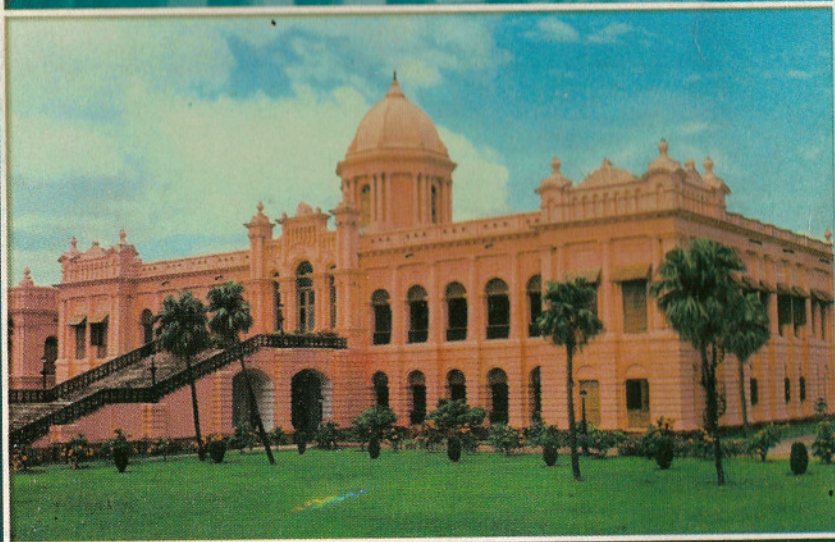


**A Short Note On
AHSAN MANZIL MUSEUM
AND THE
NAWABS OF DHAKA**



**By
Dr. Md. Alamgir**



Ahsan Manzil Palace 1992, South View

**A SHORT NOTE
ON
AHSAN MANZIL MUSEUM
AND THE
NAWABS OF DHAKA**

DR. MD. ALAMGIR
B. A. Hons. M.A. Ph-D.



JHINGEPUL ♦ DHAKA



Flower vase,
Porcelain,
H-31cm.

A Short Note on Ahsan Manzil Museum and the Nawabs of Dhaka

By Dr. Md. Alamgir

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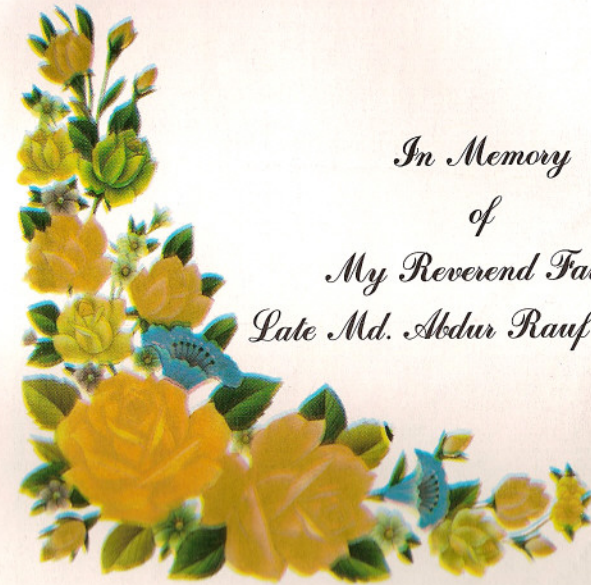
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*In Memory
of
My Reverend Father
Late Md. Abdur Rauf Mandol*





No-1, Decorated Door; Wood, Found at Edward House
(office of the Chief Manager, Dhaka Nawab Estate), Dhaka.
19th Century A.D., height-228 cm.

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Preface

Ahsan Manzil, the residential Palace of the Nawabs of Dhaka, now a museum, is an aesthetic *Imarat* of the city. It stands on north bank of the Buriganga. Its perspective view is very attractive and charming. There is no doubt that it is a good specimen of Indo Muslim Colonial style of architecture.

In the present booklet Doctor Mohammad Alamgir has given a short account of the building and a short summary of the archaeological objects displayed in museum. He has also furnished a geneological background of the Nawabs and their family contribution for the upliftment of politico-socio-economic condition of the Muslims in the then East Bengal.

In spite of short description this booklet will help the readers know the Nawab family and their contribution for the emergence of modern Bangladesh. The Nawabs created political awareness among the Muslims through education. They established the university of Dhaka, Sir Salimullah Hall, orphanage, hospital, madrasa, roads and created facilities for pure drinking water.

