

Making and Shaping of the Dhaka University: The Role of the Muslim Leaders

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Abstract: The Partition of 1905 had established East Bengal and Assam as a separate province. Dhaka became its capital; it proved to be a great blessing to its peoples and accomplished notable developments in every sector, including education. But the Partition was abolished in 1911. The announcement of the annulment of the Partition of Bengal came as a rude shock to the Muslims. In response to the letter of Salimullah, Lord Hardinge came to Dhaka on January 29, 1912, and stayed there three days. On January 31, a 19-member Muslim deputation led by Nawab Salimullah, along with Syed Nawab Ali Choudhury, A. K. Fazlul Haq met and gave an address of honor to the Viceroy. They pressed a strong demand for a university in Dhaka. Following the request from Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur of Dhaka and other Muslim leaders of East Bengal, Viceroy Lord Hardinge proposed on February 2, 1912, that a new university will be established in that portion of Bengal. Finally, according to the recommendation of the Nathan and Calcutta University Commission, Dhaka University was established in 1921, under the *Dacca University Act of 1920* in the Indian Legislative Council. Academic activities started on July 1, 1921, with the three faculties: Arts, Science and Law.

Introduction

The first University in East Bengal is the University of Dhaka, established in 1921 as a repayment of the 1905 Partition of Bengal's annulment, which distressed Bengali Muslims. Lord Lytton, the Governor of Bengal and the Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, stated in 1922 that Dhaka University was compensation to Bengal's Muslims in his first convocation speech.¹ As a result of the sturdy pressure from Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah Bahadur and other Muslim leaders, Viceroy Lord Hardinge proposed that a university be established in East Bengal on February 2, 1912. Public opinions were asked before the University reached its final scheme, and the Secretary of the State approved it in December 1913. University was established in 1921, under the *Dacca University Act of 1920* in the Indian Legislative Council. However, Philip Joseph Hartog² was appointed its first vice-chancellor. Academic activities started on July 1, 1921, with three faculties: Arts, Science and Law. Dhaka University witnessed the history of the Liberation struggle of Bangladesh as well as Bengali nationalism. In this article, an attempt has been made to explore the role and contributions of the Muslim Leaders and determining their position in the history of the making of Dhaka University.

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Research Methodology

The research paper entitled *The Role of the Muslim Leaders in the Making and Shaping of Dhaka University* is a fundamental research work based on primary and secondary sources. In this regard, primary documents, like Government's proceedings, contemporary journals, and periodicals, letters sent from and to the government officials have been collected from the Dhaka University Central Library, Dhaka University Record Room, Collection of DUCSU, Dhaka University Club, and Bangladesh National Archive. Dhaka University Convocation Speeches, Convocation Souvenirs, University Annual Reports, Annual Reports of the Halls, Nathan Commission Report, Calcutta University Commission Report, Contemporary Monthly, and Weekly Journals, like *Dhaka Prokash*, *Dhaka Review*, etc are examined as the key sources to conceptualize this research. Besides these, different books, articles, and journals regarding Dhaka University have been consulted as a secondary source to reach this article's focus.

Aim and Objective of the Study

The making of Dhaka University is not an unknown and untouched area of research. A good number of research works have been published regarding various aspects of the University. However, the Muslim leaders' role in the making and shaping of Dhaka University is comparatively a new dimension in research in the historical writings of Dhaka University. In this research work, an initiative has been taken to explore the Muslim Leaders' endeavor in making a university in Dhaka during the first half of the twentieth century.

Importance of this Research

This research will open up a new locus for further study in the field of history of the making of the Dhaka University and Bangladesh. It will investigate a new zenith in the area discussed above. This research paper will deepen and escalate the knowledge and amass thrust of academics as well as the individuals about the foundation of Dhaka University.

