CHAPTER - I

LOCATION EXTENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGAL

The Province of Bengal situated within 27.9° and 20.50° north latitude and 86.35° and 92.30° east longitude. From Chittagong to Teliageri pass it was 400 km in length; its breadth from North to South was 200 km. This Province extended from the feet of the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south and from the Brahmaputra district of Chittagong in the east to Teliageri passes in the West. The Author of Riyaz informs us that on the west it adjoins Bihar\(^1\). The district of Midnapur in the West Bengal was merged with the Province of Bengal in September 1711 A.D., during the diwanship of Nawab Jafar Khan\(^2\). The district of Purnea, now situated in the State of Bihar was within the Province of Bengal during the period under review\(^3\). The district of Sylhet, now in Bangladesh, the Pargana of Akhmahal (i.e. Rajmahal) were also within this Province and the passes of Teliagarhi and Sakhigelli, now in Santal Pargana, were situated at the gate of this Province. Since the conquest of Orissa under Emperor Akbar (1592 - 1605), Orissa formed a part of the Subah of Bengal\(^4\).

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4. Riyaz, p.8. In the Ain-i-Akbari, Orissa was included in Bengal, but khulasatu-t-Tawarikh, composed around 1695-99 A.D., and Chahar Gulshan composed around 1759 A.D. refer it as a separate province.
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE
PROVINCE OF BENGAL SINCE THE DAYS
OF HINDU RULE

Bengal was not the name of a new Province. We find the reference of this Province in the Adiparva of Mahabharata; however, the territory now known as Bengal was divided into Pundra, Banga, Raça, Samatata till the Sixth Century B.C. We also find the references of Gangaridi, certainly a part of Central Bengal in the descriptions of Greek Geographer Ptolemy. But the exact boundaries of these regions

5. One of the eighteenth chapters of this epic.

6. Roughly comprises North Bengal i.e., North of the main branch of the Ganges now known as Padma and the West of Brahmaputra which embraces the modern Rajsahi division and Cochbehar.

7. Between Bhagirathi, the Padma and the lower reaches of Brahmaputra and the estuary of Meghna lies the bulk of Presidency Division and part of Dacca Division.

8. West of Bhagirathi was Raça, this came within Bardhwan bhukti later. The letter r has been used to denote r in Bengali.

9. Beyond the Meghna river in East Bengal upto Chittagong, it was a tributary State under the Guptas. Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudra Gupta.

10. Famous geographer of Second Century A.D.
then known as 'janapadas' "can not be fixed with any fixed degree of certainty". The difficulty is increased when we see, the extent of the well known divisions like Gaur, Rara, Pundra and Banga varied in different ages.

We do not know much about the division of administrative units of this province prior to the age of the Gupta rulers though it was a part of the Mauryan Empire during the Fourth and Third Centuries before Christ. With the coming of the Imperial Guptas in the Fourth Century A.D., we see a number of defined administrative units in this province. As the Gupta Empire was divided into a number of bhuktis, roughly corresponding to the Subahs under the Mughals, we hear of Pundrabardhana bhukti in Bengal which formed a part of the Empire under Kumar Gupta (415 - 455 A.D.). Later, we are informed of Bardwan bhukti and Danda bhukti and also of Kankragram.

11. Gaur losely denoted the whole or part of Bengal.
13. Extended from the foot of the Himalayas (as mentioned in Damodar Copper Plates) to Khari in the Sundarvan. The Jhanna separated it from Bardhwan Bhukti in West. We find references of Pundrabardhana in the Gupta ages as well as in the Pala - Sena ages.
14. Embraced the valley of Damodar also extended from the Valley of Ajay to that of Suvarnarekha.
15. Comprised of South-West Midnapur, Southern Midnapur and part of Balasore district in Orissa.
But it must be noted that the meaning of the term Bhukti changed during the later period and it ceased to mean a province as we see in the Idra inscription of the Tenth Century that Dandabhukti is referred as a Mandala of Bardhwanbhukti as mentioned in the Idra Copper Plate.

