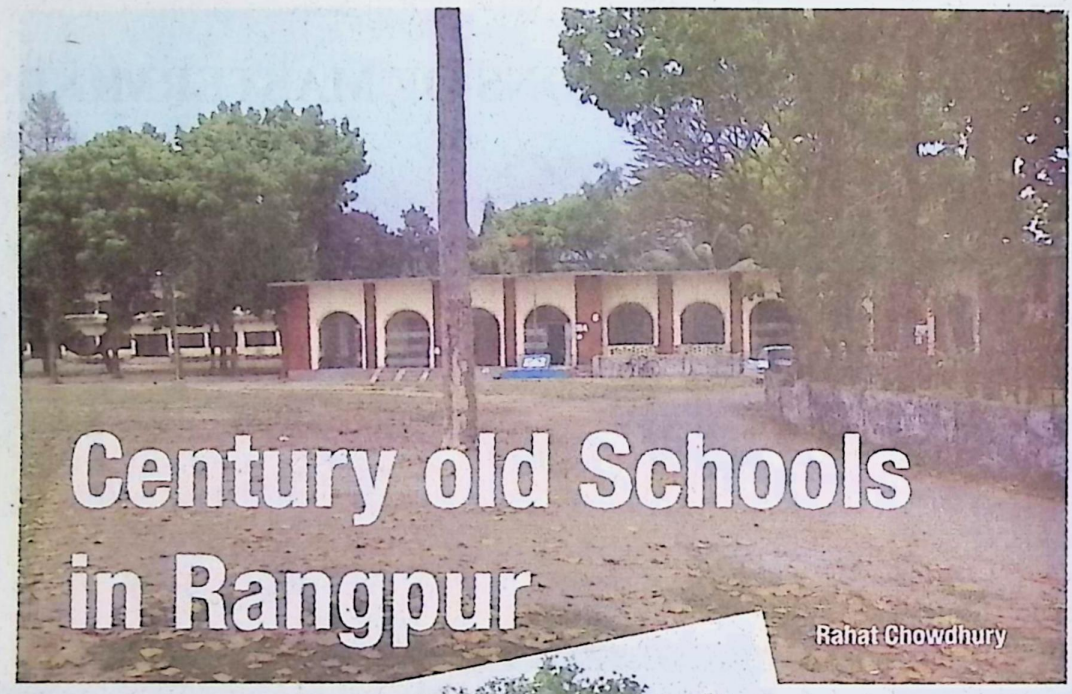


Century old Schools in Rangpur

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RANGPUR recently became the 7th Division of Bangladesh. Rangpur has been a centre for culture and education in Northern Bangladesh for centuries. There are many schools of heritage in this division that were established in the British period. This article introduces three such schools namely, Rangpur Zila School (1832), Rangpur Government Girls' High School (1876) and Afanullah High School (1908) with interviews of the heads of the schools.

RANGPUR ZILA SCHOOL

Rangpur Zila School is one of the oldest schools in Bangladesh. It was established in 1832 by a local Zamindar and was named Rangpur Zamindar School. Some leading Zamindar families and Nathial Smith, the District Collector of Rangpur, played an influential role in the establishment of the school. The school was inaugurated by Lord William Bentinck, erstwhile Governor General of Bengal. The Maharaja of Cooch Bihar donated funds for the construction of the school building. Krishna Nath Ray joined as the first headmaster.

The school came under the management of the Raj in 1857. It was affiliated with Calcutta University. In 1862, it was renamed Rangpur Zila School. The school is known for its quality of education. The school has always been one of the top schools of Northern Bangladesh. In 2007, the school celebrated its 175th year.

Prafulla Chaki, a Bengali revolutionary, carried out attacks against British colonial officials in an attempt to secure independence. Other prominent students of the school include Dr MA Wajed, reputed nuclear scientist, and author, novelist, dramatist, and journalist, Anisul Hoque.

RANGPUR GOVT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Rangpur Govt Girls' High School was established in 1876. Students of this school have always done well in achieving Scholarship and in the SSC. In 2009, 142 out of 219 candidates got GPA-5 in the SSC. Mrs Helena Khan was the first head teacher. Ms Sayed Khaleda Akhtar is the present head teacher.

AFANULLHAH HIGH SCHOOL

Mahigonj is regarded as old Rangpur. Afanullah High School is situated in Mahigonj. It was established as a junior school in 1908. It was promoted to a High School in 1956.

The school was named after Khan Saheb Afanullah Kobiraj. Prominent students include Prof. Arshadul Bari, Former VC of Open University;