The Partition of Bengal and Educational Progress in Eastern Bengal

Being a new province, Eastern Bengal and Assam ratified to be great blessings to its citizens and people and achieved tremendous developments in every sector, especially in education. The time allowed was too short for any spectacular achievement, but what was accomplished was promising. As Lord Curzon put it, "the new province advanced in education, in good government, in every mark of prosperity."³

In the field of education, the improvement was most rapid. Reforms were reckoned, and the provincial Government brought out progress in the different education stages- primary, secondary and higher education.⁴ In 1912, Lord Hardinge stated, "Since 1906, it (new province) has made great strides forward. In that year, there were 1,698 collegiate students in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and expenditure on collegiate education was Rs. 1,54,358. Today with the same number of institutions, the corresponding figure is 2,560 students and Rs. 3,83,619. From 1905 to 1910-11, the number of pupils in public institutions rose from 6,99,051 to 9,36,653, the expenditure from provincial revenues rose from Rs. 11,06,510 to Rs. 22,05,389

while the local expenditure direct and indirect rose from Rs. 47,81,833 to Rs.73,05,260.⁵ Close attention was also given to Female education. Accordingly, during the years of 1908-09, the number of female students increased by 25,493 pupils from 819⁶, and by the year of 1910-11, there were about 4,550 girls' schools and about 1,31,139 pupils in the province.⁷

Moreover, the Muslims of the newly formed province obtained special attention in the education department. By the initiative of Bumfield Fuller, the Imperial grant of about Rs. 3,50,000 was issued for Eastern Bengal at the time of Partition to provide schools of a better type in every few square miles of the province. In the year of 1913-14, there were 1,782 recognized and 876 unrecognized *maktabs* in the province and Rs. 56,114 was distributed annually in aid of these *maktabs*.⁸ Another step taken by the Government of the new province for the spread of primary education among the Muslims was to reach Urdu as an optional subject in ordinary lower primary schools. It aimed to enable those Muslims who did not wish to learn English.⁹ The rules and regulations for the scholarship were revised, and the scholarship allotment was increased from 8% to 13% for the Muslim students.¹⁰

Every college and nearly every school was given a Muslim hostel. Muslim inspecting officers in the province rose from 97 to 114 in 1912. And the condition of Muslim teaching improved significantly. In 1912, the sum (of Muslim teachers in the institution of all kinds) had risen from 9,654 to 14,656. All the divisions have shared this increase in the province.¹¹

The eagerness towards education and governmental facilities made Eastern Bengal's Muslim leaders more enthusiastic about establishing Dhaka University.

The Dream and Role of Muslim Leaders

The trailblazer of founding Dhaka University is Nawab Sir Salimullah. If Sir Salimullah did not think of or did not imagine the ground on which Dhaka University is founded, Dhaka University would not be established. After the Partition, several Muslim leaders dreamt of establishing Dhaka University. In 1906 the 20th session of 'All Indian Muslim Educational Conference' was held in Shahbag, Dhaka by the endeavor Nawab Salimullah. Honorary joint secretary of that organization, Barrister Shah Zada Aftab Ahmed Khan, explained the necessity of establishing a University in Dhaka, the capital of the new province, for the first time.¹² The second annual session of the Provincial Muslim Educational Conference was held on April 18 1908 in Mymensingh. Maulovi Abdul Salam M. A., the Presidency Magistrate of Kolkata., who presided the session, hoped to establish a university in his lecture. He said, "For the sake of time, I can see that there is a university in Dhaka for the Muslim students. Under that University, there will be residence, college, and school, and like Aligarh College, students will be taught religious education along with modern education."¹³ After years of his proposal, Roy Bahadur Anandamohan Saha proposed establishing an individual university and High Court in Dhaka in the East Bengal and Assam Provincial Legislative Council held on April 5 1910. In reply to that proposal Director of East Bengal Public Education, Henry Sharp, said that he had personal sympathy for establishing a University in Dhaka. As he did not think that Dhaka is suitable for an individual university, he denied that proposal.¹⁴

Nawab Salimullah was mentioned as one of the think-leaders of Dhaka University, and he also demanded the government time and again for establishing a university after the Partition.¹⁵ A salutation paper was given to Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam Sir Lancelot Here in his farewell ceremony. Nawab Salimullah made that salutation paper, and it included the demand for establishing a university in this area. In the reply, Sir Lancelot said the proposal might be considered, but it needed enough money and time and said establishing the University would not be so soon.¹⁶

