Acknowledgement

This doctoral dissertation at North Bengal University, Darjeeling, India, has been prepared under the astute guidance of Professor Chhanda Chakraborty, Department of History, North Bengal University (N.B.U.). I am very grateful for her intellectual generosity and constructive advice, friendship, kindness, and enthusiasm throughout the entire period my research. The Indian Government Scholarship in the Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR) enabled the completion of the thesis. ICCR provided a warm, supportive environment for research; I owe special thanks to ICCR authority. At the same time, I am grateful to the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh for granting me study leave to undertake this research.

Stimulating discussions with Professor Tapas Kumar Roy Choudhury helped the sharpening of the main arguments; I am particularly thankful to him; his patient understanding made the preparation of the work much less laborious. This work would not have been possible without the generous assistance from North Bengal University. My gratitude to the helpful staff of the Registrar’s office and the Finance Department of N.B.U. I am grateful to the Department of History, N.B.U. for evincing a keen interest in my work and for providing excellent institutional facilities. The staffs of N.B.U library, the seminar library of the Department of History, N.B.U., Rajshahi University Library, Chittagong University Library, Institute of Bangladesh Studies Library, Rajshahi, Varendra Research Museum Library, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, and the National Library in Kolkata, India, extended their warm, cooperation and helping hands in tracing the relevant books and other sources of information required for the thesis. I am indebted to all of them.

I express my deep gratitude to Dr. M.H. Bhuiyan and Dr. M. Hasan ex-fellow of ICCR who helped me in various ways. Special thanks are due to my colleagues
Professor Mohammad Ali Chowdhury and Mohammad Mahbubul Hoque for their co-operation.


Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to my wife Mousumee Z. Mary, who ungrudgingly took on all the domestic works to enable me to devote my entire time to research and of course to my mother for her moral support. It is unfortunate that my father did not live to see the completion of this work because of his death in 20 August 2004. There are several lapses in the thesis. The errors in facts and in judgment are of course my own.

Md. Anowarul Islam.