

Colonial Advent and Changing Political Scenario in the Darjeeling Terai: Mid 18th Century to Mid 19th Century

Sudip Khasnobish*

Abstract: Darjeeling Terai or modern Siliguri sub-division never came into prominence during ancient, medieval and even in early part of modern period. It is due to this reason when it came under the sovereignty or control of the various powers i.e, Cooch Behar, Sikkim and Nepal, it did not get any importance rather it was neglected. When the British captured the region in 1850 it shot into prominence and contact with other parts of India began. Thus, the authentic history of the northern bank of the river Mahananda of Darjeeling Terai commences in the limelight of modern Indian history from early part of the 18th century. But its strategic political importance began from middle of the 18th centuries, when the Gurkhas of Nepal eager to capture Darjeeling Terai, the same period when the Sanyasis and Fakirs were dominated in that region. In that particular political turmoil the East India Company was involved in Terai which turned its mighty historical transformation.

Keywords: Terai, Morung, Gurkhas, Company, Sikkim, Sanyasis, Fakirs, Giri, Raikat, Namgyal, Lepcha, Mechi, Darjeeling, Himalaya.

The plains of Darjeeling district is popularly known as the Darjeeling Terai, extending from the foot of the mountainous tract of the northern border of the Purnea district. It lies between 26°36'48'' and 26°49'45'' north latitude and between 88°8'51'' and 88°29' east longitude. It forms as a trapezoid with a length from north to south of eight miles and breadth east to west of ten miles, covering a total area 229.95 square miles or 147,170,19 acres, excluding the forest land. It is bounded on the north by Kurseong sub-division of the district, south by West Dinajpur (Now North Dinajpur), east by Jalpaiguri district and west by independent state of Nepal.¹ Joseph Dalton Hooker, the first European who visits Terai said that low malarial belt which skirts the base of the Himalaya from the Sutlej to Brahma-Koond (river Brahmaputra) in Upper Assam is known as Terai.² For these reasons the term Terai is applicable to all the areas below the Himalayan mountainous ranges, in Uttar Pradesh³ and Assam⁴ and Nepal⁵ or Bengal. It is to be noted that Terai region has been referred in some of the accounts either as Morung or Kiratland. Yet, Darjeeling Terai was almost an unknown area to the people living in the mainland of India before the British annexation. Hence, Morung was the old name of Nepal and Sikkim Terai (i.e Darjeeling Terai). The name is an old one, being mentioned more than once in the Alamgirnamah and in the annals of the Koch King. It is shown in Vanden

* Research Scholar, Department of History, University of North Bengal

Broucke 's ma' as comprising the whole Himalayan tract from Bihar to Assam ,and in Rennell's map of 1779 the Nepal Terai between Muzzafarpur and Jalpaiguri is under this name.⁶ During colonial period there were three police stations under Siliguri sub-division i.e Siliguri, Phansidewa and Khoribari. But after the Independence of the country in 1947 police stations were increased to six in number. The three additional new police stations are Naxalbari, Matigara and Bagdogra.

