



COVER STORY

Call them the 'nouveau riche', if you must...

The urban economic and social revival, inaugurated around the mid-nineteenth century, was preceded by numerous decades of decline and negligence that threw Dhaka in misery. The upturn saw its peak at the turn of the twentieth century, when businesses flourished, and hence did merchants and bankers, and a few even became feudal lords or 'zamindars' of sorts in their own right.

Many of the newly rich built their lavish residences on BK Das Road in Farashganj, in what is now the Old Town in Dhaka. Today, these edifices, built about a century ago, act as tangible markers of a fascinating chapter of Dhaka's heritage.