It is hoped that the booklet would be appreciated by everybody.

Prof. Dr. Habiba Khatun
Deptt. of Islamic History and culture.
Provost,
Shamsunnahar Hall
Dhaka University

INTRODUCTION

Ahsan Manzil was the residential palace and *Sadar Kachery* of the Nawabs of Dhaka. The construction of the main palace building was started in 1859 and completed in 1869. The palace is related to many important events of history of Bangladesh. From the middle of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the Pakistan period for about one hundred years, Muslims of East Bengal got their leadership from the palace. It was at Ahsan Manzil that the first use of filtered water and electricity was made and through this the establishment of urban Dhaka was launched. Nawab Khwaja Salimullah took some important decisions here which made the implementation of the partition of Bengal in 1905 possible. As a result of that, Dhaka became the capital city of a new province named East Bengal and Assam. All India Muslim League, the first political party of Indian Muslims, was established in 1906 under the leadership of Nawab Salimullah. In the course of time, this political party created the new state called Pakistan through its activity during 1947. Subsequently the eastern part of Pakistan became an independent state, named Bangladesh, through the war of Independence in 1971.

Considering the historical importance and architectural significant of Ahsan Manzil palace, the Government has been trying to conserve it since the later part of the Pakistani rule. After the birth of Bangladesh, the endeavor was continuing. During the rule of General H.M. Ershad, Ahsan Manzil and its surrounding area were acquired on 3rd November 1985 by the Government. After that implementation of the work on the Museum started. In 1986, the work began, keeping the original

structure undisturbed, and reconstructing the old environment as far as possible. Bangladesh National Museum established a new Museum here through the collection and display of the objects in its galleries. There are twenty-three rooms where display is made, out of thirty one rooms of the palace building. Among these, nine galleries are displayed in accordance with the original environment based on the photographs of Mr. Fritz Kapp, a skilled German photographer taken in 1904. A short description of the display and galleries of the museum are given here. Furthermore, a short history of the Dhaka Nawab family along with a short biography of the prominent persons of this family, are described here. They are : Nawab Sir Khwaja Abdul Ghani, Nawab Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah, Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah, Nawab Khawja Habibullah and Sir Khwaja Nazimuddin. Some Photographs of rare documents and exhibits of Ahsan Manzil Museum are used in this book. I am indebted to the authority of Bangladesh National Museum for giving me the permission to publish this book and for the use of photographs and documents. I also owe special thanks to the officers and staff of the Ahsan Manzil Museum who had provided me with all kinds of help whenever I needed. My special thanks are also due to Mrs. Sarwar Morshed Khan for extending her sincere help and co-operation for the publication of this book.

I express my thankful appreciation of the care taken by the proprietor of *Jhingephul* (Publisher), Mr. Giasuddin Khasru to have the book published as neatly as possible. The shortcomings, omissions and commissions this book may have, are entirely mine.

Ahsan Manzil Museum

29 September 2005

Dr. Md. Alamgir



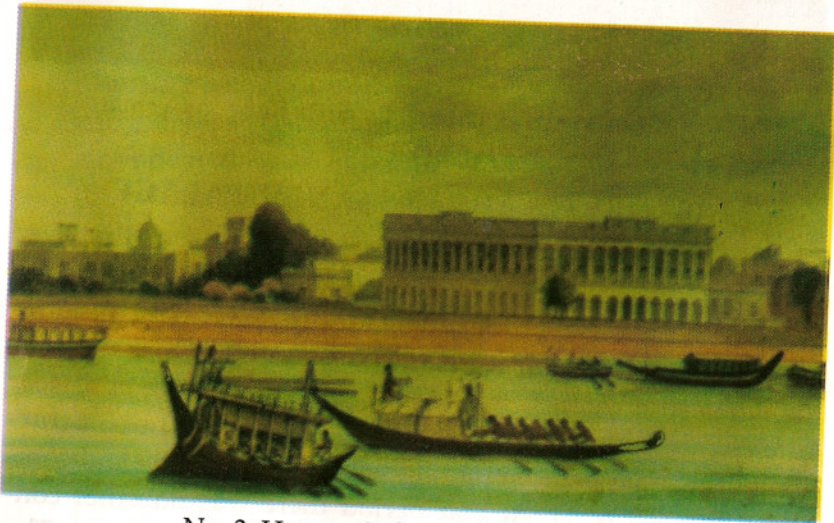
No. 2, Ahsan Manzil Palace, 1904. Fritz Kapp, a German photographer, took this picture.