The coming of the Gurkhas in Nepal strangely coincided with the East India Company's coming to power in Bengal. Like Sikkim, Nepal was also interested in coming down towards her south in the plains.⁷ The southern Terai region separating Nepal from the plains of India was also a natural barrier. It was covered with thick forests and grassy marshes. A virulent type of malaria called the "awl" was endemic in the Terai and people were unwilling to cross the forest regions except through established paths along perennial water courses and forest clearing .This malarial fever of Terai was one of the main factors which prevented closer relationship between Nepal and southern neighbors.⁸ Nevertheless in the year of 1769, the two countries of Gorkha and Nepal were united into one kingdom under one name and one ruler, Prithvi Narayan Shah. After establishing the power in Nepal Prithvi Narayan crossed the Dudh Kosi river, the eastern boundary of his new dominations and entered the country of the Kiratas and Limbus. Then he extended his territories to the river Mechi in those days which separated the Limbu country from Sikkim. In 1772 a great battle was fought between the Gorkhas and the raja of Tanbu. Thousands of Gorkhas were slain in the field of battle. Tanbu was incorporated in the Gurkha dominions as a result of this.⁹ On the other hand the Sikkim Government was just resting from the Bhutanese invasion to its boundary, when it was informed about the occupation of Limbuwan including Morung of Bijaypur by the Gurkhas. The Sikkimese force had determined to attack the Gurkha force, and at the same time the rumors had already spread that the Sikkim prince himself came to fight the enemies and thus they started fighting. After some battles, a treaty was concluded at Bijaypur between Sikkim and Nepal in 1775 as Gurkha power was greatly reduced by continuous campaigning. By this time Raja Prithvi Narayan Shah was dead and his son Pratap Singh had succeeded him on the throne (1776).¹⁰ By this treaty Nepal fixed her eastern boundary up to the river Kankai in the Terai land. Any breach of the above treaty would entail the party who broke it should give an indemnity fine of one hundred *dharnis* of gold (250 seers of gold). But the same year (1776) or next year the new Gurkha Raja Pratap Singh Shah broke the treaty and invaded Sikkim¹¹ and annex the eastern part of Morung i.e from the river Mechi to Mahananda in the east (present Darjeeling Terai). This territory measuring 230 miles touched the boundaries of Purnea, Dinajpur and Rangpur and was under the Sikkim's regime at that time.¹²

Thus the Gurkhas captured the Darjeeling Terai in 1779-80 without any strong resistance by the Sikkimise under the leadership of Ganguram Thapa.¹³ A news reached

to Ganguram that Sikkim had take some immediate action against him. This kind of information flourish in some official documents of Sikkim but not in any British sources .Nevertheless, in order to foil this move and legitimize his hold on Morung he came into contact with the leaders of *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs*, most prominent among them was Majnu Shah who had previously secured five *jotes* from the Sikkim ruler, was given five more *jotes* by Ganguram to enlist his support.¹⁴ In this connection it is to be noted that almost immediately after an attack into Sikkim, the Lepchas held up the Gurkhas for nine long years until in 1788 the ruling prince was defeated and fled to Tibet .When the Gurkhas finally returned, they were able to conquer Sikkim territory up to west of the Tista river.¹⁵

During the second half of the 18th century the *Sannyasis*¹⁶ and the *Fakirs* came in large numbers in Terai. But from where did they came in Terai is still unknown to us .Dr.Arun Bhusan Majumdar, an eminent scholar and former Inspector of Colleges of N.B.U said that, after the defeat of Mir Qasim, Nawab of Oudh and the Mughal king in the battle of Buxar against the English in 1764, their soldiers became helpless and tried to leave the place where they be safe and wanted to get rid of the English. But the question was where the soldiers would go. At that time Oudh was not a safe place to them, even not Bihar, Orissa and Bengal. Therefore they had to select a place where the English had no influence and they decided to stay at Terai jungle which was somehow free from English influence. After coming to Terai, some of these soldiers took services under the Raikats, Cooches and the Bhutanese. They became to be known as *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* .These peoples later fought battles against the English in favour of Bhutan, the Raikats and the Koches. Many of them plundered Suba Bengal from this region. Mostly they are called as *Giris*.¹⁷ Among these *Sannyasis*, many of them were engaged in trading activities and commerce with Bhutan through the route of Tibet. The prominent name in such activities are Purnna Giri Gossain, who is better referred as Puran Giri Gossain in British records.¹⁸ This type of theory is also supported by an eminent historian, Prof. Amalendu Dey in his book '*Sirajer Putro O Bangsodherder Sandhane*'.¹⁹