Muslim community of Eastern Bengal earned vast development in the education sector after the Partition, and they comprehend the Partition facilities. But a great anticlimax was in stock for them. Vague rumors spread in the province that when the King-Emperor visited India, he would either abolish or modify the Partition.¹⁷ The anti-Partition movement was carried out both in India and in England by the Hindus and Anglo-Indian supporters. After all, the Government of India proposed modifying the Partition. The Secretary of State gave his public sanction to the proposal in a letter dated November 1 1911¹⁸. Accordingly, the announcement was made by King-Emperor George V at the Delhi Durbar on December 12 1911.¹⁹

The annulment of the Partition was very shocking to the Muslims of Eastern Bengal, and that is why Nawab Salimullah showed many excuses for not joining Delhi Darbar, but King George's letter compelled him to join Delhi's conference, and he was forced to receive the title GCIE.²⁰ Nawab was frustrated, and his wrath never ended towards the British. He said, "A bait a bribe and halter of disgrace around my neck."²¹ After the annulment of the Partition, Nawab became anxious about the education of East Bengal and so many things. So in the meantime, he demanded 8 points and sent a letter to Lord Hardinge on December 20, 1911. The letter included an emphasis on education, i. e., joint Secretary for education, a government grant for higher education, and committee for the reformation, etc.²² Renowned historian A H Dani stated,

This annulment caused a stir among the Muslim populace in Dacca, but they were not yet prepared themselves to fight for their cause. Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur was silenced by the conferment of the title of GCIE. The old men of Dacca attributed this revocation of Partition to a curse which, as the local version goes, was caused by the erection of Roman buildings over the graves of ancient saints and pious men.²³

Lord Hardinge came to Dhaka on January 29, 1912, after receiving the letter from Nawab Salimullah and stayed here for three days. A Muslim deputation of 19 members led by Nawab Salimullah met Lord Hardinge and honored him with an address of honor.²⁴ They planted several demands and specific proposals for protecting the Muslim community and pointed out that Muslims did not take educational advantages than the Hindu community. At last, they indicated their doubts about this area's educational backwardness due to the Bengal Partition change.²⁵ The deputation impressed upon the Viceroy the need to provide effective steps for continuing the educational progress of the Muslims of Eastern Bengal. They also stated that Eastern Bengal was neglected until the Partition, and Muslims were the most sufferers. So the annulment of the Partition is the worst thing that ever happened to this community.²⁶

After all this, they pressed a strong demand for a university in Dhaka. In his reply, Lord Hardinge said that the Government of India realized that education was the true salvation of the Muhammadans and that the Government of India, as an earnest of their intentions, would recommend to the Secretary of State the constitution of a University at Dacca and appointing an education officer. Though Lord Hardinge announcement was made on January 31, 1912, but was not proclaimed as Hindus would go against this announcement. On February 2, 1912, a bulletin was published stating the Government of India's decision to recommend a university's constitution at Dacca.²⁷

Though the University was proposed to be established to provide higher education, especially for the Muslims, the Hindu intellectuals started opposing it from their communal predisposition from the very beginning. They assumed the possibility of lessening the dominance in civil services and other professions by the emerging educated Muslim majority of Eastern Bengal. Twofold reactions were vented in their protest. In their view, firstly- the people of Eastern Bengal were poor and farmers and were not yet fit for getting an education from a university. Secondly, they were worried that the formation of a university in the proposed area might decrease the educational standard of Calcutta University and the higher education of the province. They gave statements in newspapers, in conferences, and sent a high representative team to Viceroy for justifying their opinion.²⁸ Some Muslim Congress leaders, such as Barrister A. Rasul, Mawlana Akram Khan, Mawlana Abul Qasem, and others, also expressed views along with the Hindus.²⁹ Their statements and opinions against the scheme were aroused at some points, and those were published in the *Dhaka Prokash* and other contemporary newspapers.³⁰

Salimullah was enthusiastic about the educational progress of this area of East Bengal. He dreamt of a new period for Muslims' education though he was conscious of the Bengal partition annulment and welcomed the announcement of the Viceroy at best. Nawab Salimullah and his fellow Muslim leaders were very much enthusiastic and cordial about the matter. This can be understood by three rare letters found in Nawab's state office. Nawab Ali Chowdhury of Kolkata sent those letters to Nawab Salimullah. Worth mentioning that in this matter, after Nawab Salimullah there was a massive part of Nawab Ali Chowdhury. Nawab Ali Chowdhury went to Kolkata to create public opinion favoring Dhaka University, as Hindus were against this. After observing Kolkata's situation, Nawab Ali Choudhary sent a letter to Salimullah on February 7, 1912. He wrote requesting Salimullah to wire all Anjumans to support the proposed University. He also warned that several groups oppose the scheme of Lord Hardinge, and described his endeavors for establishing the University.³¹

