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Political Mobilization and Public Participation in Burdwan District: A Study of the Colonial Period

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Abstract

The people of Burdwan district gave a strong and magnificent response to various Anti-British Movements and participated in various types of protests during colonial period. The British rule brought a radical change in socio-political and economic spheres of Burdwan district, destroying the previous institutions and created new social groups and forces. These changes in socio-economic relations had wider impact on Indian Freedom Struggle in the form of Protests, Uprisings, Revolts and Rebellions, which began in the second half of 18th Century and Continued until the attainment of Independence of India. During late 19th century, the district witnessed formations of several associations, organizations which were organised by educationists, politicians, zamindars, and jotedars to promote their socio-political and intellectual activities. The late 19th century and the beginning of the early 20th century witnessed of the large number of Anjumans or Associations in the district to improve the conditions of the people.

Keywords: Association, British Rule, Burdwan District, Congress Committee, Indian Freedom Movement, Patriotic Leaders, Periodicals

A large section of people of Burdwan district were interested to organize associations or Anjumans to improve their political consciousness and they had close contact with national level organizations or associations since 19th Century. There were several periodicals which played important role in raising political awareness among the people in the district.The members of the elite and middle-class families of the district have been associated mainly with the Congress and later with other parties in the politics of the district. Anil Seal stated that,

> "Associations brought ninteenth century India across the threshold of modern politics, sometimes religious zeal, sometimes and caste solidarity encouraged the propensity towards associations, but during the course of the century more of the associations in India were brought into being by groups of men united by secular interest."[1]

The Bengal Mohammedan Association was established on 6th May, 1855. It was the first joint organization of the Muslims of Bengal. Nawab Abdul Jabbar of Burdwan was an active member of it.[2] He closely associated with the 'Mohammedan Literary Society' which

was established by Nawab Abdul Latif in 1863.[3] Later, he became the president of that society in 1900.[4] Nawab Abdul Jabbar presided over the public meeting which was held in Calcutta Town Hall under the leadership of Surendranath Banerjee in support of Gandhiji's Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa.[5] The educated people from the Muslim Community kept a close contact with this organization.[6] Moulavi Abul Kasem was the president of this Association. In 1923, Moulavi Muhammad Yeasin became the president of it and Naziruddin Ahmad became secretary of National Mohammedan Association (NMA).[7] It is noticeable that, most of the members of NMA were aimadars. Burdwan Mohammedan Association played a significant role in the development of education among Muslims of the district.[8]

The Municipal High School was established in the year 1855.[9] It was a large educational institution of the district. Burdwan Municipality was a centre of political activities in Burdwan district.[10] It was founded in 1865. Most of the prominent Freedom Fighters of the district were active congress members of Burdwan Municipality. The first Session of Burdwan Municipality was held on May 1, 1865.[11] The names of fifteen (15) members were announced on that session. Munshi Johad Rahim from Muslim Community was a notable figure among them.[12] In 1869, there were four municipalities established in the district namely Raniganj, Asansol, Kalna and Katwa municipalities.[13] The elected members from the Muslim Community in the Municipality Board actively participated in several programmes of Indian Freedom Movements.[14]

In Burdwan district, national politics started under the influence of Indian Association which founded by Surendranath Banerjee in 1876. He delivered a speech at Calcutta Town Hall where presided over by Abdul Jabbar Khan Bahadur of Burdwan district.[15] Three branches of Indian Association were established in the district, such as-Burdwan Indian Association, Kalna Indian Association and Purbashali Hitokari Sabha.[16] Patriotic leaders Maulavi Muhammad Yeasin and Abul Kasem were in close contact with Surendranath Banerjee.[17] The activities of National Mohammedan Association had drawn attention of the Muslims of the district.[18] Prominent educationist of Burdwan district were Moula Box, Kazi Muhammad Akhtar, Serajuddin Ahmed (Burdwan Town), Syed Sadrauddin Ahamad (Bohar), Muhammad Ibrahim (Kusumgram), Tossadak-un-Nabi (Mongolkot) who closely associated with NMA.[19] A brance of National Mohammedan Association was established in the district as the name of Burdwan Mohammedan Association in 1887.[20] The sessions of the Indian National Congress were held in Burdwan in 1899 and 1904 respectively.[21] The people from Muslim Community of the district were politically very active and their presences in the Municipal executive committees were significant.[22]