It is to be said that the *Sannyasis* came to Bengal principally to take part in bathing festivals. After passing through the territory of the Nawab of Oudh, they followed a route generally through the north Bihar and the borders of Nepal Terai. The *Sannyasis* usually crossed the river Mahananda by several routes. So, it was in the late 18th century that eastern Morung or present Darjeeling Terai became the permanent home of the *Sannyasis* which was at that time under the rule of Sikkim.²⁰ Moreover to save his country from the invasions of the *Sannyasis* and the *Fakirs*²¹ the Sikkim Government provided them land for settlement in order to keep peace in the region .Some of them were literary *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* in true sense but most of them were not sages or ascetic. The landowner of Purnea, Dinajpur, Rangpur used to fear them and maintained some distant from them. On the other hand the poor and needy people were much closer to them because they were the friends of the sufferers .Among them many of them worked in

King's army in lieu of wages. The East India Company observed that in the battle of Cooch Behar, Baikunthapur and Bhutan with the English there were forces composed of hired soldiers from among the *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* as stated earlier.²² Dr. Buchanan Hamilton also observes that '...they(*Sannyasis*) plundered with the utmost barbarity and when pursued were went to retire to Morung in the dominations of Nepal, where they found shelter and sale of their booty.....Many still reside in Morung.'²³ But it is interesting to note that during the struggle of Prithvi Narayan Shah with Newar king, the *Gossain* and the *Fakir* merchants sided with the Newar *Raja*, Jayprakash. Even Muktananda and *Fakir* Ramdas were sent as emissaries to solicit English help on behalf of the Newar *Raja* in June 1767 against the ambitious Gorkha King, Prithvi Narayan. The Kinlock Expedition was accordingly sent against Prithvi Narayan with the hope that adequate concessions for Trans-Himalayan trade and for trade in Terai would be obtained from the Newar *Raja*. After the Nepal route was virtually closed, it was found that the commodities of Bengal used also to be conveyed into Tibet through the Terai.²⁴ The *Sannyasis-Fakirs* attitude towards Prithvi Narayan Shah was presumably for his opinion that they (*Sannyasi-Fakirs*) sucking all the profits of Nepal. He therefore, never allowed the *Gossains* and *Fakirs* who used to carry on a highly profitable trade between Bengal, Tibet and Nepal, to stay in his country. Rather they were ruthlessly expelled.²⁵ In this connection it is to be mentioned that in 1766, Mr. Myrtle, an English official engaged by the Company in fur trade was killed along with his men by the *Sannyasis-Fakirs* in the Terai region.²⁶

So, from the above mentioned facts it is to be clear that the entire zone was rife with discontent during the late 18th century due to the new revenue and commercial policies of the Company, which occasioned serious economic and social dislocation by unseating some established zamindars, depeasantizing the settled agricultural communities, endangering the textile and silk industries and ruining the economic interest of the pedlars and itinerant traders. Armed depredations by the *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* within the Company's territory, were a regular feature during the 1780-86 and it continued till 1800.²⁷ During this period the British East India Company still could not provide internal security and administration of the region. In the August 1776, the Fauzdar of Rangpur Jainal Abedin had informed Reja Khan that for maintaining peace and internal security, though there was a *Kotwal* in Rangpur but it was difficult for maintained to pay attention beyond the area of two miles. Reja Khan, had written a letter to Warren Hastings, the than Governor of Bengal informing him about the helpless condition of security and internal administration of the area. Yet, Warren Hastings did not have any other option, then to use forces against the *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* to maintained the law and order. The strong measures of suppression of the East India Company had gradually stopped the raids of the *Sannyasis* and *Fakirs* in the region. But in the western part of Baikunthapur a new problem was been created with the progress of Prithvi