HISTORY OF AHSAN MANZIL PALACE

Ahsan Manzil is situated on the left bank of the river Buriganga just near Wiseghat at the southern part of the Dhaka city. It is the most beautiful and historically important building among the architectural edifices constructed in Dhaka during the nineteenth century. It was the residential palace and *sadar* kutchery (headquarter) of the Nawabs of Dhaka. The construction of the main palace building was started in 1859 and completed in 1869 A. D. At that period there was no other construction as impressive as the Ahsan Manzil in Dhaka. The dome above this palace was the highest point of the town, which attracted all from a far distance. An extensive lawn with natural beauty and flower-filled garden spread across the southern or river side of the palace. The whole Ahsan Manzil is divided into two parts. The eastern building with the dome is called *Rangmahal* and the western block with the residential rooms is called *Andarmahal*. It was at Ahsan Manzil that the first use of filtered water and electricity was made, and

through this the establishment of urban Dhaka was launched. Besides this, many eminent guests from within the country and abroad enjoyed the hospitality of the Nawabs at Ahsan Manzil. All of these contributed to making the Ahsan Manzil historically significant.

During the Mughal period a pleasure Garden House of Sheikh Enayetullah, the illustrious landlord of Jalalpur (Faridpur-Barisal), was situated here. In about 1740 his son Sheikh Motiullah, sold the Garden House to the French traders who built a business center here with palatial buildings. Khwaja Alimullah, the father of Nawab Abdul Ghani, purchased that French *Kuthi* in 1830 and renovated it as his residence.



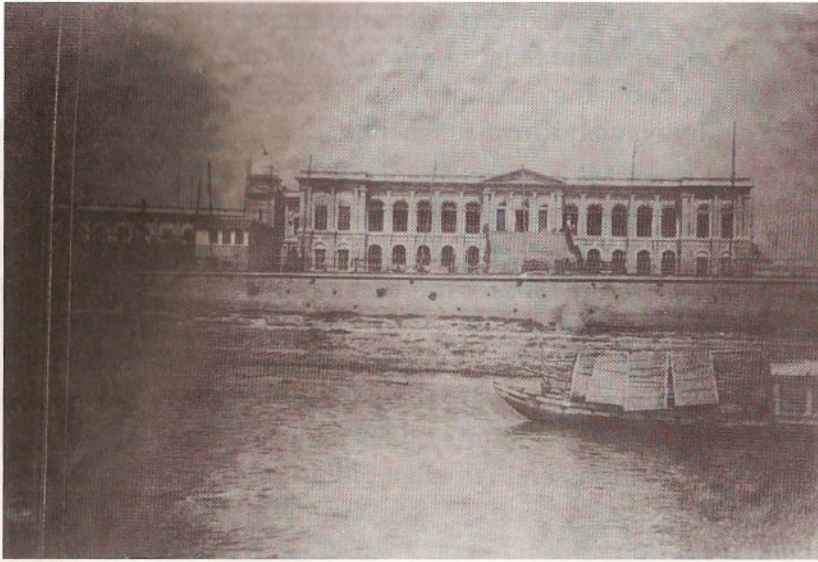
No. 3, House of Khwaja Alimullah, 1830s

The French *Kuthi* was situated at the place where the *Andarmahal* now exists. Nawab Abdul Ghani built an enormous edifice just on the eastern side of the *Kuthi*, and named it 'Ahsan Manzil' after the name of his beloved son, Khwaja Ahsanullah. Ahsan Manzil however, was extensively damaged by a severe tornado occurred on 7 April 1888. The west block of *Andarmahal* which was of oldest constructions by the French, was completely demolished and then it was rebuilt.

At the time of the reconstruction, the present beautiful dome was erected over the palace building. Ahsan Manzil was partly damaged by the earthquake of 1897 as well, and was repaired by Nawab Khwaja Ahsanullah.

