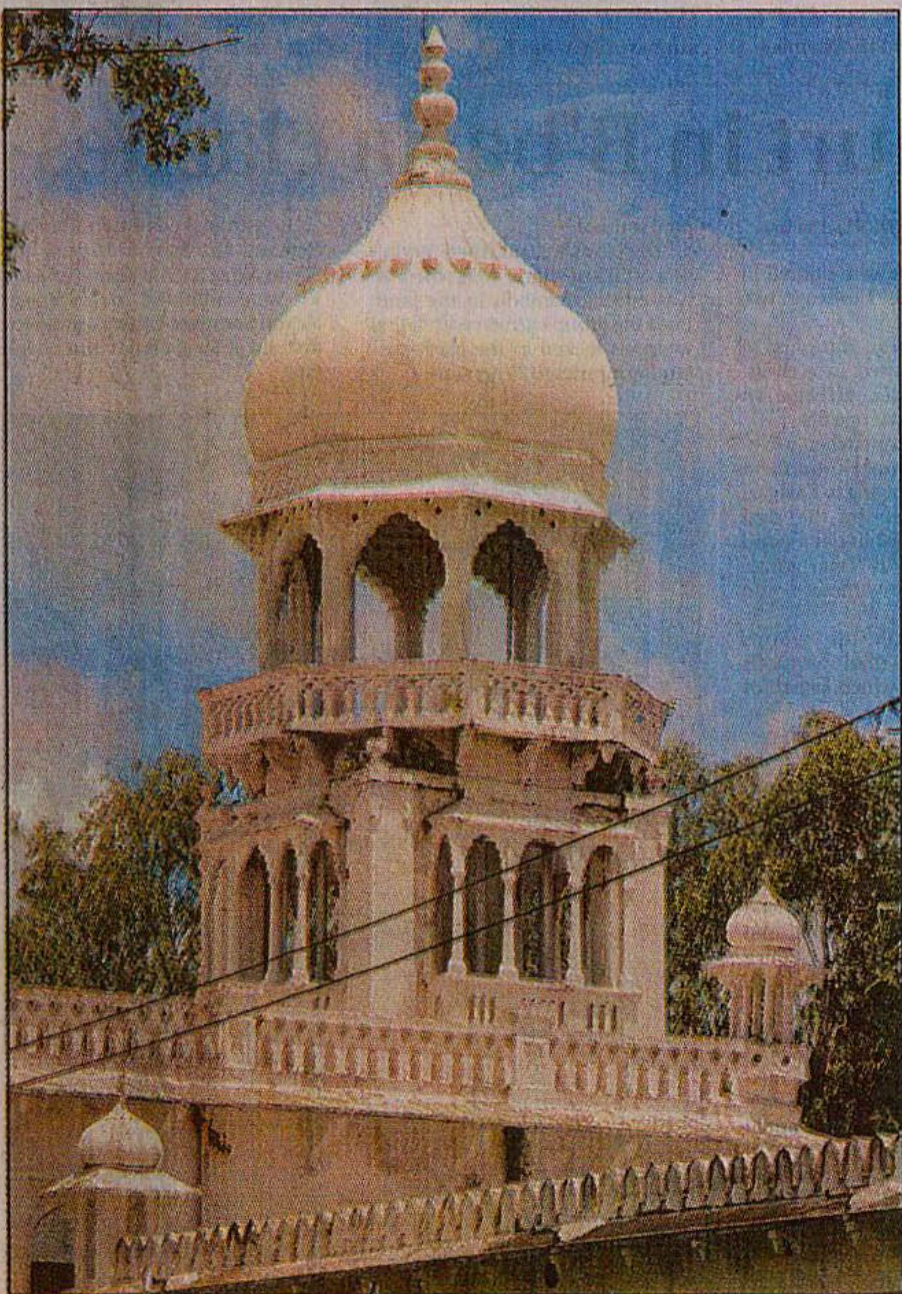
In 1922 Lord Liton on a visit to

Lahiri. Bilbomongal Bhattacharjee was a professor of Biswabharati Shantineketan Degree College during its inception.

In 1955 the students and teachers of the Bengali department of Carmichael College formed a literature union under the name "Samajder Ashore". The activities of said organisation

movement in 1952 touched Carmichael. Although many were involved directly with the movement, the political unrest did not affect the college environment, mentioned professor Kalim Uddin Ahmed.

While talking to Professor Md. Nurunabi Chowdhury, the incumbent principal of Carmichael college the 30th in



Carmichael College was Dr. Watkins who began the first academic year at Rangpur Zilla Parishad building in July 1917 and continued there for two years.

In February 1918 Governor of undivided Bengal Lord Thomas David Baron Carmichael visited Rangpur and formally inaugurated Carmichael College on February 12, 1918. During the period he allocated a grant of Tk. 50,000 and later Tk. 40,000 for the construction of the college building.