Narayan Shah and his Gurkha army who crossed the Mechi river and entered the Terai area of Darjeeling. Prithvi Narayan Shah had earlier made contact of Warren Hastings and expressed his wishes to occupy the Terai region knowing totally well about the problem faced by the Company regarding the *Sannyasis*. He had mentioned that the *Sannyasis* will no more create tensions in the region once it would be occupied by the Gurkhas. But Hastings was doubtful and did not agree to the pretext of the Gurkhas to occupy the region in the name of the *Sannyasis*. But very soon the Company became engaged in Cooch Behar-Bhutan war and could not pay attention towards the activities of Nepal. Taking an advantage of the situation the Gurkhas occupied the region of Terai.²⁸ The frequent incursions of the Gurkhas and the *Sannyasis* in the Rangpur frontier alarmed the Britishers. Warren Hastings is said to have contemplated a campaign against Nepal, but that did not materialize. In 1784 he decided to send a friendly mission under Foxcroft to Nepal to know the real intention of the Gurkhas. But within the few months of it, the Governor General left India and nothing more was heard about the mission. The Nepal Government however, in a letter of 13th May 1786, to the Collector of Rangpur professed peace and amity with the Company's Government and also gave an apologetic explanation for the violence committed by the Gurkha Jamadar Gungaram Thapa within the territories of Baikunthapur.²⁹

During the latter half of the 18th Century the Gurkha forces crossed the border of Tibet and captured 275 miles. But within few days China and Sikkim had extended their help to Tibet which removed the Gurkha forces.³⁰ The Lasha authorities have requested the English to remain neutral. Nepal on the other hand, being encouraged by the commercial treaty with the East India Company concluded in March 1792, appealed to the Governor General for help. But the policy of neutrality pursued by Lord Cornwallis in the Tibeto-Nepalese conflict neither satisfied the Nepalese, nor the Tibetans. This dashed the hopes of a Trans-Himalayan trade route of Warren Hastings. Since the Tibeto-Nepalese war British interests in the Himalayan and reaction of China towards them became a major factor in the eastern Himalayan politics. The English realized that they had to formulate a definite policy with regard to the northern frontier. A Himalayan frontier rather than Himalayan trade became now their objective at that time.³¹ The political background of Terai region mentioned above to understand how did the British try to take possession of the whole area.

The East India Company could not ignore the importance of the Terai region from the very beginning for political, diplomatic, and economic reasons.³² From 1768-1770, when the Company first started to show an interest in the Terai, the Gurkhas had already begun a campaign to establish their supremacy, not only in the Nepal but in the *moffusil* territory of North-Eastern India where administration had been transferred by the Mughal Emperor to the Company in 1765 and the Company's *zamindars* accused the Gurkhas for encroaching on their lands. In this reason, Lord Cornwallis, in 1795, went

out of his way to assure the Raja of Nepal that he was prepared to define the long uncertain border between the Terai and Purnea in conformity with the Raja's representations. At that time, the Gurkhas showed themselves anxious to have this disputes settled.³³ But from the early part of the 19th century the Company tried to strengthen their hold in the northern Himalayan range, close to the frontiers of Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal. As Company's relation with Bhutan and Nepal was no cordial, the English wanted to develop friendly relationship to strengthen its hold in the Himalayan frontiers and to look after the movement of both Bhutan and Nepal in the near future. Nevertheless, after some time the Gurkhas threaten British interests in the north eastern district of Kheri in the province of Avadh(Oudh) better known as Gorakhpur Terai. Lord Moira pointed to the Gurkha advance westwards towards the Sutlej and eastwards far into Sikkim as posing a certain threat to the British interests.³⁴ At that time it was rumored that Bhutan and Nepal separated by a small kingdom of Sikkim, were about to conclude a military alliance against the Company. The Company therefore wanted to isolate Nepal and prevent it from getting assistance from any quarter, especially China, since the latter exercised suzerainty over Nepal from 1792 onwards. Thus it was the political and military necessity of the Company to opening a relationship with Sikkim. The alliance with Sikkim seemed to promise to the Company three advantages, namely, i) facilitate communication with China via Tibet ii) prevent Nepalese-Bhutanese intrigues against the Company and iii) level an attack on the Gurkha flank. In view of this advantages the Company instructed Captain Barre Latter of the Bengal Army to establish contacts with Chungpud Namgyal, the than ruler of Sikkim³⁵.