The *Rangmahal* is again divided into two equal parts. The high octagonal dome is erected on the central round room. On the first floor of the eastern side there are: the drawing room, playing Card room, Library room, the State Bed room and two other guest rooms. On the western side of the first floor there are: the Ball room, the Hindustani room and a few residential rooms. On the eastern part of the ground floor there is a splendid Dining hall, and a number of subsidiary rooms and on the west, a *Darbar* or assembly hall, a Billiard room and a treasury or Chest room. All along the north and south sides of the building run spacious verandahs with an open terrace projected in the middle. The central part of the north verandah is converted into a room containing steps leading down to the ground floor. The building has a broad front, facing the river and commanding a view, grandiose and picturesque. On the river side a wide flight of steps takes us direct to the second story, and we are face to face with the grand triple-arched portals. On the river side an attempt was made to build a fountain in later period.

Besides the main palace stated above, there were some subsidiary structures within the Nawab's palace area such as the stable, the Jame mosque and other residential buildings of the family members. The horse stable and mosque were located in the northern part of palace area. The residential buildings for the other members of the Nawab's family lay by the western side of the road that stretched from the gateway to the *Rangmahal*. A two-storied structure, with a big arched entrance now situated on the Islampur road side, was used as the main gateway and a big round-shaped pond with fresh water gave a picturesque beauty to the inner area of the Ahsan Manzil palace.



No. 4. Ahsan Manzil Palace from the Buriganga River, 1880s

HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Ahsan Manzil has been closely connected with the rejuvenation of the Muslims of the subcontinent. The palace is related to many important events of the history of Bangladesh. From the middle of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the Pakistan period, for about one hundred years, the Muslims of East Bengal got their leadership from this palace. Nawab Khwaja Salimulla took here some such important decisions which made possible for the implementation of the partition of Bengal in 1905. As a result of that Dhaka became the capital city of a new province named East Bengal and Assam. Royalty and high officials of the British Government, whoever came to Dhaka they would surely have visited Ahsan Manzil as guests of the Nawab. When on the 6th April 1874, the Governor General Lord Northbrook came to Dhaka to lay the foundation stone of the filtered water tap connection, he stayed in this palace as an honorable guest of the Nawab. In 1878 the filtered water tap connection was inaugurated by the commissioner of

Dhaka, Mr. F. B. Peacock, through a grand gala ceremony. Henceforth whenever the Viceroys and Governors come to Dhaka, all of them would visit Ahsan Manzil. In 1888, Viceroy



No. 5. Inauguration of the Dhaka Electric Supply (Emaginary scene)

Lord Dufferin came here for a special visit. It is known from Lady Dufferin's writings that, she saw the world renowned diamond, *Darya-i-Noor* of the Nawabs of Dhaka. During that visit she termed the palace ground that was illuminated with innumerable candle lights as the Garden of Light on earth. In 1899, Nawab Ahsanullah and Nawab Khwaja Md. Yusufjan established here (like that of Kolkata) the Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club with the help of sports lovers. To mitigate the sufferings of the citizens of Dhaka and to enhance its beauty and modernize it, Nawab Ahsanullah arranged for electric lights to be set up in 1901 with a cost of Taka four and a half lacs. It was opened on 7th December by Mr. C. Bolton, Secretary of Revenue Board in a grand ceremony arranged on the southern verandah of Ahsan Manzil. On 21st July, 1902 the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Sir John Woodburn, and Lady Woodburn, with many other high officials became honorable

guests of the Nawabs in Ahsan Manzil. On the next day the 22nd July, Tuesday at 5-30 P.M. he laid the foundation-stone of Ahsanullah Engineering School and the Asmatunnessa Female Ward of the Mitford Hospital which was created by the donation of the Nawabs.

In 1903, when the British Government planned the partition the Bengal, Nawab Salimullah arranged an important meeting of leaders of the Hindu and the Muslim communities on 11th January 1904 at Ahsan Manzil. In the meeting, an unanimous resolution was passed against the government decision of partition of Bengal. But Nawab Salimullah made an alternative proposal in favour of the people of this area and almost in accordance to that the partition of Bengal was executed later. To enlist the support of the people in favour of the partition of Bengal, Viceroy Lord Curzon