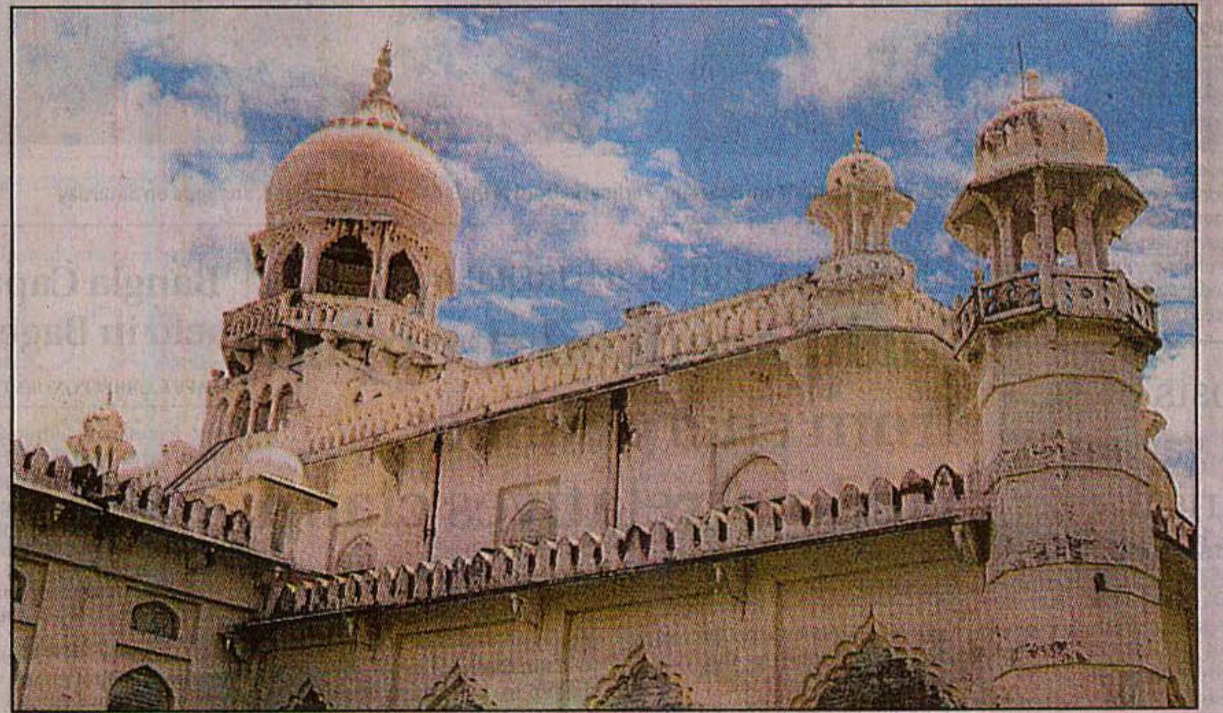
In 1922 Lord Liton, on a visit to the college approved the opening of the I.Sc level and later on went up to the B.Sc. level. In the same year the college opened honours classes on many other subjects. From then onwards the dream of converting Carmichael to a residential university emerged.

The college was under the Calcutta University in 1917-1947 later under the Dhaka University in 1947-1953 and finally under the Rajshahi University.

The college was first nationalised in January 1963 later was declared a University College. The college has no library building of its own. The library still remain attached to the main building and presently houses over 100,000 books.

The college is situated on nearly 800 bighas. The main building was constructed in the shape of the Oxford village in Serasenic architectural designs.

The college began its journey with 1,000 to 1,200 students and 23 teachers. On its nationalisation in 1963, the number of teachers increased to 52. The



college remarked on the visitor's book as "...my greatest pleasure in visiting this institution was promoting the B.Sc. classes during my tenure..."

Among the principals, the most remarkable were Dr. Watkins, Dr. D.N. Mallick, and Dev Proshad Ghosh.

First honours class was inaugurated in 1959 in Bengali language and literature. During this period Bengali department was enriched with distinguished poets and professors like Muffakharul Islam, Mir Abu Salek, Bilbomongal Bhattacharjee, Shiv Prosanna

continued for next five years. Founder president was poet Mohammed Sultan, a close friend of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

In the 1940s there were 1,000 students in Carmichael college. Of them only 25 percent were Muslims. Despite individual colleges in Bihar and Assam many of the students migrated to Carmichael only because of the reputation it yielded. During this period the female students were from the Hindu community and others found it difficult to outbeat the Hindu students' merit.

The wave of the Language

line, said that the reputation of college is still as it used to be is not possible to accommodate the influx of students each year. "We cannot provide adequate accommodation for both teachers and students. There are only four boys' and two girls' hostels in the college," he said.

There is no library or a science laboratory. No boundary wall and much of the landed property has been grabbed by influential.

While talking to Hafizur Rahman, an honours final year student on Philosophy Carmichael college could not have been declared a full fledged

university 20 years back.

Another student leader Ashrafur Alam Ripon said the demand to convert Carmichael College a university had been a crying need, but because of political barriers the implementation of the demand is still delayed.

Nurjahan Akhter Shilpi a student of Bengali department said that it was her dream that Carmichael will be given full-fledged university status.

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