The English were not satisfied until they got sure foothold of the Himalayas. Following the political settlement after the Gurkha war(1814-1815), relations between the Company and Sikkim was further extended. This opportunity occurred in 1834-35, when some Lepcha refugees in Nepal having been made an inroad into the Terai. The refugees were obliged to return to Nepal, and after certain terms and conditions fixed by the Company and the Raja of Sikkim, the negotiations ended in the execution of the Raja of Sikkim³⁶ of a deed of grant on 1st of February 1835 in the following way: "The Governor-General having expressed his desire for the possession of the Hill of Darjeeling, on account of its cool climate, for the purpose of enabling the Servants of his Government, suffering from sickness, to avail themselves of its advantages .I, the Sikkimputtee Rajah, out of friendship to the said Governor- General, hereby present Darjeeling to the East India Company, that is, all the land south of the Great Runjeet River, east of the Balasun, Kahail, and Little Runjeet Rivers, and east of the Rungpo and Mahanadi Rivers".³⁷

The development and urbanization of Darjeeling became a serious concerned for Sikkim in late 30s of 19th centuries, because a huge numbers of labourers and farmers migrated from Sikkim to Darjeeling and the urbanization process which led to the

scarcity of labourers in Sikkim. These labourers had also accepted the citizenship of the British-Indian Government. As a result of which the Dewan of Sikkim who was popularly known as 'Pagla Dewan' had placed a petition demanding the return of the labourers from the British regime of Darjeeling to Sikkim. Sometimes raids were conducted by the Sikkimise to capture forcefully the workers and agricultural labourers from Darjeeling and they were sold as slaves in their own kingdom. The British Government thus cited the instances of these raids and the illegal activities of the Sikkim Government towards the labourers and farmers as a reason for their migration from the region of Darjeeling. These incidents led to the growth of tension in the Anglo-Sikkimise relation during the first half of 19th Century.³⁸ By 1846, relations between Campbell and the Sikkim Darbar had steadily worsened, and finally he warned the Raja that if he persisted in his unfriendly attitude towards the British Government, they would be compelled to annex the Terai,³⁹ though it was their motivation for last decade. Then the opportunity presented itself when Sir J.D. Hooker (an English Naturalist) and Dr. Campbell, while traveling in Sikkim with valid documents were arrested on 7th November 1849 and kept confined by the Government of Sikkim. Campbell, in his diary, mentioned that he was subsequently tortured in the hopes of forcing him to agree that the British would refrain in the future from interfering in the Sikkim affairs.⁴⁰ The news of Campbell's arrest caused considerable panic at Darjeeling. After failing all the attempts to release them and the Raja, Chumpud Namgyal, refused to comply with the demand of the Governor-General Lord Dalhousie for the release of Campbell and Hooker on the ground that the letters of the Governor-General did not bear proper seals. Therefore the Government felt it indispensably necessary to crush the power of the Sikkim Raja and feel the power of the Government with which he had to deal.⁴¹ C.H. Lushington was appointed to act as the superintendents of Darjeeling and was instructed to procure the immediate release of the prisoners, failing for which he had asked to advance and occupy the country. Lushington posted a huge army near the river Rangit and addressed a letter to the Raja of Sikkim demanding the release of the prisoners. Even the letter reached the Raja, the prisoners were released on 9th December 1849.⁴² The next development was the Raja sent presents to the captives, and the Rani sent Campbell a fan and other trifles to give to his wife. Finally, they set off under guard and accompanied by *Dewan*, who calmly going to visit Darjeeling to sell ponies, for the British frontier. On 24th Dec, 1849 they reached Darjeeling.⁴³ But to punish Sikkim the British had stopped the payment of tribute Rs. 6000 per annum to the Sikkim Government and under the initiative and steps taken by Dr. Campbell the British captured a large portion of Terai region of Sikkim⁴⁴ which he had originally received as a free gift from the British and which was the only lucrative or fertile estates he possessed. This area bounded on the north by the rivers Ramman and Rangit, east by river Tista, west by Nepal and south by district Purnea.⁴⁵ These annexations brought about significant changes in the relation between Sikkim and British-India. Previously the district had been an enclave in Sikkim territory and to reach it the British

had to pass through a country acknowledging the rule of a foreign though dependent, potentate.⁴⁶

