



Period	Start	End
1	8:05	8:40
2	8:50	9:25
3	9:35	10:10
4	10:20	10:55
5	11:05	11:40
6	11:50	12:25
7	12:35	1:10
8	1:20	1:55
9	2:05	2:40

# CHILDHOOD

Fazilatunnesa was born in 1899 in British India, now Tangail, Bangladesh. Her father's name was Wazid Ali Khan and Mother Halima Khatun. She completed 12th grade from Dhaka Eden College in 1923.



# Bethune College

Fazilatunnesa moved to Kolkata to study at Bethune College—the first women's college in Asia. However, like other educational institutions in India, Bethune College had a policy to exclude Muslim women until they were placed under the new regulations of Calcutta University Act of 1904. Under new rule, Muslim women were allowed to study at Bethune College and Fazilatunnesa was Bethune College's first Muslim student. She graduated with BA in Math.





# **Dhaka University**

Fazilatunnesa admitted to Dhaka University in 1925. She was the only Muslim woman at Dhaka university at that time. Upon earning a master's degree in mathematics from Dhaka University in 1927 with first class first, she revealed her intention to go to England to pursue a PhD in Mathematics.



## **Ph.D In Math? Almost!**

Dhaka University refused to provide any help to Fazilatunnesa fearing protest from Muslim men. Fazilatunnesa reached out to Mohammad Nasiruddin who wrote a letter to Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, the Minister of Education, who agreed to provide a scholarship to Fazilatunnesa. While studying Ph.D in Mathematics in England, she met Sham-us-Zoha, the son of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah. She broke the social norm again by choosing him as her husband. After the marriage, she took the last name of him and became known as Fazilatunnesa Zoha. In 1937, she had to return to East Bengal to stay with her dying father and never returned to England to complete her Ph.D.





# CAREER

After the death of her father, she did not return to England; instead she joined Bethune College as a professor of Mathematics and later she served there as vice principal until 1947 India Partition. She decided to move to East Bengal (East Pakistan) to join as a principal at alma mater, Eden College.