Nawab Ali Choudhary also sent a duplicate copy of Aga Khan's advice to Nawab Salimullah. In reply to this letter, Nawab Salimullah sent a telegraph to Nawab Ali Choudhary assuring that the necessary steps have been taken regarding the matter. On February 11, Nawab Ali Choudhary further sent a letter. In that letter, he wrote about the headiest support of Aga Khan and his effort to convince the All India Muslim League and its provincial benches to support the matter. But Nawab Salimullah was upset to explore the remote attitude of Anjuman's (Muslims Social Activist Group) whether the Hindus in various districts were arranging meetings to

protest the Government proposal and some Muslims of Dhaka joined them.³² According to the report of *Dhaka Prokash*, a gathering of the Advocates was held on February 10, 1912, presided by Babu Traylakkannath Basu against the establishment of Dhaka University in which Advocate Abdul Wazid proposed the resolution of protest and that was followed by Barrister R.K. Das and P.K. Basu.³³

It is clear by the letters above that a fight was going on between the two communities regarding the recommended University. Muslims were very anxious about how to lessen Hindus' agitation. On the other hand, the Hindus were worried about preventing the scheme and gathered a series of meetings all over Bengal, which were covered by the contemporary newspapers.

On February 16, 1912, a Hindu delegation team led by Dr. Rash Behary Ghose waited upon the Viceroy and expressed apprehension that creating a separate University at Dacca would be like 'an internal partition of Bengal. They also contended that the Muslims of Eastern Bengal were in large majority cultivators, and they would benefit in no way by the foundation of a University.³⁴ The Hindu delegation met Viceroy in response to the Muslim deputation, which achieved the proposed University. In the reply, Lord Hardinge disagreed with Hindus. He said that he had seen the development in Muhammadan society and mentioned that it was essential to establish a university in East Bengal. Within a few years, this area had made tremendous development. Lord Hardinge also assured that the Government of India would support no attempt of dividing Bengal internally and that this University would not be a "Muslim" university but rather it would be a residential university open to all.³⁵ After all, this Hindu community can not take the University beyond their communal interest and lengthen their hostility. Nawab Salimullah denounced in many ways, which were against the establishment of the University. He mentioned on the fifth conference of the All India Muslim League that some of his countrymen opposed the proposed University. Later on, he described the University's necessity and said that the establishment of the University would benefit the population of this regardless of Hindu and Muslim. He also talked about the background politics of who opposed the University and also added that the Government had allotted some extra funds for Muslim education.³⁶

AK Fazlul Haque, one of the closest friends of Nawab Salimullah and Nawab Ali, contributed a lot in establishing the University. In Bengal Legislative Council on April 4, 1913, he said in response to the Hindu disconcertment after the university scheme by Lord Hardinge that the announcement of Dhaka University did not meet their expectation. At the same time, he didn't wish to belittle the importance of the University and protested the theory that this University would benefit Muhammadan alone.³⁷

In the same fifth conference of India Muslim League on March 3, 1912, Nawab Ali Chowdhury stated that for two reasons anti-partitionist leaders are opposing the establishment of a proposed university: a) the fact of losing political power, b) loosing of finance as young men being drawn away from Kolkata college to Dhaka.³⁸

He was a member of the Nathan Committee and gave enough effort. The outbreak of the First World War establishment of Dhaka University lengthened, though the Nathan Committee submitted its proposal for establishing Dhaka University in 1912.