Thus the process which was actually initiated in the late 1760's was completed in the late 1850 to the satisfaction of the Calcutta authorities as well as of the Court of Directors. Although during the late 18th century the British might not have contemplated the permanent annexation of the Terai, the fact that it was always occupying an important place in their frontier policy beyond doubt. Their consistency in this regard flowed partly from military considerations as Nepal was disruptive of the British northern frontier policy, but primarily because Terai was important for its timber wealth and provided an appropriate trade route to Tibet. The annexation of Terai was considered useful by the English for preventing Bhutan from establishing direct contact with Nepal and for helping India to negotiate with Bhutan, if necessary, on convenient military terms. This incident is not of paramount importance in the history of British expansionism in India, but it serves the purpose of revealing the functioning of the imperial mind in which the major motivations were power and profit. It has broadly true in the larger context of colonial politics, but in specific situations as well as this one, the entire contrapuntal are harmonized with the diapason cerebral.⁴⁷

From the above discussion it becomes clear that the East India Company did not have any particular policy of expansion in Darjeeling Himalayan region before 1768, but due to the circumstantial events the Company gradually went to adopt a policy of imperial expansion in the Terai region of Darjeeling. Before the annexation of Darjeeling by the British in 1835 the East India Company had two kinds of interest in the region, in the first place a trade route through Sikkim to Tibet and secondly, to connect Nepal and Bhutan, Terai became the only region which could make a base for connecting these two kingdoms. The forest and reach timber resources did not attract the British so much as it is said by some historians and the trade routes which attracted the British towards the Terai..It was due to the policy of expansion adopted by the British in India was reflected in the establishment of a clear cut political boundary in the Himalayan Terai region which was completed in 1850.

NOTES AND REFERENCES:

1. Dutta, Babu Sashi Bushan, *Final Report On The Darjeeling Terai Settlement* 1898, Bengal Secretariat Press, Calcutta, 1898, p.01
2. Hooker, Joseph Dalton, *Himalayan Journals*, Vol- I, Natraj Publication, Dehradun, 1999 (First published 1854), p.100