Abdul Jabbar from Burdwan district was a brilliant student who obtained his bachelor's degree from Presidency College and master's degree from Calcutta University. In 1859, he joined to Government services under the British as a deputy magistrate.[23]Abul Kasem was another student of Presidency College who also came from the Burdwan district. There was a good relationship between A.K. Fazlul Huq and Abul Kashem at Presidency College while studying degree course. He acquired B.A degree from Presidency College in 1894.[24] Abdul Momin, a congress leader of Burdwan district received his B.A degree from Presidency College in 1896 and joined the Municipality. Abul Kasem received as the reputation of first Muslim graduate of the district.[25] Mirza Shigufta from Muslim Community of Burdwan district was a good administrator appointed as the Deputy

Magistrate of the district. Shigufta also obtained his degree of B.A from Presidency College of Calcutta. Matleb Ahmed Chowdhury of Burdwan district was a distinguished person who obtained his B.A degree from Rajshahi College in 1899. After completing his studies, Mr Chowdhury entered the Education department as employee.[26] Ekramuddin, a well-known writer of Burdwan district, was also a senior administrator working as Sub Deputy Collector. He drew the attention of the British Government on the condition of the Santals. In 1915, Burdwan Town School was established under his initiative.[27]

Table -1

The Following table shows the Prominent Muslim Delegates Participated in Indian National Congress Conference from 1896 to 1910. [28]

Year (Place)	Name of the Delegates	Occupation
1896 (Calcutta)	Kabiruddin Ahmad	Landholder, Mahata
	Ikramul Haque	Landholder, Burdwan
	Abdul Jawad	Landholder, Shahzadpur
	Abdul Khaleque	Pleader & Member of District Board, Burdwan
	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
	Muhammad Irfan	Zamindar, Paligram
	Abdul Ali	Zamindar, Paligram
	Syed Abdus Salam	Zamindar, Chougharia, hony Magistrate, Municipal Commissioner and District Board
	Abdul Moula	Landholder, Goda,
	Golam Asdaque	Pleader, hony Magistrate, Municipal Commissioner and District Board
	Syed Amir Ali	Landholder, Rasulpur, Member of Local Board of Kalna
	Syed Hossain Ali	Landholder, Rasulpur, Member of Local Board of Kalna
	Syed Hamidullah	Zamidar, Chougharia
	Muhammad Yasin	Zamindar, Burdwan
	Abdul Hamid	Zamindar, Burdwan
	Zia-Un-Nabi	Zamindar, Mangalkot
	Syed Wahid Bux	Zamindar, Burdwan
	Azimuddin Ahmad	Trader, Burdwan
	Syed Wasi Ahamad	Zamindar, Burdwan
1902 (Ahmedabad)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
1903 (Madras)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
	Rafiuddin Ahamad	Landlord, Burdwan
1904 (Bombay)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
1905 (Benaras)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara

	AKM Abdul Qayyum	Pleader, Burdwan
1906 (Calcutta)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
1907 (Surat)	No	Conference held
1908 (Madras)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
1909 (Lahore)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
1910 (Allahabad)	Abul Kasem	Zamindar, Kashiara
	Kazi Md Wajib	Zamindar, Burdwan

Source: Prof.Kazi Sufior Rahaman books entitled, *Understanding the Muslims District Burdwan (1857-1947),* Book Ways Publishers & Distributors, Kolkata, 2013, pp.127-128.

Moulavi Abul Kasem was a prominent political leader of Bengal in the first decade of 20thCentury. In 1905, he was elected as an executive member of Congress Standing Committee. Thereafter, he regularly attended every session of the Indian National Congress from 1905 to 1916.[29] He strongly opposed the 'Partition of Bengal' decision and led the Swadeshi Movement in Burdwan district. In 1906, the 'National Mohammedan Association' was formed in Calcutta against the foundation of Muslim League, with Syed Mohammad Bahadur (From Madras) and Mohammad Ali Jinnah as President and Vice President respectively and barrister Abdur Rasul became its secretary. Moulavi Abul Kasem was an active member of the Central Committee from Bengal. In the same year another organization was formed name as 'Bengal Mohammedan Association'. Moulavi Abul Kasem and barrister Abdur Rasul were the first secretary and president of this organization respectively.

