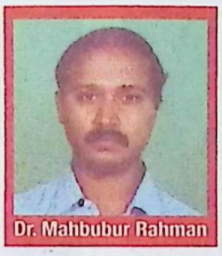
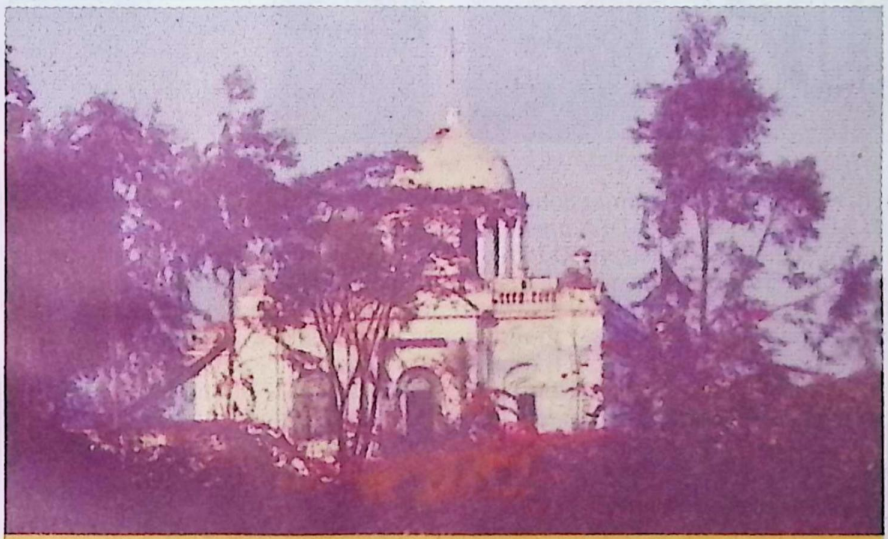
To its north the building used to look over the Race Course ground with few tombs and temples, and other buildings little far that were built to meet various needs of the expanding new capital. Later the renowned Ramna Kali Mandir was raged to the ground by the occupation army of Pakistan during our liberation war in 1971. Currently a new temple is being erected on the spot. On its northwest are the Mughal period structures of Haji Shahbaj Kha's



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The Old High Court Building

mosque and mausoleum. These nearly 330 years old edifices that used to be clearly visible from the main street before, from near the Mymensingh/ Ramna gates, are now obscured with the erection of (Teen Netar Mazaar) Mausoleum of Three National Leaders. The new mausoleum nevertheless is a unique sculptural structure built in thin concrete shell. On its east is the tomb of Chisti Behesti, where Islam Khan was probably interred before his mortal remains were transferred to Fatehpur-Sikri. Because entry to the old High Court obviated from the gate axis is somehow restricted to common people, all that is visible to a passer by is the majestic south façade standing with graceful disposition. That this is such a huge and spread structure can be hardly discerned if not visited/entered.

About a kilometre away from the Chummery house and the old High Court building at the southeast corner of what now forms the Osmany Uddyan was the Mahanagar Pathagar. The bungalow was part of a group of buildings built in 1952 as the residences of railway officers, in the colonial architectural style prevalent in the Ramna area. Many other bungalows in the area were much older and some still extant. The style followed the buildings built by the British in Dhaka after 1905. These buildings and the area largely formed a large railway establishment with the main Fulbaria station to its south which is also witness to many historic events. Near to this building are few other historic buildings and objects like the Peer Yemeni mosque and mazaar, and the famous cannon of Bibi Mariam installed near the Osmany Hall, which since its discovery has travelled between Swarighat, Chawkbazaar, Gulistan and the Uddyan.

As the railway moved out of this place in the late-1960s, many buildings in the area fell into disuse and ruin. In 1984 the government decided to clear the area out and develop a park connecting the old and the new city, as it also undertook the massive Nagar Bhaban or the Municipality Building. But the Architecture Department entrusted with the job decided to restore and preserve one of the buildings from this group from a ruinous state to act as a reminder of the historic location of the railway and to represent the buildings of the British Raj. In many cities of the world Railway museums are good tourist attractions. However, these often required either loftier and larger spaces or open yards.

It was decided that the building juxtaposed between the old Dhaka and new Dhaka, if converted to Library could really bring people from all parts of the city together. Thus a metropolitan library was conceived in the bungalow that was saved from demolisher's hammer. Drawings were prepared to reflect the original design of the building; later-day additions and modifications were meticulously stripped off to make way for restoration to its original appearance. The internal functions were modified for the building to be adaptively reused as a library.

Unfortunately recently the two-storied rectangular building was demolished to make way for the extension of the nearby mosque which in the early 1990s was relocated in this location from the island of a main road on the west that was erected near the claimed spot of a Pir's mazaar. While the beautiful bungalow has been torn down, the library has been relocated in a nearby obscure commercial building. Thus one good example of architects' awareness towards (the need to safeguard) heritage architecture went futile, as it is no more!