3. During colonial period the British district in the Kumaun Division of the North-Western provinces, lying between 28°50'30'' and 29°22'30'' north latitude and between 78°46' and 79°47' east longitude covering an area 938 Sq.miles. The district was bounded on the north by Kumaun district, on the east by Nepal and the district of Pilibhit, on the south by the district of Bareilly and Moradabad and the native state of Rampur and on the west by Bijanur (Bijnor). The chief town of the district is Kasipur, but the administrative head quarters during the summer was at Nainital. For further informations see, W.W. Hunter, *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol-XIII, Trubner & Co, London, 1887, pp.207-211
4. Garo hills and northern part of Kachar which is popularly known as Kachari Dooars is to be called Assam Terai
5. At present a narrow strip of land containing twenty out of seventy five administrative district of Nepal, namely Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Kapilabastu, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Citwan, Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dansua, Siraha, Saptari, Sunsari, Morang and Jhapa as known as Nepalese Terai. For further reading see R. Nanda Shrestha, and K. Bhattarai, *Historical Dictionary of Nepal*, The Scarecrow Press, Oxford, 2003, pp.305-309
6. Malley, L.S.S.O., *Bengal District Gazetteers :Purnea*, Logos Press, New Delhi, 2011 (First Published 1911), p.198
7. Majumdar, Arun Busan, 'Utter Bengler Utter Simanter Adiparbo', *Madhuparni* (Bengali), Utter Bango Sankhya, Ajitesh Bhattacharya (ed), Balurghat, Pachim Dinajpur (now Daskhin Dinajpur), 1977, p.86
8. Sanwal, B.D., *Nepal and The East India Company*, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1965, p.55
9. *Ibid.* p.48
10. Some writers particularly, Daniel Wright, H. Oldfield and Hamilton have wrongly put his death in 1771. But it is revealed from other official documents and Col. Kirpatrick's view, who visited Nepal in early 1793 heard that Prithvi Narayan Shah died in early 1775.
11. Chemjong, I.S., *History and Culture of the Kirat People*, Prat-II, Puspa Ratna Sagar, Nepal, 1967, pp.168-172
12. Majumdar, A.B., 'Changing Pattern of the Northern Frontier Bengal in the 17th and 18th Centuries in Himalayan Frontier in the Historical Perspective', *Institute Of Historical Studies*, N.R. Roy (ed), Calcutta, 1986, pp.90-99
13. Roy Choudhury, Tapas, 'Purbo Morung Prasanga :Darjeeling Zela Sanggathena Ekti Aghato Adhay', *Madhuparni* (Bengali), Besesh Darjeeling Zela Sankha, Ajitesh Bhattacharya (ed), Balurghat, Pachim Dinajpur (now Daskhin Dinajpur), 1996, p.30
14. *Ibid.* p.34 and Roy Choudary, Tapas Kumar, 'The Eastern Morung: A Disputed Territory In Anglo-Nepalese Relations (1770-1816)', *The Indian Historical Review* (Biannual Journal Of The Indian Council Of Historical Research), Vol-XVII, No.1-2, Vivekananda Jha (ed), Motilal Banarasisdass, Delhi, 1993, p.213

15. Singh, Amar Kaur Jasbir, *Himalayan Triangle : A Historical Survey of British India's Relation With Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan 1765-1950*, The British Library, London, 1988, p. 165
16. The famous *Sannyasi* Raiders immortalized by Bankimchandra Chatterjee in his novel *Anandamath*.
17. Majumdar, Arun Busan, 'Uttar Banglar Uttar Simanter Adiparbo', *Madhuparni* (Bengali), Utter Bango Sankhya, *Op.cit.*, pp.86-87
18. Majumdar, A.B, 'Mohan Giri Gossainer Golpo', *Janomat* (Bengali), 1416 *Bangabdoo* (2009), Bina Printing Workes Ltd, Jalpaiguri, p.05
19. For details see *Sirajer Putro O Bangsodherder Sandhane* (in Bengali) written by Amalendu Dey, Parul Prakashani, Kolkata, 2012, pp.42-47
20. Majumdar, A.B, *Britain And The Himalayan Kingdom Of Bhutan*, Bharati Bhawan Publishers & Distributors, Patna, 1984, p.42
21. Majumdar, Arun Busan, 'Utter Bengler Utter Simanter Adiparbo', *Madhuparni* (Bengali), Utter Bango Sankhya, *Op.cit.*, p.87
22. Majumdar A.B, 'Baikunthapur Theke Jalpaiguri', *Madhuparnee* (Bengali), Bisesh Jalpaiguri Zela Sankhya, A.G.Ghosh (ed), Balurghat, 1987, p.69
23. Ghosh, Rai Sahib Jamini Mohan, *Sannyasi And Fakir Raiders In Bengal*, Punthi Pustak, Kolkata, 2010 (First Published 1930), p.170
24. Misra, B.P, *The Sannyasi Rebellion: The Sociology and Economics Of A Conflict in Sub-Himalayan Bengal*, Occasional Paper, Centre for Himalayan Studies, N.B.U, 1985, p.33
25. Chaudhuri, K.C, *Anglo-Nepalese Relations : From The Earliest Times Of The British Rule In India Till The Gurkha War*, Modern Book Agency Private Ltd, Calcutta, 1960, p.40
26. Misra B.P, *The Sannyasi Rebellion: The Sociology and Economics Of A Conflict in Sub-Himalayan Bengal*, Occasional Paper, *Op.cit.*, p. 22
27. Roy Choudhury, Tapas Kumar, 'The Eastern Morung: A Disputed Territory In Anglo-Nepalese Relations (1770-1816)', *Op.cit.*, p.210
28. Majumdar, A.B, 'Baikunthapur Theke Jalpaiguri', *Madhuparnee* (Bengali), *Op.cit.*, pp.69-71
29. Majumdar, A.B, *Anglo-Bhotanese Relations In The Eighteenth & Nineteenth Centuries*, Ph.D Thesis (Published), Calcutta University, 1968, p.64
30. Bhattacharjee, Aparna, *Sikkim* (Bengali), National Book Trust, New Delhi, 1989, p.80
31. Roy (Sanyal), Ratna, 'Historical Profile of the Northern Frontier of Bengal in the 18th and 19th Centuries', *North Bengal University Review* (Special Issue On North Bengal), Vol-4, No.2, N.B.U, 1983, p.92
32. From the observations of the contemporary British officials working in various capacities it can be said that the importance of this region was first noticed by Thomas Rumbold, the then Patna chief in connection with Nepali trade through this region in 1767. Three years