In the Imperial Legislative Council, it was said in the reply of Nawab Ali Chowdhury when he raised the issue in 1917 that the Bill draft of Dhaka University was under preparation and that it will be executed after the war.³⁹

Nawab Salimullah could not see the establishment of Dhaka University as he expired on January 16, 1915, and Dhaka University was established in 1921. On August 17, 2021, in the first court meeting of Dhaka University, AK Fazlul Haque raised a resolution for the contribution of Nawab Salimullah, and that was accepted. In the convocation address in 1955, the then Chancellor of the University A K Fazlul Haque said that he moved the resolution recording the gratefulness towards Nawab Salimullah and that he was a true lover and patriot for his country and people in the first meeting of University Court.⁴⁰

Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohammad Azam, the husband of Nawabzadi Meher Banu (sister of Salimullah), another prominent Muslim leader of this area, strongly condemned Hindu leaders who opposed the establishment of the University in Bengal Legislative Council on March 18, 1920.⁴¹ He said that they had been upset, detecting that a number of the Viceregal Council vented their malice against the Musalmans and showed unkindness to them during the bill's passage and added that they had never expected such treatment from them.⁴²

The education minister of the Bengal government proposed a grant of 9 crore taka for the newly proposed University, but Hindu members of the assembly also protested this proposal, and Mr. DC Ghosh and Sathish Chandra proposed for 3 and 2 crore respectively instead of 9 crores. Khwaja Mohammad Azam, Khwaja Mohammad Afzal, Nawab Shamsu Huda, and A. K. Fazlul Haque opposed that proposal strongly. Khaja Azam narrated that Bengal province saw a significant improvement in education, and for this reason, to continue this improvement, the Government wanted to establish a university here. He also added that the establishment had been prolonged for the debate and that the proposal of Patna University arose after that of Dhaka University, but Patna University had come into existence in 1917 before Dhaka University.⁴³ He also added that the majority of Bengali income came from East Bengal. On the contrary, most of the expenditure was swallowed by West Bengal, and that he could not understand the opposition to establishing the University.⁴⁴

Nawab Shamsul Huda, another famous Muslim leader, contributed equally. He also opposed Hindu leaders in the assembly and said that the budget issued for Dhaka University was less than needed and that it was not a gift, but rather the Government was bound to do that.⁴⁵ He also mentioned what was necessary for the University and that the University's objects were set out in the Report, Volume-4, page 214, and at last, he said that it would be a model university.⁴⁶ He not only used his power as an influential person in increasing the grant for the University but also chose highly educated teachers from Europe and different areas of India. He urged the Government to continue to facilitate modern libraries and enhance opportunities for teachers and students.

The debate over Dhaka University continued among Muslims and Hindus for several years. The controversy that started on its account throws an interesting light on the approaches of the Hindus and the Muslims. These have been preserved in the

questionnaire, prepared by the Calcutta University Commission, 1917-1919. In response, one of his answers, A.K. Fazlul Haque, opinions that the establishment of Dhaka University meant to be an allowance against an injustice done by the annulment of Partition.⁴⁷

A.F.M. Abdul Ali stated that if Dhaka University was a concession for the annulment of Partition, then the authority of Dhaka University should increase as much as possible, and all the colleges of East Bengal and Assam must be affiliated to the University.⁴⁸

But Hindu leaders were totally against this attitude of Muslims as understood by the speech of Sris Chandra Chatterji. He said that he strongly opposed establishing a university in Dhaka or any other place and added that a separate University means separate controlling agency, which would lead to serious political results.⁴⁹

This opposition was demonstrated in several languages by the Hindus. "People of Dacca," led by Ananda Chandra Roy, an influential congressman of Dhaka, said that in their opinion, instead of expending nine lacs rupees in establishing Dhaka University, this money could be well distributed for establishing other education institutions.⁵⁰

This was the true attitude of Hindu Zamindars and lawyers. They sow the seed of division in the name of unity, which was unexpected. But the thing was that after establishing the University, the Hindu community got many more facilities compared with the Muslim community of this area. Most of the teachers, staff, and students were from this community, and this majority continued till 1947.

Efforts of the Muslim leaders in formulating Nathan Commission Report

The Imperial Government sent a letter dated April 4, 1912 to the Bengal government to establish a university in Dhaka, and by this resolution, a 13-member representative team led by Barrister Robert Nathan was formed to sketch the scheme. This committee was formed to monitor all the necessary steps regarding this University. This team proposed a good number of directions for the establishment of a university in Dhaka.