Normally a bhukti was divided into vishyas, mandalas and vithis. These terms were used to denote districts and subdivisions. But the exact connotation of these terms is not clear to us. A vishya is sometimes included within a mandala, for instance, Kalimpur Plate of Dharma Pala informs us that Mahantaprakash Vishya of Pundrabardhana Bhukti was apparently a part of Vyaghrati Mandala. On the other hand, Bangarh grant of Mahi Pala-I, refers to Gokalika mandala as a part of Kotivarsha Vishya within Pundrabardhana Bhukti. But we are yet to ascertain the exact members and names of the abovenoted bhuktis.

16. This new bhukti embraced considerable portion of the valley of the river Mor and included parts of Birbhum and Murshidabad. D.C. Ganguli identifies Kankagram with Kankjol.

17. Epigraphies India i. XIII, pp.150-159

18. Last important ruler of Pataliputra, he reigned around 780 A.D. to 815 A.D.

During the later Pala period, we see that Banga was divided into Northern and Southern parts (Anuttara) which is distinctly referred to in the Kamauli Grant of Vaidyadeva, minister under Kamar-pala, son of Ram Pala. These two divisions of Banga referred in the same grant may have corresponded roughly to the two bhagas of the same territories namely, Vikrampur and Navya bhagas.

Just before the conquest of Bengal by the Muslims, Bengal is said to have been divided into the following divisions:

1. Raṣa, the region West of the Hugli river and the south of the Ganges.
2. Bagri the delta of the Ganges.
3. Banga, the region to the east and beyond the delta.
4. Barendra, the region to the north of the Padma.
5. Mithila, the region West of Mahananda.

These divisions may be identified with a degree of certainty.

During the reign of Gias-u'd-Din Tughluq (d.1325 A.D.), we hear that the Muslim Kingdom of Bengal was divided into three different sections, known as

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20. In East Bengal

Diyars \( \overline{L} \) Viz.,

1) Diyar-i-Sonargaon, comprising of East Bengal
   (This part was also known as Arsa-i-Bangala)
2) Diyar-i-Satgaon, comprising of West Bengal
   (This part was also known as Iqlim-i-Bangala)
3) Diyar-i-Lakhnauti, comprising of North and Central Bengal.

A Governor was appointed to each of the diyars but the Governor of Lakhnauti was supreme over the two other Governors.

However, these political divisions did not last long as Haji Ilyas (1345-1357 A.D.) made himself independent ruler of Bengal.

Under Sher Shah (1539-1545), we hear of Sarkars as administrative units for the first time in Bengal.

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11. The words used before Emperor Akbar's time to denote fiscal divisions or tracts of country, larger than parganas, were diyars, Arsa, Vilayet, Mamluqat etc. (E.F.N. Riyaz. tr. Ab. Salam p-7)
13. He was foster brother of Sultan Alauddin Ali Shah (1339-1345 A.D.). He was successful in keeping the independence of Bengal when Sultan Firuz Shah of Tughluq dynasty invaded this province.
14. Sultan Sikandar Lodi introduced Sarkar as the biggest administrative unit and Sher Shah introduced this into Bengal (SherShah and his times Kanungo K.R., p-310).
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS UNDER THE MUGHAL RULE FROM
1576 TO 1757 A.D.

When the Mughals conquered the Province of Bengal, it became one of the Subhâhs under the Mughal Empire. It was then divided into 19 Sarkars though in the 'Ain-i-Akbari, we find the list of 24 Sarkars in this Subhâhs because five Sarkars of Orissa (which were part of Bengal) were included in it.  

1) Sarkar Audambar commonly known as Tandah. It comprised of Rajmahal, North-West Murshidabad and North Birbhum. It consisted of 52 Mahals yielding revenue as per assessment.  
2) Sarkar Jannatabad, was named by the Emperor Humayun; it comprised mainly of Maldah district. It consisted of 66 Mahals.  
3) Sarkar Fathbad, comprised mainly of Faridpur, South Bakhrgunj, now in Bangladesh and the islands on the mouth of the Ganges. It consisted of 31 Mahals.  
4) Sarkar Mahmudabad, comprised of Northern part of Nadia, Northern part of Jessore and Western part of Faridpur district of present Bangladesh. It consisted of 88 Mahals.

26. Infra, Bengal finally came under Mughal rule when Daud Khan Karrani was defeated and killed in the battle near Rajmahal in 1576 (July).  
5) Khilafatabad, comprised of Southern part of Jessore and Western part of Bakhargunj now in Bangladesh. It consisted of 35 Mahals.

