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## *Glossary*

abdal	water-carrier—one of the lowest castes of the Muslims
agradani brahman	degraded brahmins who accept gift on behalf of the ghosts
agrahara	village or land donated by the king for the upkeep of the Brahman
ajlaf	ordinary Muslims, same as atrap
asabiyah	strong clannish spirit popular in pre-Islamic Arabia
ashraf	urdu-speaking Muslim elites in Bengal
babu	common form of address by the Bengali bhadralok, used pejoratively by the British rulers
baidya	upper caste Hindus, traditionally physicians
basunia	rich peasants in Rangpur and Dinajpur districts
bediya	gypsies living in boats
bhadralok	gentlemen, respectable people belonging to Hindu upper castes
bhaiachara	a type of joint village where land is distributed according to size of labour force in a family
brahmadeya	gift to brahmin, specifically a grant of village income and management to Brahmins
chandal	low caste Hindu
chotolok	common people
chowkidar	village watchman
daladali	factionalism

darul harb	the abode of the infidel
darul Islam	the abode of Islam
dhimmi	peoples, i.e. Christian and Jews, whose protection was enjoined by the Quran
dhuti	typical Hindu male loin cloth in South Asia
faraidi	A fundamentalist Muslim movement which emphasises the fard or obligatory religious duty
guru	teacher
haoladar	a type of intermediary landholder
jihad	holy war
jotedar	tenure-holder—intermediary between landlords and lower peasants
kayastha	a Hindu sub-caste which included clerks and scribes
lambardar	village head-man
latdar	intermediary landholder in Khulna and Jessore districts
matbar	village elder
mallot	localized variation in nomenclature for samaj
mauza	smallest unit of revenue administration often comprising a village or a number of villages
mlechchha	a sinner and deviant from Hindu way of life
mondol	village leader in north Bengal
mulla	a Muslim religious priest
mummadi	local chief in South India
murubbi	village elder
muvendavelar	local chief in South India
Mymensinghia	immigrant from the Mymensingh district to Assam
nadu	local territory (in Tamil), fundamental building block of rural organization in Chola territory

Panchayat	village council
Paramanik	village leader in Rangpur
patel	hereditary village head-man
pattidari	a form of joint village where land is distributed according to ancestral share
periyanadu	supra-local assembly
pir	Muslim religious saint
pod	Hindu caste engaged in agriculture
potail	patel
raiyatwari	a village headed by a hereditary head-man
reyai	village social group in Comilla
samaj	local village organization of village households
Shalish	courts run by the samaj for resolving disputes
sanatan dharma	eternal faith
sardar	leader
Srotriya brahman	one step short of the purest Brahmins
taiyuni	name given to followers of Maulana Keramat Ali
talukder	holder of a taluk, a landlord lower in tenurial and social status than the zamindar
varna Brahman	inferior Brahmans
yavana	infidels
zamindar	landlords