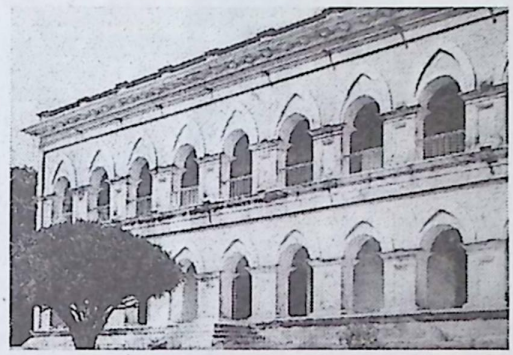
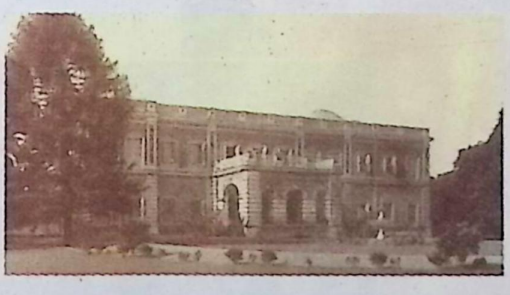
This was possibly where presently the National Museum is. Adjacent to the building was a stable for horses which existed till the 1980s near the Kataban Mosque. To this building the Nawabs would invite those coming for horse racing, and organise dinner and ball dance.

The Nawabs ran a zoo around the present Sarak Bhaban-Engineers Institution premises, which in the 1950s was relocated in Mirpur. An exhibition of local products used to be held every year here from 1875 onwards, with awards for the participants under various categories. Jatra, puppetry, magic and bioscope shows were held for the visitors. Receptions were held in the mansions in honour of visiting dignitaries like Lord Hardinge, Lord Curzon, Lord Dufferin, Lt. Governors Bailey, Charles Elliot, Lord Carmichael, Lord Ronaldsay and Inspector General of Registration. Meeting of various social and political organisations took place here.



The Bangabhaban and part of the Central Business District are located on the land of Dilkusha Garden now. Ghani Miah bought the land in 1866, and made a splendid bungalow for Ahsanullah, who extended the garden further to the north by leasing 5 acres of land from the Dhaka Municipality in 1877.

Khwaja Salimullah made a northward extension from 1902 by turning the low-lying land full of ditches into a garden; the Shahbag channel was extended to flow through it. He added a large single-storied palace called the Paribag House named after his sister Paribanu, with a hammam and an artificial hill. Beside the palace was the Hawakhana an octagonal marble canopy. In 1905 Nawab Salimullah constructed a mosque near the western wall of Paribag which was just recently demolished, and set up a dairy farm. To its western edge was sat up the first power generation plants, which was later taken over by the WAPDA, who still uses the place. In 1952, when the government abolished the Zamindaari, many important members of the family built their dwelling places on the northern side of this garden.



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The area includes Dakhini masjid, and graves of Shahjalal Dakhini, Shah Niamatullah, and later of some members of the Nawabs family themselves, at the north-west of the RajUK building. The small mosque was conserved as a token effort by RajUK in the early-90s; the Principal Architect of the Ahsan Manjil conservation project was deputised for the job. Mir Mukim, a Mughal naval officer set up his residence in the present Matiur Children Park area; a bungalow belonging to an Armenian named Manuk is also located here. Governor Azam Khan shifted to this building after his wooden palace was damaged in 1961. It was later converted to Toshakhana storing gifts received by the head of the state. Also known as Sher-e-Bangla House, the buildings original design was changed during a renovation in the 1980s.

The Nawab's palace was red coloured where he spent a good part of his life, including the days after the devastating 1888 tornado that damaged the Ahsan Manjil. In 1873 a large pond called Dana Dighi was dug and an exquisite pavilion called Hawakhana was set up. In addition, he commissioned two other significant architectural works at this place a tower with maze called Bulbhulaiya and a bungalow known as the Baradari with 12 doors and a majestic drawing room overlooking the garden.

The Dilkusha Garden had a serpentine lake, various kinds of fountains, water tanks with fishes of different colours, various species of indigenous and exotic trees, and fruit and flower plants, which currently include 80 species of birds, 11 reptiles, 6 amphibians, 15 animals, 13 fishes and 65 insects species. The artificial lake near the entrance had crocodiles. In an adjacent playground, the Nawabs used to arrange kite-flying competitions in winter. In the glory days of the Nawabs, the Dilkusha garden house was host to many significant social, cultural, and political events in the city. For example, 1885 Pundits Conference, reception to Governor Lord Carmichael and Lt. Governor Sir Stuart Bailey, 1891 Agricultural and Industrial Fair, reception by Lady Fuller, and many local leaders. In 1905, the government took lease of the southern portion of the Garden to build a temporary bungalow which came to be used subsequently as the office cum residence of the Governor until it was badly damaged by a cyclone in 1961 and was torn down.

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