Directions were significant such as the University will be a state university and will be administered by the government staff and officers, it will be a unitary and residential university, the entire teaching in Arts, science, law will be conducted by the University in one place, the Department of Islamic Studies was intended to provide university instruction for reform Madrasa, the staff of the University will be recruited from education service of India, the governor of Bengal will be the Chancellor of the University, and a huge piece of land will be the splendid site of the University.⁵¹

The Nathan committee acted at their best. On the following December 10 the committee submitted a report after taking advice from 25 special and different sub-committees. The report was published in a good-looking quarto volume and distributed among the public for taking advice from the public. Nathan and the Archbold committee summarized the advice that came from the public. The final report was sent to the Local Government from the Government of India. The outbreak of the Second World War and the financial instability made it impossible to implement the full plan.

The delay of the establishment of Dhaka University created a doubt in the mind of the Muslims. Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Choudhury moved a resolution asking the Government to introduce a bill to establish the University. On behalf of the Government, Sankaran Nair replied to the resolution telling that the Government would fulfill its pledge. So Ali Choudhury withdrew his resolution. Lord Chelmsford was reassured about the matter on April 23, 1917, at the Legislative Council's end meeting.⁵²

Calcutta University Commission's Recommendations and the Final Shape of Dhaka University

On January 6, in his convocation address of Calcutta University, Lord Chelmsford reassured that the Government of India aspired to fix a commission for the University of Calcutta. This commission would work for the betterment of the University, and a plan and scheme for construction and management of the University of Dhaka was assigned to the said commission.⁵³

This commission included the following persons: Chairman, Dr. M. E. Sadler, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds; Members, Mr. P.J. Hartog, Academic Registrar of the University of London; Dr. J.W. Gregory, Professor of Geology, University of Glasgow; Professor Ramsay Muir of the University of Manchester; W.W. Hornell, Director of the Public Instruction of Bengal; Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, Puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court; Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Professor of Mathematics, M.A.O. College, Aligarh; and G. Anderson, assistant secretary of the Department of Education, was appointed as Secretary to the commission.⁵⁴

This commission pointed out in their report that there are enough logical reasons to establish the University of Dhaka. They validated most of the Nathan Commission's proposal, except the University of Dhaka, should be a state university maintained by the Government. They examined the educational ambiance of Eastern Bengal and made a report after working hard for two years from 1917 to 1919 and published a vast volume report which is considered as a vital document in the history of higher education.

The Government of India wanted to make the University of Dhaka as a teaching and residential university. But the Muslim leaders wanted to make it affiliating University with teaching and residential facilities. Nawab Ali Chowdhury wanted that every college of East Bengal would be affiliated with Dhaka University. Muslim deputation also expressed similar views. Only Hindu leaders opposed the fact of making the University an affiliated one, and for this reason, Calcutta University Commission had to face the dispute on the matter.⁵⁵

At last, the commission proposed to make the University with the facility of teaching and residential alone and said that this University would consume more time and energy of teachers and administrative body if it was made an affiliated university.⁵⁶

Several intellectuals such as T.T. Williams, Professor of Political Economy; Dr. Nares Chandra Sen, Vice-Principal, and department of Law; Professor F.C. Turner, Principal of the Dacca College, expressed their opinion in favor of making this University autonomous. The commission also agreed on the issue and suggested to make Dhaka Hall and Jagannath Hall for the students.

The commission emphasized the creation of an English medium Islamic Studies Department under the supervision of a European professor for the stipulation of Muslim students and suggested the Department of Sanskrit Studies.⁵⁷

The commission suggested that the Chancellor, head, and chief of the University would be the governor-general of India and Bengal's governor. The Vice-Chancellor would be the senior officer in daily activities, and the treasurer, an honorary officer, would monitor the University's finance department. The register would be the controller of the examination.⁵⁸

The commission created 13 directions for the Dhaka University scheme, and most of these were adopted in the Dacca University Act of 1920. Indian Legislative Council validated the Dacca University Act No. XIII of 1920, and the governor-general acknowledged this on March 23, 1920. Dhaka University started its journey with three faculties i. e. Arts, Science and Law on July 1, 1921. It began its journey with 60 members for teaching. Twenty-eight of them were for the Arts faculty, 17 for science, and 15 for the law. Eight hundred seventy-seven students were in the beginning year.⁵⁹ The governor-general of India nominated Mr. P.J. Hartog, C.I.E., as the University's first vice-chancellor from December 1, 1920. He worked as the academic register of the University of London for 17 years.⁶⁰

Conclusion

From the above analysis, it became crystal clear that the Muslim leaders of East Bengal contributed a lot to the making of Dhaka University. Most of the mentioned Muslim leaders were the trailblazer of the creation of the Muslim League. It is generally and academically acclaimed that the Muslim League went to the graveyard after the election of 1954. They have achieved nothing but the creation of Pakistan in 1947, which proved wrong in 1971. But in the question of the making of Dhaka University, it must be deliberated that the Muslim League achieved it.