6) Sarkar Bakla, Comprised of Northern and Eastern part of Bakhargunj and South-Western Dacca now in Bangladesh. The author of the Siyar has wrongly indentified Bakla with Hoogle. This Sarkar consisted of 4 Mahals.

7) Sarkar Tajpur, comprised of Eastern part of Purnia and Western part of Dinajpur. It consisted of 29 Mahals.

8) Sarkar Ghoraghat comprised of Southern part of Rangpur, South-eastern part of Dinajpur and Northern part of Bogra, now under Bangladesh, extended as far as Brahmaputra. It consisted of 84 Mahals.

9) Sarkar Pinjara or Panjrah on the river Atraie, comprised of Dinajpur, parts of Rajsahi and Rangpur, now in Bangladesh. It consisted of 21 Mahals.

10) Sarkar Barbakabad, comprised mainly of Rajsahi, South-western Bogra and South-eastern part of Maldah. It consisted of 38 Mahals.

11) Sarkar Bazua, included parts of Rajsahi, Bogra and Noakhali districts, now in Bangladesh. In Akbar's time, the portion of Bengal known as Bazua, had not yet been consolidated into a compact area, but lay sprawling over many adjacent districts, having no
clear marked boundaries. This sarkar consisted of 38 Mahals.
12) Sarkar Sonargaon comprised of Western Tiperrah and Noakhali. It comprised of 52 Mahals.
13) Sarkar Sharifabad comprised mainly of Burdwan, it consists of 26 Mahals.
14) Sarkar Sulaimanabad comprised of Northern part of Hooghly, its adjacent part of Nadia and Eastern part of Burdwan.
16) Sarkar Mandaran, comprised mainly of Bankura, Bishnapur, South West Bardhaman and Western part of Hooghly. It consisted of 16 Mahals.
17) Sarkar Purnia, comprised of Purnia district, it consisted of 9 Mahals.
18) Sarkar Sylhet comprised of Sylhet now in Bangladesh, it consisted of 8 Mahals.
19) Sarkar Chittagong or Islamabad 7 Mahals, this sarkar was fully conquered by Shaista Khan in 1665-66 A.D. It consisted 47 Mahals.
During the rule of the Viceroy Prince Shuja' (1638 - 1659) we find six Sarkars were transferred from Orissa and 5 new Sarkars were created out of annexation in Assam and 2 Sarkar Tipperah.

The Rent roll of Prince Shuja' (1639 - 1659) however shows, for the purpose of revenue administration, the total number of Sarkars as 34 which will be discussed later.

Under Nawab Ja'far Khan, this Subah was divided into thirteen Chaklas which are as follows:

i) Chakla Murshidabad
ii) Chakla Hughli
iii) Chakla Jessore
iv) Chakla Bhusna
v) Chakla Akbaragar (Rajmahal)
vi) Chakla Islamabad (Chittagong)
vii) Chakla Hijli
viii) Chakla Guribari
ix) Chakla of Bandar Balasore now in Orissa
x) Chakla Jahangirnagar (Dacca)


29. Supra, p. 58
xi) Chakla Ghoraghat, it is placed 27 miles North and North-west of Bogura in the Rennel's Bengal Atlas and included Rangpur, Dinajpur and part of Bogura.

xii) Chakla Bardwan

xiii) Chakla Srihatta (Sylhet)

Though the above noted Chaklas were created by Nawab Ja'far Khan to denote administrative divisions, yet the word Sarkar also remained in use, during the rule under Nawab Ja'far Khan and his successors. But we should not try to find relation between the area of a Chakla and the area of a Sarkar. "In the distribution into Chaklas, the original Sarkars were frequently split up and did not remain as integral units". Similarly, a pargnah was often found in more than one Sarkar and subsequently in more than one Chakla.

