



DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2003



THE GREAT KUTTRA

Sketches of Sir Charles D'Oyly

Making Mughal monuments timeless



PAUGLA POOL WITH PART OF DHAKA IN THE EXTREME DISTANCE

Sir Charles D'Oyly, once the British Collector of Dhaka and a gifted artist, painted a series of pictures in 1808 of Dhaka's Mughal monuments. Steel engravings of these pictures were prepared by John Landseer and published in London, between 1824 and 1830, with a descriptive letter-press, in six parts, consisting of thirty pages under the title of *The Antiquities of Dhaka*. Some of the monuments which he painted and remarked upon with melancholy strain, are no longer in existence. He mentions the mosque of Saif Khan, said to have been started by Raja Mohan Singh as a Hindu temple during Jahangir's reign, which was later completed by Saif Khan as a mosque; he talks of a small isolated building, raised on a creek of

the Ganges to measure the height of the river flood. He mentions a bridge near Tanti Bazar and one on the River Tongi as well as the Pagla Pul Bridge across



MOSQUE IN THE SUBURBS OF DHAKA

the Qadamtala creek on the way to Narayanganj, which struck him as "still exceedingly picturesque." He describes an unidentified mosque on the

Buriganga, as an edifice remarkable for its "effect at once stately and picturesque." On the desolate ruins of the city he observed with a deep note of sadness: "A sentiment of pensive serenity possessed the scene. In the midst of such a scene as this, passion is lulled; and the imagination, willingly enthralled by feelings of melancholy pleasure, is instinctively led to compare the vicissitudes from human power and opinion and the mutabilities of human art, with the permanence of nature itself."

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BASTION OF THE LAL BAGH, DHAKA



RUINS OF TUNGI BRIDGE



THE SMALL KUTTRA WITH ITS ENCLOSED MOSQUE, DHAKA



THE CHOUK (OR MARKET PLACE) AND HUSSEINEE DALAUN

words of wisdom

Heritage is, after all, inherited, but it cannot remain static. Neglected, it will surely melt away. And all that is inherited is not heritage. A library can be passed down, but the practice of reading is a heritage.

Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury, educationist



MOSQUE ON THE BOORAGUNGA BRANCH OF THE GANGES



PART OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CITY OF DHAKA