In 1905, an English High School was established at Asansol under the patronage of Muhammad Washimuddin with public subscription. He was a local Zamindar and served in the administrative department as a District Magistrate of Burdwan. He was also the chief patron of this school.[30] Moulavi Abul Kasem closely associated with the national leader Surendranath Banerjee.[31] In 1906, Maulavi Abul Kasem formed 'Burdwan Mohammedan Association' as a counter organization of Muslim League. It represented the Muslims of Burdwan as a political institution during the Swadeshi Movement.[32] In 1906, he brought out "The Mussalman" periodical in English with Abdur Rasul and he was the first editor of this periodical. He was also associated with other periodicals such as "The Muslim Chronicle" and "The Muslim Outlook". He edited several newspapers and periodicals on various social and political issues of Bengal in the first quarter of the 20th century. He was also involved in the management and editing of newspapers such as 'Progress', Muslim Standard, 'Navyug', 'Muslim Bani' etc. in his working life.[33] He was elected as a member of the Bengal Provincial Legislature three times in 1916, 1926, 1929 and once as a member of the Central Council.[34] In 1908, the 'Joydev Sevak Sanggho' was established at Raniganj by the initiative of Jatin Banerjee of Golsi. In 1915, nationalist leader Moulavi Abul Kasem established a School at Burdwan town named 'Burdwan Town School'.[35] During the period from 1912 to 1923, Maulavi Nazir Uddin Ahmad played an active role in the election of the board of members in the Burdwan Municipality. From 1924 to 1927, the renowned lawyer Maulavi Mohammad Yeasin was in charge of Burdwan Municipality in a democratic system.[36]

In the late 19th and 20th centuries, periodicals published from Burdwan district which played a significant role in communicating the conditions of the colonial rule to the

common people. The periodicals published from Burdwan in the nineteenth century,'Bardhaman Sanjeevani' and 'Pallivasi' were notable among them. 'Barddhaman Sanjeevani' was published by the encouragement of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. It was published regularly for about fifty years. Yogesh Chandra Sarkar was the editor of 'Barddhaman Sanjeevani'. In 1927, 'Barddhaman Sanjeevani' was closed due to financial crisis. 'Pallivasi' was first published on April 15, 1896. Shasibhushan Banerjee was its first editor. 'Pallivasi' spread nationalistic ideas among the people and carried out protest against British Authority during Colonial rule.[37] 'Ratnakar' and 'Prasun' were published in the first decade of the 20th century. The newspaper 'Prasun' was published from Katwa in 1903. Manmath Nath Chattopadhyay was its editor. 'Ratnakar' was published from Asansol in 1904. Its editor was Rajkumar Sengupta. The newspaper 'Nabarun' was published in 1919. Chandidas Majumder was its editor. It was closed in 1926 after being prosecuted by the the British Government's Press Act.

Rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was a brilliant student of Searsol Raj High School at Raniganj in Burdwan district. He was posted in the Karachi Military Cantonment of the 49th Bengal Regiment as a havildar (Sargeant) for his battalion. In 1919, he completed military service in Karachi and come back to kolkata.[38] In 1921, his rebellious poem was first published in 'Moslem Bharat'. He used to sing awakening songs and patriotic songs in the villages of the district during the various stages of Indian Freedom Movement. He inspired the people of Bengal with patriotism through his writings such as Swadeshi plays and patriotic songs. Sheikh Babulla Mandal of Madanpur, a close associate of Najrul, was also very popular for Swadeshi songs.[39] During Non-Cooperation Movement, he played an important role by uniting and providing inspiration among the people of Bengal with an intense sense of nationalism through his poetic works, such as "Bidrohi" (The Rebel), "Bhangar Gan","Dhumketu" (The Comet), "Bijli" (Lighting), "Pralayollas" (Destructive Euphoria), "Agni-Veena" (Lyre of Fire), "Byathar Dan" (Gift of Sorrow) and "Yugbani". During his imprisonment, he went on 40 days fast to protest against the mistreatment of the Jail Superintendent by the British government. He composed numerous works in jail. He joined the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. He also met the communist leader Muzaffar Ahmed and was influenced by the Russian Revolution. He organized the" Sramik Praja Swaraj Dal" (Workers and Peasant Party) in 1925 in association with Muzaffar Ahmed to fight against the British rule. On 16th December, 1925, he published "Langal" (Plough), a weekly magazine and served as its chief editor. He encouraged people to participate in the Indian freedom Movement against the British rule. In the Asansol-Ranigunj region, Kazi Najrul Islam, Shaikh Kalu, Taher Hossain, Dr. Kazi Qayem Hossain, Abdul Bari, businessman Muhammad Ali, Kochi Mian and Shaikh Babulla Mandal participated directly in the Indian Freedom Movement.[40]

Notable periodicals of the district were Bardhaman (1922), Shakti (1923), Bardhaman Banee (1927), Bhimrul (1927), 'Tarun' (1930), Asansol Hitoshi (1931), Sangbad (1936), Damodar (1936), Bardhaman Barta (1938), Chhatra (1939), Shri (1941), Drishti (1944) and Arya Patrika (1946).[41]These periodicals played a leading role in making common people aware of the Feedom Movement. Nazrul Islam had close contact with Shakti' newspaper.[42] In 1925, Nazrul Islam sang three patriotic songs on the stage at Burdwan Town Hall at the presence of Mahatma Gandhiji.[43] "Barddhaman Vani". A weekly

newspaper was first published in Bengali languageon 1st April 1927 from Sadhana Press in Burdwan. Maulavi Nazir Uddin Ahmed was the editor of the newspaper.[44]This magazine published various information about District Board, Local Board, and Union Board.[45] In 1927, a weekly periodical,'Bhimrul' was first published in Bengali from Sadhana Press of Burdwan. It was mainly published by the nationalist Muslims of the district. The first issue of 'Bhimrul' had 'Equality, Friendship and Freedom'– as the main goals of the magazine. The newspaper played a significant role in maintaining communal harmony in the district during Colonial Period.[46] The newspaper 'Tarun' was first published in Bengali language from Raniganj on 1st April 1930 under the editorship of Baidyanath Mukherjee. Kazi Nazrul Islam was a regular writer of this newspaper.[47]The weekly newspaper 'Sangbad' was first published in Bengali language in 1936 from Burdwan town under the editorship of Bhujangabhushan Sen.The newspaper was particularly influenced by poet Nazrul's thinking.[48] Abul Hayat published a magazine called "Alok" in imitation of "The light" from Burdwan in 1930s.In May 1939, The Bengali monthly magazine 'Chhatra' was first published from Burdwan under the editorship of Ajit Kumar Roy. 'Chhatra' newspaper was published under the initiative of Student's Federation of Burdwan district. Mohammad Azam, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Dr. Bhupendranath Dutt, Mansoor Habibullah and others who wrote in 'Chhatra' newspaper.[49]

In 1918, the Saraswati Karma Mandir was built in Raniganj by Bhimacharan Roy. Kazi Najrul Islam and Shaikh Kalu were the founders and core members of Saraswati Karma Mandir. In 1921-22, the Congress Committee was formed in Raniganj under the leadership of Dr. Bipin Bihari Banerjee. The Asansol Rashtriya Samiti was formed under the leadership of Ranajit Mukherjee as a banned alternative organization to the Congress Party.[50] Taher Hossain was also a prominent memberof this Samity. Sheikh Kalu from Muslim community led the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930s.[51]