For the purpose of mainly executive administration, this Subah was divided under the following foujdari divisions:

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30. Early Rev. History, Ascoli, p-25
31. Ibid, p.192
32. Under Aurangzeb, there were 12 foujdari jurisdictions and Balasore, now in Orissa was in Bengal, Anjali Chatterjee, Bengal under Aurangzeb, p.50. While Shirin Akhtar mentions 11 foujdari divisions into "The Role of Zamindars of Bengal" (Foot Note of Page No. 115) Shirin Akhtar.
1. Islamabad (Chittagong)
2. Srechatta (Sylhet)
3. Rangpur (Ghoragbata) Haji was a Foujdar here, later, Karam Ali was foujdar under 'Alivardi
4. Rangamati
5. Jalalgarh castle, a few miles above in Purnia
6. Akbarnagar (Rajmahal)
7. Rajsahi
8. Bardwan
9. Medinipur
10. Hughli
11. Kuch-Behar
12. Murshidabad

The above mentioned divisions served the purposes of the Government viz., smooth collection of maximum revenue and keeping the Zamindars and the other Mughal officers under control which in fact meant keeping the under awe and reverence.

Nawab Shuja'-u'd-Daula, immediate successor of Nawab Jafar Khan, was very much addicted to the pleasure of harem and preferred to throw the responsibility of his administration upon his relatives and psychophants. That was why he divided this Province along with Bihar and Orissa into four divisions. As the result, we find

33. Riyaz, p. 303
Bengal was divided into two divisions, namely Dacca division and Central division; the former comprising a small portion of North Bengal, Sylhet, Chittagong, East Bengal and South Bengal. The Central Division comprising of Western, Central and a part of North Bengal. These regions were the sources of maximum revenue and thereby held the key to power. Nazim Shuja'-u'd-Daula kept this division under his direct control while the deputy Mizamat of Dacca division was bestowed upon his son Nawab Sarfaraz Khan.  

This reminds the similar administrative divisions of this Province under the Tughluqs in the Fourteenth Century when Bengal was divided into Diyar-i-Satgaon, Diyar-i-Sonargaon and Diyar-i-Lakhnauti.  

34. Riyaz, P.303.  
35. Infra,pp.15-16
TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGAL.

Since the establishment of Muslim rule in this province under Ikhtiyar-u'd-Din-Ibn-Bakhtyar Khalji during the early years of the thirteenth century\(^1\), administrative headquarters were changed quite a number of times. Bakhtyar Khalji after capturing Western Bengal from Laksman Sena, referred as Rai Lakshmana by the Muslim historians, set up his seat of government at Gaur or Lakhnauti\(^3\) which was the capital of ancient Bengal. It was situated at the central region of Bengal and Bihar which formed Bakhtyar's territory. Gaur remained the seat of the government under a number of Muslim rulers of this province.

1. There is a controversy in respect of the year of conquest of Bakhtyar-Khalji, among the scholars. H. Blochman fixed the date of his conquest in 594 A H/1198-99 A.D. (JASB, VI – XLIV), 1875, p-276, by conjecture. Sir J.N. Sarkar fixed it, in the year 1201 A.D. (Hist. of Bengal II, Dacca University p-33), while Ab. Momen Choudhury places it in 1204 A.D., on the basis of the evidence of Tarikh-i-Fakhru-u'd-Din Mubarak Shah, written in 1206 A.D. and also on the basis of the Bhowal plate of Laksman Sena (Dynastic history of Bengal. A.M.Choudhury, Asiatic Society, Dacca, pp 255-57).

2. On the left bank of the Ganges, about 25 miles below Rammahal, within the Sarkar Jennatabad, Minhaj, the celebrated author of Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, visited this city in 641 AH.(1243-44) and says that the Ganges ran through the middle of it, the citadel was on the western side of the river. Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, Minhaj, Hist, of India as told ....Vol-II\(^{3}\).Elliot-Dowson.

3. There is no evidence that Nadia which was first attacked by the Bakhtyar Khalji, was the capital of Laksman Sena.
It appears that Sultan Ala-ud-Din Ali Shah (1339-45) transferred his capital from Lakhnauti to Pandua a few miles away from Gaur. Sultan Jala-ud-Din Shah (1414) again transferred the seat of his government to Gaur in the year 822 A.H. Again Sultan Hussain Shah (1493-1519 A.D.) transferred his capital to Ekdalia. Under the Pathans, Gaur again become the capital but Sulaiman Karrani (1565-72), transferred his capital from Gaur to Tandah to the south of Gaur. The history of the city of Gaur, in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries reveals that the seat of Muslim Governments was changed from Gaur to places adjacent to the old city. According to Ferishta, the reasons for change of the seat of the government from Gaur, was mainly due to the unwhole-some air of the old city. The geographical factors for the change of the site of the government should not be overlooked. Change in the course of the river Ganges also must have compelled the rulers of Gaur prior to the Mughals. The great swamp which was called 'Chutia Putia' in the Ai n-i-Akbari, was a source of constant danger to the city as it created periodical inundation from both sides

4. a few miles higher up the river on the road, leading from Rajmahal to Gaur. Sultan Firuz Shah named it Firuzabad.