later, Ducarel, the first English Superintendent of Purnea pleaded for extending the Company's influence over this region. Captain Jones, too, tried to persuade Warren Hastings to annex Terai after he realized its strategic importance. But Warren Hastings, busy with other imperial preoccupations, could not accord priority to the Morung or Terai issue.

33. Singh, Amar Kaur Jasbir, *Himalayan Triangle: A Historical Survey of British India's Relation with Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan 1765-1950*, *Op.cit.*, pp.169-170
34. *Ibid.*, p.171
35. Rao P.R., *India and Sikkim(1814-1970)*, Sterling Publishers(P)LTD, New Delhi, 1972, p.1-2
36. Malley L.S.S.O', *Bengal District Gazetteer: Darjeeling*, Bengal Secretariat Press, Calcutta, 1907, p.21
37. Aitchison, C.U, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements, And Sanads Relating to India And Neighbouring Countries*, Vol-I, The Superintendent of Government Printing, Calcutta, 1892, pp.164-165
38. Bhattacharjee, Aparna, *Sikkim*(Bengali), *Op.cit.*, pp.88-89
39. Singh, Amar Kaur Jasbir, *Himalayan Triangle: A Historical Survey of British India's Relation With Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan 1765-1950*, *Op.cit.*, p.183
40. *Ibid.*, p.187
41. Letter of Halliday, Secretary, Government of India, To, Lushington, Acting Superintendent of Darjeeling, 4th December, And 29th December, 1849, F.P.C, p.243(W.B.S.A)
42. Rao, P.R., *India and Sikkim(1814-1970)*, *Op.cit.*, p.28
43. Singh, Amar Kaur Jasbir, *Himalayan Triangle: A Historical Survey of British India's Relation With Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan 1765-1950*, *Op.cit.*, 98
44. Bhattacharjee, Aparna, *Sikkim*(Bengali), *Op.cit.*, p.89
45. *Ibid.*, p.90
46. Malley, L.S.S.O', *Bengal District Gazetteer: Darjeeling*, *Op.cit.*, p.24
47. Roy Choudhury, Tapas Kumar, 'The Eastern Morung: A Disputed Territory In Anglo-Nepalese Relations (1770-1816)', *Op.cit.*, p.220

Acknowledgement: Prof.Ananda Gopal Ghosh, Prof.Bani Prosanno Misra, Prof. Anita Bagchi, Dr.Ashim Kr Sarkar, Dr.Dahlia Bhattacharya, for their views and comments to write this article.