During the post Non-Cooperation period, prominent intelligentsia of the district especially Sayed Shahedullah and Abdullah Rasul took active part in organising communist movement in Bengal in general and Burdwan in particular. This movement ushered in the ideas of emancipation and led a campaign against the imperial authority under the able leadership of Muzaffar Ahmed, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Syed Shahedullah and Abdul Halim. Abdul Momin was the first Muslim Divisional Commissioner of Bengal Provincial Civil Service.[52] He joined the work as Sub-Deputy Collector in 1897 and became Deputy Collector in 1906. In response to the Indian Citizenship Act of 1928, the Nikhil Banga Praja Samiti was formed in the following year, 1929. Abdul Momin was involved in this association since its inception.[53]

Abul Hayat left his job as Inspector of Cooperative Department and joined the Non-Cooperation Movement. He formed 'Kisan Sabha' for the sake of farmers of Burdwan district'.[54] He joined in politics as a 'pro-changer'.[55] He also elected as a member of the Provincial Congress Committee in 1936 and a member of the Nikhil Bharat Congress Committee in 1937. In 1940, Abul Hayat went to the headquarter of the Central Congress Office at 'Swaraj Bhaban' in Allahabad with Moulana Abul Kalam Azad.[56] Maulavi Abul Hashim was a famous lawyer.[57] Abul Hashim passesd B.A degree from Burdwan Raj College in Burdwan district. In 1936, he left the legal profession and actively joined in politics. He was one of the active members of Burdwan District Congress Committee.[58]

Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin also participated in the activities of Nikhil Bango Praja Samiti after retiring from his service.[59] Maulavi Muhammad Yeasin was the first president of Burdwan District Congress Committee. He was a very trusted colleague of Chittaranjan Das. He served as the most eminent advocate of the Burdwan Court from 1915 to 1948.[60] He was one of the active members of Burdwan District Bar Association. He created a new stir in nationalistic ideas among the people in the district.

Shakti Chakraborty had close relations with great leaders like Abdullah Rasul and Zayed Ali Molla.[61]Syed Shahedullah was a founding member of the Communist Party in Burdwan district.[62] Syed Mansur Habibullah was a well-known political personality of Bengal. He wrote several books on various political and social issues during Colonial Rule. He joined the Communist Party in 1935. He formed the 'Student Federation' and 'Kisan Sabha' in the district with the support of students and peasants. He was also a renowned writer. Syed Mansur Habibullah raised the plight of farmers and common people to the British Authority through speeches in English and Urdu in various meetings and conferences in the district. He was an active peasant leader His important works were "The Laws of Wakf" (In English) and "Adhunik Tota Kahini" (In Bengali).

Abdus Sattar addressed a meeting at Baidyapur Rathtala on June 30, 1930 which created strong anti-British feelings against the British rule. Mr.Sattar was arrested from the Meeting by the British. He was actively associated with the student movement. He imprisoned in Hijli Jail by the British for the crime of student agitation. After being released from Hijli Jail, he returned to Calcutta and acquired BA degree from City College at Kolkata.[63] He was an active congress worker and became the Assistant Secretary of Burdwan District Congress Committee in 1934. He was also an active member of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee in 1936 and the Nikhil Bharat Congress Committee in 1937.[64] He was the founding member of 'Burdwan Jela Ad-hoc Committee'. He took the initiative to spread the message of various programmes of Indian Freedom Movement through his magazine called 'Bardhaman Katha'. He also played an important role in promoting patriotism through his writings.

Muhammad Abdullah Rasul was the secretary and President of 'All India Peasant Organization'. A branch of the Communist Party of India was formed in Burdwan district on October 5, 1935 AD.[65] He edited an English weekly newspaper called "The Light". He raised the misrule of the British Government through his periodicals and propagated among the people of Bengal. He also explored the misrule of the British Government through his essay "British Shasoner Oposhason o Samajik Progoti" in Bengali. He was imprisoned in 1931 due to join the Civil disobedience Movement.[66] In 1938, he appointed as a General Secretary of the Provincial Kisan Sabha. He was a full-time worker of the party.He was also a pioneer in bringing the Communist Party to the grassroots level in the district.[67]