5. Ekdalia in Dinajpur, North East of Pandua. Firuz Shah changed its name to Azadpur. (Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, Afif Hist. of India, as told .... Elliot- Dowson Vol-III, p-297).

the result the Muslim rulers of Bengal were compelled to shift their capital from the old city. Stewart has added another probability for the transfer of the seat of the government. He says, Sulaiman Karrani shifted his capital from Gaur as the Sultan might have thought it unlucky, owing to the deaths of number of kings at this city.

With the coming of the Mughals in Bengal we see Mansingh, the Mughal Viceroy, had founded his seat of government at Rajmahal in 1595 A.D., and named it Akbar-nagar. Rajmahal was of strategic importance for its proximity to Sakrigelly and Teliageri passes.

No one could thus avoid this city before entering this province from Northern India.

Within a short period, Islam Khan, on his appointment to the viceroyalty of Bengal, in the year 1608 A.D., shifted his capital from Rajmahal to Dacca and named it


8. Rajmahal was formerly known as Agmahal. Man Singh changed its name to Rajmahal and subsequently to Akbarnagar after the name of the Emperor Akbar.
Jahangirnagar. The reasons for such change escaped the attention of the contemporary Oriental historians but Stewart in later period discussed the probable reasons for the change of the seat of the government in detail. Stewart has pointed to the disastrous state of affairs, caused by the constant menace of the Mughals and the Raja of Arracan in the year 1016 A.H. (1608 A.D.) which might have induced Islam Khan to change his administrative headquarter to Dacca in Eastern Bengal so that he could exercise effective check upon the raids of the Mughals and Raja of Araccan. There is no denying that his measures yielded results to a certain extent. Since then 'Dacca, the Romance of the Eastern Empire' as one author puts it, remained the capital of the eastern most subah of the Mughal Empire, for about a Century.

TRANSFER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD QUARTER FROM DACCA TO MURSHIDABAD.

With the advent of the Eighteenth Century we find Nawab Ja'far Khan, Diwan of the Subah, was enjoying more confidence of the Emperor than that of the viceroy 'Azimu1-Shan, by effecting a big surplus of revenue to the credit of the Imperial government. By making considerable retrenchments in public expenditure under several heads, Ja'far Khan surely

10. to be discussed in the subsequent chapter.
11. Murshid Quli came to Bengal as Diwan in 1700 A.D.
antagonised the Viceroy 'Azimus-Shan. Moreover the reward which the Diwan received for his good services from the Emperor, opines the author of Riyaz, kindled the fire of jealousy in the heart of the Viceroy who won over to his side, the Naqdi troops14 (appears to be Ahadi troops) with their leader Abdul Wahed, by holding out promises of reward and increase in pay15.

The Naqdi troopers one day, surrounded Diwan Jafar Khan, on his way to the Durbar of the Viceroy. Jafar Khan had anticipated the situation and kept himself well prepared, to counter it. He, with the help of his personal guards, made way through the turbulent troops and came directly to the Durbar. Nawab Jafar Khan openly accused the Viceroy of hatching a conspiracy for murdering him. The Viceroy feigned ignorance to the allegation. Nawab Jafar Khan, proceeding to his diwan-i-'Am16, demanded the accounts of the Naqdi troops, levied their pay from the

12. 'Azimus-Shan, s/o Pr. Muazzam, was appointed as Viceroy of Bengal, Behar and Orissa in 1698 after Ibrahim Khan.
13. Riyaz, p. 251, 248
14. They were paid in cash from Imperial Treasury and were considered immediate servants of the Emperor. They were very proud of their strength.
16. Court and office of the provincial diwan.
Zamindars and encashiered them off. Thereafter the Diwan despatched the note of the entire happenings through both Wakianavis and Sawarniah to the Imperial government. In addition, he sent to the Emperor a proceeding signed by the leader of the rioters along with his own report. Nawab Ja'far Khan apprehending further hostility from the Viceroy, resolved to keep himself at a safe distance from the former, shifted his diwan-khana along with the Qanungoes and officers from Dacca to Mukhsudabad without taking any leave from the Viceroy or even prior permission from the Imperial Authority. It appears, Nawab Ja'far Khan's transfer of his office from Dacca to Mukhsudabad had received Imperial confirmation, as we find, the Emperor in serious annoyance ordered the Viceroy, to quit Bengal and withdraw to Bihar, leaving his son Farrukhsiyar as his deputy.