Thus the intellectual and moral power of the Muslims of Eastern Bengal flourished surrounding Dhaka University. Bengali Muslims achieved a lot in the academic field during the last 80 years of the twentieth century. A big part of this achievement is the contribution of Dhaka University. Sir Alexander Lytton, the governor of Bengal and Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, uttered in his speech, "Gentlemen, round the name of Dacca, as the national university of Eastern Bengal, will you not help to build up a tender regard, a filial devotion, a patriotic sentiment, in the hearts of her sons similar to those which Oxford and Cambridge have so far long inspired."⁶¹ The practice of modern education, democratic morality, art, literature, the culture of the Muslim also started from Dhaka University. One of the most significant contributions of this University was to create the confidence--which they lost during the last phase of the Mughal period--among the middle-class Muslim of Bengal. Dhaka University played a fantastic role in making socio-cultural and political leaders in the Muslim community of Bengal. This University created such a middle class afar from religion and class in which spirit of robust nationality and expectation of making an autonomous state was found from 1930 to the 1970s in every phase of nationalist movements of Bengal and finally in the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the great part of leadership.

Notes & References

- ¹ Chancellor's Convocation Address, 22 February 1923.
- ² SIR PHILIP JOSEPH HARTOG (1864–1947) was a famous British educator. He began his academic career as a lecturer in chemistry at Owens College, Manchester (1891). He was appointed as academic registrar of the University of London in 1904 and continued up to 1920. He was connected with the founding of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. He was a member of the Calcutta University Commission in 1917. Hartog served as the first vice-chancellor of the Dhaka University from 1920 to 1925. Hartog's major research work was *The Writing of English* (1907), *Blaise Pascal* (1927), *Joseph Priestly and his Place in the History of Science* (1931), *Some Aspect of Indian Education, Past and Present* (1939), *Words in* (1947) etc.
- ³ Parliamentary Debate on Indian Affairs, House of Lords, February 1912, p-38
- ⁴ Quinquennial Review of Education in Eastern Bengal and Assam 1907-08 and 1911-12, Vol. I, pp.1-3
- ⁵ *The Pioneer mail*, 23 February 1912
- ⁶ Report on the administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam 1908-09, p. x
- ⁷ Report on the administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam 1910-11, p. 55
- ⁸ Quinquennial Review of Education in Eastern Bengal and Assam 1907-08 and 1911-12, Vol. I, p. 57
- ⁹ *Ibid*, p. 116
- ¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 118
- ¹¹ Quinquennial Review of Education in Eastern Bengal and Assam 1907-08 and 1911-12, p. 119
- ¹² Report of the All India Mohamedan Educational Conference-1906, p. 92
- ¹³ Report of the Proceedings, Mymensingh 1908, p. 29
- ¹⁴ Educational Development Report of Eastern Bengal and Assam 1907-08, 1911-12, Vol. I, p. 81
- ¹⁵ Sufia Ahmed, *Nawab Khwaja Salimullah, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, vol. 21*, December 1976, p. 152
- ¹⁶ Dhaka Prokash, 20 August 1911, p. 10
- ¹⁷ *Eastern Bengal and Assam Era*, 24 May 1911
- ¹⁸ See *Despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India*, 1 November 1911.
- ¹⁹ *The Historical Record of the Imperial Visit to India*, p. 174
- ²⁰ *The morning News, Dhaka*, 16 January 1968
- ²¹ Nawab Khwaja Habibullah, *Presidential address by him, at All India Communal Award Conference held on 24 March 1935 at Delhi*, p. 2
- ²² Motiur Rahman, *From Consultation to Confrontation: A Study of the Muslim League in British Indian Politics (1909-1912)*, London-1970, pp. 339-40
- ²³ Ahmad Hasan Dani, *Dacca: A Record of the Changing Fortunes*, Dacca, 1956, p. 76.
- ²⁴ *Dhaka Prokash*, 14 January 1912, p. 3
- ²⁵ A. H. Dani, *op. cit.* p.77
- ²⁶ M.A. Rahim, *The History of the University of Dacca*, Dhaka University Press, Dhaka, 1981, p. 5
- ²⁷ *Calcutta University Commission Report*, Vol. IV, p.122
- ²⁸ *Dhaka Prokash*, 11 February 1912