In1926, an organization called 'Young Men's Muslim Association' was formed on the initiative of some nationalist Muslim youths of the district to maintain liberal political idealism and non-communal attitude among the Muslim community. Under the initiative of Syed Shahedullah, "Young Men's Muslim Association" was incorporated into Burdwan District Youth Association.[68] This organization played an effective role in spreading the progressive attitude in the district. In 1927, the 'Nikhil Banga Sommelon' was held in Calcutta under the chairmanship of Moulavi Majibur Rahaman. Mr. Rahaman

was a nationalist leader of Burdwan district. Maulavi Mujibar Rahaman and Prafulla Chandra Roy were present in this conference. During 1928-29, the anti-imperialist struggle intensified in the district. The youth community became politically active under the leadership of Nikhil Banga Chhatra Samiti. Students of the district joined this association led by Syed Shahedullah'.[69] A strike was observed across India to protest against the Simon Commission on 3rd February, 1928. The people of India boycotted the Commission and declared a 'hartal'. A new group of people emerged in Burdwan dis trict against the Simon Commission under the leadership of Abdus Sattar. A State conference of "Young Men's Muslim Association" was held in Burdwan in 1928 under the leadership of Abul Hashim. It was inaugurated by Sir Abdur Rahim and chaired by Maulavi Mujibur Rahman.[70] On January 26, 1930, Purna Swaraj Day was observed in other parts of the country, including Burdwan as proposed by the Lahore Congress. The 'Purnswaraj Day' was celebrated under the leadership of Abul Hayat and others.The students were led by Abdus Sattar, Muhammad Azam, Fakir Chandra Ray and others.

In 1931, the Provincial Kisan Samity was formed. Faizullah of Noakhali was the secretary of this Samity.[71] In 1931, three important Conferences e.g., District Congress Conference, Youth Conference and Student Conferencewere held in Burdwan. In 1933, when the government declared this association illegal, that year a farmers' conference was held at Hatgobindpur of Burdwan district under the leadership of Mansur Habibullah at the call of Burdwan District Youth Association. In 1937, the Canal Tax Redressal Society was formed by the initiative of the District Congress. Originally it was a joint Association of the Riots and Communist leaders who held meetings in different places of Burdwan to strengthen the Peasants Movement. Meetings were held at Hatgobindpur, Karui, Mandalgram, Orgram, Belgram etc. Congress and Communist leaders like Abdus Sattar, Abdullah Rasul, Syed Shahedullah and othersled the Peasant Movement.

Syed Mansur Habibullah's wife Maqsuda Khatun, Abdul Halim's wife Ashru Halim, Qutubuddin Ahmed's daughter Nazimunnisa Ahmed (Nanni), Syed Shahedullah's wife Rabeaya Begum were actively associated with the Communist Party.[72] The peasant movement in Burdwan district started from 1933 led by the progressive leaders of the district. There was a significant contribution of Communist leaders to spread Peasant Movement in the district. During the decade of 1930s, the British government increased the revenue Tax along with Canal Tax forcefully. Under the dynamic leadership of Syed Sahedullah, the communist leaders organized a protest and rally against the unexpected Canal Tax at Burdwan district in 1937 and 1939.[73] In 1940, Maulavi Abdul Ahad directly joined the Peasant Movement.[74] Kisan Sabha was formed with the initiative of peasants in Burdwan district.[75]Prominent peasant leaders of the districts were Muhammad Abdullah Rasul, Abul Hayat and Zayed Ali Molla. Muhammad Abdullah Rasul became a president of the All-India Kisan Sabha. Abul Hayat participated in the Rangpur District Peasants Conference in 1939 and the Nikhil Bharat Kisan Sabha held at Netrakona in Mymensingh District in 1944.[76] In the month of March (13-14th) 1945, the 8th Session of the 'Provincial Peasants Conference' was held at Hatgobindpur in Burdwan district. Abul Hayat presided over the conference.[77]

Sayed Shahedullah of Burdwan town and Abdul Gofur of Baghnapara were the prominent leaders of Peasant Movement in the district.[78]Sayed Sahedullah along with Abdul Gofur were able to unite the peasants of Burdwan district to protest against the British Rule. In 1937, a Peasant conference was held at Ausgram in Guskara in Burdwan district under leadership of Abdullah Rasul.[79] A large number of people from Muslim community participated in this conference due to his active efforts. Comrade Muzaffar Ahmed was the main speaker in this conference. The Government of Bengal constituted the 'Land Revenue Commission' in 1938. Sayed Sahedullah and Abdul Gafur jointly led several movements for 'Food' in 1941 and 'Flood Relief' in 1943.[80]