17. Riyaz, p. 250
18. Official court-recorder of the province, appointed by the Mughal Government. He used to send information independently to the Emperor.
19. Official General Intelligence giver, also appointed by the Mughal Imperial Government sent intelligence report independently. His reports were checked with that of Wakianavis.
20. Ibid, p. 25
21. Ibid, p. 250
22. Ibid, p. 251
Shri Nisith Roy has discussed in detail the reasons for selecting Makhsudabad as his new administrative headquarter. Shri Roy has pointed out that Makhsudabad, situated on the region central of the province of Bengal, its location was not far from Bihar and Orissa. Its location was convenient for collection of revenue and to keep watch over the commercial activities of the European Companies which flourished around the banks of the Padma and the Ganges in the early years of the eighteenth century. But it is difficult to agree with him that there was no reason for Nazim's staying at Dacca in the Eastern Bengal since there was no problem of Mugh raids at that time. We are informed of the apprehensions of Mugh raids even as late as 1748. The decision for selecting Murshidabad as the administrative headquarter of the Subah was not made by a sudden thought but it was taken after much deliberation and consultation by the Diwan who liked the excellent site of Makhsudabad where news from all four quarters of the subah could easily be

23. Murshidabader Itihas, N.N, Roy, p.338
received and which like the adam of the eye was located in the centre of the Subah. It had on the north west of the chaklah of Akbar nagar and the passes of Sakrigalli and Teliagari ...... on the south west Birbhum, Pachet and Bishnapur ...... on the north of the chaklah of Ghora-ghat. Rangpur and Kuchbihar. All these location detail as pointed by Shri Goutam Bhadra had their significance in conjunction with other historical factors in the socio-economic life of Murshidabad town. The importance of the new headquarter lay in the existence of its surrounding region. The area of Rajsahi, Purulia and Burdwan supplied additional food surplus to sustain the non-agricultural population of Murshidabad town. The region stretching from Nadia to Malda produced abundant cash-crops like silk and silk cloths which were lucrative merchandise for the foreign traders. With huge food supplies and abundant cash crops for foreign trade Murshidabad situated at the cross-roads of major trade routes from South West Bengal to North India along the Chief water route of Bhagirathi - Hugli channel.


27. Urban Centre and Industries in Upper India(1656-1868) H.K. Haqvi, P.38.
TITLES AND INSIGNIA OF THE OFFICERS OF BENGAL

Mughal Emperors conferred a number of honorary distinctions or titles to the Provincial Officers of Bengal like their counterparts in other Mughal provinces in order to recognize them for their distinctive service to the State and also to encourage them for their future performance. These titles served as the official names of the Officers concerned. "In the days of Shahjahan", remarks Manucci, "it was very hard to acquire titles for it was at once necessary to give a heavy payment and produce enough to maintain a great display. But now a days Aurangzeb pays less heed to the matter and gives the title but with less pay".

Normally, a particular title was held by only one person at a time. Irvine has shown on the evidence of Danishmand Khan that during the reign of Bahadur Shah I, there were three men who one time held the title Fazil Khan. In fact, the titles of officers lost their earlier significance during the period under review.