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- ²⁹ *Ibid*, 31 March 1912
- ³⁰ For more details see *Dhaka Prokash* from 4 February to 21 April where Hindu agitation at Dhaka, Calcutta, Mymensingh, Comilla, B. Baria, Chittagong, Rangpur, Faridpur, Narayangonj, Medinipur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and other places regarding Dhaka University was published.
- ³¹ Letter from Nawab Sayed Nawabali Chowdhury to Nawab Sir Khawaja Salimullah regarding the establishment of Dhaka University, dated 7, February 1912. Original copy of letter preserved at Dhaka Nawab Court of Wards and Wakkfa Estate Office.
- ³² Letter from Nawab Sayed Nawabali Chowdhury to Nawab Sir Khawaja Salimullah regarding the establishment of Dhaka University, dated 11, February 1912. Original copy of letter preserved at Dhaka Nawab Court of Wards and Wakkfa Estate Office.
- ³³ *Dhaka Prokash*, 18 February 1912.
- ³⁴ Calcutta University Commission Report, Vol. IV, pt. II, p.133
- ³⁵ *Ibid*, Vol. I, pt. I. p.151
- ³⁶ Pirzada, Sharfuddin, Sayed, *Foundations of Pakistan*, Vol-I, Karachi, 1969, pp. 231-249
- ³⁷ Syed Abul Maksud, *Dhaka Biswabidyalay O Bangladesh Uchchashikkah*, Prothoma, Dhaka, 2018, p. 67
- ³⁸ Shaikh Masud Kamal, *Dhaka Biswabidyalaya Protishthar Bipokshe Rajniti O Totkalin Bongiyo Somaj*, Dyu
- ³⁹ M. A. Rahim, *op. cit.*, p. 10
- ⁴⁰ Addressed by A.K Fazlul Haque as Chancellor of Dhaka University in 1955
- ⁴¹ *Dhaka Prokash*, 4 April 1920, p. 4
- ⁴² *Presidential Address of the Dhaka District Muslim Association on 11 April 1920*
- ⁴³ Moha. Abdullah, *Dhakar Koyekjon Muslim Shudhi*, Dhaka 1991. p. 148
- ⁴⁴ *Bengal Legislative Council Proceedings*, Vol. I, p. 2, 14 March-7 April 1921, p.123-24
- ⁴⁵ Syed Abul Maksud, *op. cit.*, p. 61
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid*, p. 61
- ⁴⁷ *Report of the Calcutta University Commission, 1917-19*, Vol. IX, p.114
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid*, Vol. IX, p. 8
- ⁴⁹ *Ibid*, Vol. IX, p. 66
- ⁵⁰ *Ibid*, Vol. IX, pp. 85-86
- ⁵¹ The Report of the Nathan Committee, 1912
- ⁵² *Ibid*, pp. 10-11
- ⁵³ *Ibid*, p. 11
- ⁵⁴ Pramathnath Bandyopadhyay, *Hundred years of the University of Calcutta: A History of the University*, vol. 1, University of Calcutta, 1957, p. 263
- ⁵⁵ Calcutta University Commission Report, vol. IV, pt. II, pp. 132-33
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid*. p. 135
- ⁵⁷ M.A. Rahim, *op. cit.*, p.18
- ⁵⁸ Calcutta University Commission Report, Vol. IV, pt. II, pp. 209-13
- ⁵⁹ Dacca University Annual Report, 1921-22
- ⁶⁰ M.A. Rahim, *Ibid*, p. 26
- ⁶¹ see Dhaka University Chancellor's speech in 1925