In 1937-42 a Congress Board was formed in Burdwan Municipality, under the active leadership of both Mayor Girindra Kumar Chattopadhyay and Deputy Mayor Muhammad Azam.[81] On 28th May, 1938, Chandra Bose hoisted Indian National Flag at Burdwan Municipality. All the members of the Municipality were present there at that time. Muhammad Azam from Muslim community was an enthusiastic member of Burdwan Municipality. He was also an active congress leader of the district. Munshi Sadruddin was a learned person who patronized the students of the society. He provided free scholarship to aspiring students and scholars. Moulavi Gias Uddin was a renowned teacher of Arabic and Persian at Burdwan Municipal English High School. [82]

Abdul Momin (1872-1946), was a conscientious nationalist patriotic leader of Burdwan district.He left Government service and joined the Nikhil Banga Praja Samiti and the anti-British Movement.The Bengal Muslim Education Commission was formed in 1930 under the chairmanship of Abdul Momin.He is an active leader of Trade Union Movement in Burdwan district. He was the Secretary of Trade Union in the district.[83]

Table .2

The Following Table Provides Information about the People from the Muslim Community Who Represented in Municipality Board for The Year 1933, 1938, 1942 and 1946 respectively.[84]

Municipality Board	Elected Members (Muslim)	Remarks
1933	Md Yasin	
	Azizul Alam	
	Sayed Abdul Gani	
	Md Yakub	
	Naziruddin Ahmed	
1938	Md Yasin	Md Azam (Vice Chairman)
	Md Azam	
	Sayed Abdul Gani	
	Md Yakub	
	Golam Mortuza	
1942	Sayed Abdul Monsur Habibullah	Md Azam (Vice Chairman)
	Md Azam	
	Mir Monazat Ali	
	Abdul Ahad	

	Sayed Abdul Gani	
1946	Sayed Sahidullah	
	Md Azam	
	Sayed Abdul Gani	
	Musha Mia	
	Golam Mohiuddin	

Source: Compiled by the Researcher based on Sahedullah Syed (1991), *Bardhaman Jelai Communist Andaloner Otit Prasanga,* Natun Chithi Prakashana, Burdwan, pp.428-431.

Table .3

The following table provides information about the representation of the Muslim in Local Board in the district.[85]

Local Board	Elected Members (Muslim)	Appointed Members (Muslim)
Kalna	Abdus Sattar	Abdul Jabbar Mondal
	Sk Abdul Baset	Chowdhury Md Basartullah
	Sayed Md Mahasin	-
Katwa	**bazle Hossain**	Md Abdur Rahim
	Nubuyat Ali	Dr Khalil Hossain
	Abul Hayat	Chowdhury Abu Musha
	Khan Saheb Abdul Gani	-
	Khan Saheb Nurul Absar	-
	Md Abdul Ahad	-
Asanlsol	Sayed Md Hossain	Md Amzad Hossain
	-	Khan Bahadur Md Walet Khan
Burdwan Sadar	Md Abdullah Rasul	Md Golam Ahiya
	Jahed Ali Mollah	Muzaffar Hossain Chowdhury
	Abdus Sattar	-

Source: Compiled by the Researcher based on Sahedullah Syed (1991), Bardhaman Jelai Communist Andaloner Otit Prasanga, Natun Chithi Prakashana, Burdwan, pp.442-445.

Conclusion:

The intellectual people of the district were directly involved in national politics with others. The patriotic leaders of the district were able to unite the people to protest against the British Rule. The representation of the people of Burdwan district in Municipal and Local Board provides an idea the participation in political activities under colonial period. The various organizations of the district played an effective role in spreading the progressive attitude in the district. Notable periodical and newspapers from Burdwan district played a crucial role in communicating the conditions of the colonial rule to the common people. The Women of the district were also actively associated with the politics under British Colonial period.

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