32
Titles held by a particular officer was an indication to the position and esteem held by him in the eyes of the Government and people. So when an Imperial mandate was issued to Nawab Ja'far Khan to barter his title Nasirjang which was aspired by Syed Hussain Ali Khan, the former declined to exchange his title as the same had been conferred to him by the Great Emperor Aurangzeb. The author of Riyaz explicitly informs us that the suggestion for the exchange of title originated in the minds of Syed brothers who were personage of immense influence and power, Nawab Ja'far Khan resented their impudence. It reveals that three successive Nazims of Bengal were conferred the title Mu'tamān-ə-l-Mulk while the title 'Ala-u'd-Daula was held by both Nawab Ja'far Khan and Nawab Sarfaraz. Sometimes hereditary titles were conferred. For instance, Raja Rameswar of Bansberia was conferred hereditary title of Rai Mahashai by the Emperor Aurangzeb in 1673. Provincial Governors often recommended to the Emperor for conferring titles upon

3. Riyaz, - p.274

The title raja in the days of Great Mughal confined to the subdued Hindu Kings after enrolling them among the nobles of the Empire and bestowed 6000 or 7000 rank with suitable jagiers. Chief of Rathore Seesodje & later Todar Mal and others get it; on the decline of the Empire, it was bestowed upon...
the subordinate officers. Thus we learn Mirza Muhammad Sayeed, the second son of Haji Ahmed received the title Khan and Bahadur on the recommendation of Nawab Shuja'-u'd-Daula and Sarfaraz. Shhamatjang received the title Ihtisham-u'd-Daula while Saulatjang received the title Maham-u'd-Daula on the recommendation of Nawab 'Alivardi.

After the fall of 'Azam Shah (Second son of 'Alamgir) in June 1707, Mirza Muhammad Ali's family, reduced to straits. Mirza Muhammad with his wife went to the court of Shuja'-u'd-Din Muhammad Khan at Cuttak.

the diwan of principal grandees, viz., Ratanchand Diwan of Qutub ul Mulk in the region of Emperor Farrukhsiyar; Mahabatjang and Haibatjang gave the title of Raja to Sunder Singh and Bishan Singh; at last many of the Zamindars, enacted themselves Rajas by their own authority.

5. Riyaz, p.305.
Mirza Muhammad Ali was appointed foujdar of the Chukla Akbarnagar (Rajmahal) in 1728 and was invested with the title of 'Alivardi.

Titles held by some prominent officers of the Province of Bengal were as follows:

1. Nawab Jafar Khan
   i) Kartalab Khan
   ii) Murshid Quli
   iii) Mutaman-ul-Mulk (guardian of the Country)
   iv) 'Ala'-u'd-Daula
   v) Nasirjung Nasiri
   vi) Jafar Khan Nasiri

2. Nawab Shuja' Khan
   i) Mu'taman-ul-Mulk
   i.e. better known
   ii) Asadjang (Lion in War)
   as Shuja'-u'd-Daula
   iii) Shuja'-u'd-Daula (Hero of the State)


8. Emperor Muhammad Shah conferred the aforesaid three titles to Nawab Shuja' Khan.
3. Mirza Asadullah
   i) Sarfaraz Khan
   ii) Mu'taman-ul-Mulk
   iii) 'Ala-u'd-Daula
   iv) Hyderjâng (Lion in War)

4. Mirza Muhammad Ali
   i) 'Alivardi
   ii) Shuja'-u'l-Mulk (Hero of the country)
   iii) Mahabatjang.
   iv) Hashm-u'd-Daula (Sword of the Kingdom)

5. Siraj-u'd-Daula
   i) Mansur-u'l-Mulk
   ii) Haibatjang (Horror in War)

6. Mawazish Muhammad Khan
   i) Nasir-ul-Mulk
   ii) Ihtisham-u'd-Daula (grandeur of the kingdom)
   iii) Shahmatjang.

9. Yusuf Ali states that Nawab Shuja-u'd-Daula recommended these titles for 'Alivardi (p.7) but G.H. Salim says, 'Alivardi himself got Riyaz, p. 297
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Pir Khan</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Mirza Lutfullah</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Mustafa Khan</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Mohanlal Khan</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Rai Alam Chand Mukhtar</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Farkhunda Bakht (infant)</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>'Ataullah Khan (foujdar of Akbarhagar)</td>
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<td>(glory of the Rajmahal)</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Mahtapchand and (his successors)</td>
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Provincial officers of Bengal like their counterparts in other Mughal provinces were given certain insignia for displaying their status before the public. An insignia was granted by the Emperor in

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10. He spent his youth and old age in the company of Shuja-ud-Daula, became Foujdar of Hugli.

11. The title of Rai Raian was given to Rai Alam Chand for the first time in the Nizamat of Bengal. Riyaz, p.291.

12. The author of Riyaz informs us that Emperor Farrukhsiyar conferred this title on the recommendation of Nawab Jafar Khan, Riyaz, pp.273-4.
The right to play naubat could also be granted to a noble as a special favour but the recipient must be a man of the rank of 2000 or above. During the rule of Nawab Siraj-u'd-Daula, Maharaja Mohanlal had the right to play naubat.

Fringed palanquin: Only great mansabdars of the rank of 7000 were given the right to use fringed palanquin which is made in the form of a network; for example, Nawab Shuja-u'd-Daula was given this right to use fringed palkey, again under Nawab Siraj-u'd-Daula, Mohanlal was also given the right to use fringed palkey.

Mahi Martab had been originated in Persia under the rule of Khasru Parwez in 519 A.D. Emperor Shahjahan introduced it during the Mughal rule though it had also been used earlier during Sultanat period. It was granted to a noble of 6000/6000 rank. Nawab Shuja-u'd-Daula

15. Mughal Nobility, Atahar Ali, pp. 141-2
18. Figure of a fish with other insignia (two bells) carried upon an elephant.
was granted Mahi Martab by the Emperor Muhammad Shah. While Maharaja Mohan Lal also enjoyed Mahi Martab during the rule of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula.

Khelats or robes of honours were given by the Emperors as well as provincial Viceroy's to their subordinate officers as a mark of special favours. These khelats consisted of 3 to 7 pieces and were of different varieties. When Khelat-i-Khas were awarded, the recipient had to salute three times before and four times after putting on the Khelats.

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20. Salimullah, pp. 74-75
22. For instance 'Azimush Sham received special robes of honour,(Riyaz p. 238) and Raja Rameswar of Bansberia received Panj Parcha Khelat from Aurangzeb (Sanad quoted in 'Bansberia Raj', S.C.)
23. On the Punya day for the beginning of revenue collection of the year, Nawab conferred Khelats to leading Zamindars etc., again dress and shawls were given to the successors of Zamindars on their assumption to the offices of Zamindaries (Note of Bade (Bare) Mal, a notable khalsa officer), Appendix - 9, Extract from the Harrington's Analysis.
Appointments to public services always depended upon the sweet will rather upon the whims of all autocratic rulers despite their high-sounding declarations for their regards for customs of the administration or eligibility of the appointees so that the interests of the appointing authority may be protected. Thus, we notice Fakrunda Bakht, an infant son of the Emperor, was formally appointed to the highest chair of the province. Mohanlal, a favourite of the Nawab, though suffering from "an incurable disease" adorned the lofty posts of the administration. Numerous such examples may be cited. This was true in case of our Province as well. Important Provincial officers like Nazims, Diwans, Chief Qazis, certain Foddars, including some Zamindars who held mansabs were appointed by the Imperial Government. Of course, recommendations of their respective departmental heads of the Imperial Governments were necessary in most cases. Subordinate officers of the Provincial administration were appointed on the recommendations of the Provincial Viceroy and the same were usually accepted by the Imperial Government. Imperial orders for appointments were read in presence of important officials, Swarnavish, Wakianavis when the same orders reached at the Provincial Court.

1. Supra, p. 43.
2. ibid, p. 50.
3. ibid, p. 76.
4. ibid, p. 129.
Certain officers like Qazis and patwaris Rasangirs of the revenue departments held office hereditarily. Yet we are informed that the Qazis had to pass eligibility tests. Hereditary appointments in the lower levels of the revenue departments were necessary as such appointments provided the administration with officers having local knowledge and information.

Some important and trusted officials were often appointed to a numbers of posts at a time. But they discharged their functions through their agents. For instance, Murshid Quli was first appointed Diwan of the Subah, Foujdar of Murshidabad, Foujdar of Midnapur, Bardwan. Prince 'Azimush-Shah was appointed Nazim of the province as well as Foujdar of Kuch Behar. Riza Khan was made Diwan of Bengal as well Deputy Nazim at Dacca.

5. Salumullah, p. 69, usually Chief Qazi conducted such tests.

6. For example, when Nasroziah Muhammad Khan was appointed Deputy Governor of Dacca, with Chittagong, Tipperah, and Sylhet with Hussein Ali as his Deputy, but as both remained mostly at Murshidabad, the direct administration of this part devolved upon Hussein Ali's Diwan.