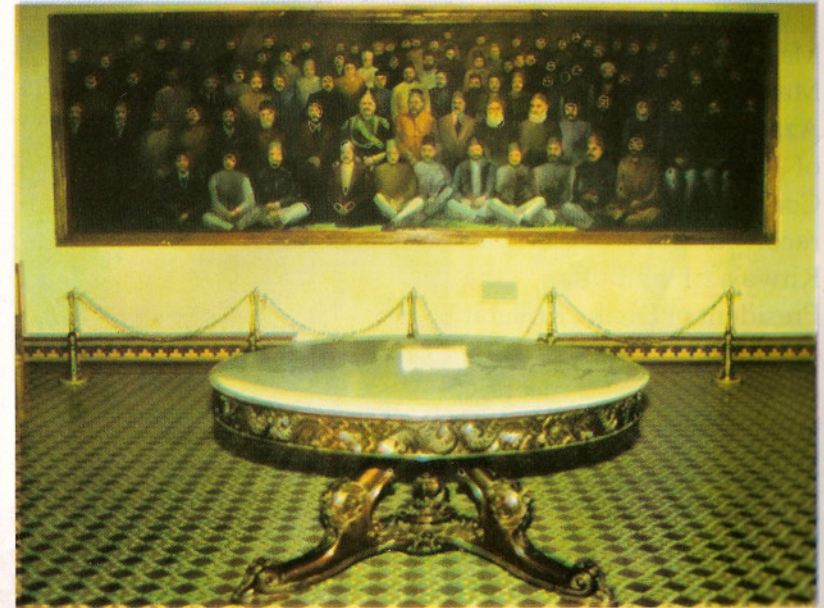
(photo no. 6) came to visit East Bengal in February, 1904 and stayed in Ahsan Manzil on the 18th and 19th February as a guest of Nawab Salimullah. On 18th February, Thursday at 3.30 p. m. he was given a warm reception and hearty welcome addresses from various institution and organizations in the compound of Ahsan Manzil. These visits and the long discussions which took place between Nawab Salimullah and the Viceroy Lord Curzon eventually convinced the latter of the desirability of modifying the original scheme. The modified and enlarged scheme envisaged the carving out a



No. 6, Lord Curzon

new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam to be placed under a Lieutenant Governor with its capital at Dhaka.

On the 9th November 1905 morning, the Lieutenant Governor of the new province of Bengal, Sir Bamfylde Fuller came to Ahsan Manzil. Nawab Salimullah introduced him with the leading persons of this region. From 27 to 29 December, 1906 the meeting of 'All India Mohammedan Educational Conference' was arranged by Nawab Salimullah at Shahbagh and was attended by Muslim leaders from all provinces of India. After the conclusion of the Conference a special meeting was held on 30th December and 'All India Muslim League' proposed by Nawab Salimullah was established. Most of the leaders who came to attend this meeting were entertained and welcomed in Ahsan Manzil.



No. 7, Founder Leaders of All India Muslim League 1906, displayed in a gallery through painting

A meeting of the Provincial Muslim League was held under the presidentship of Nawab Salimullah at Ahsan Manzil on Wednesday, 15th March and on Friday, 17th March 1911. The President of All India Muslim League Maulavi Aziz Mirza was present at the meeting. On 24th November 1912 a large

procession was led by Nawab Salimullah and his brother Khwaja Atikullah to assist the disabled Turkish Mujahidin soldiers of the Balkan war fought against the European powers. A ladies association named 'Dhaka Nawab Family Ladies Club' consisting of the females of the Dhaka Nawab family was visited by Lady Carmichael on 22nd July 1913. A relative (niece) of Nawab Salimullah and Secretary of the Club, Begum Almasi Banu (photo no.8) read out the address of welcome to Lady Carmichael in the room of Khwaja Musa in Ahsan Manzil palace.

On March 2, 1920 Maulana Sawkat Ali and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the renowned leader of the central Khilafat Committee, was cordially received here by Nawab Khwaja Habibullah, the President of Dhaka Khilafat committee. On the next day, an important meeting with a huge gathering was held at the premises of the palace.

In the complex situation of the political environment of the first decade of the twentieth century, some such events happened in this palace which became the roots of the thought of two nation theory in India. The thought warmed-up (Grew-up) the Muslim separatist movement in the Indian subcontinent. In order to speed up and implementation of that thought, Nawab Salimullah provided leadership from this palace. All India Muslim League, the first political party of Indian Muslims, was established in 1906 under his leadership. In the course of time that political party created the



No. 8, Almasi Banu (1897-1917)

new state, Pakistan, through its activity in 1947 A. D. Subsequently, the eastern part of Pakistan became an independent state, Bangladesh through the War of Independence in 1971.



No.9, State Bed Room, 1993

Once the Dhaka Nawab Family was considered as the Commonwealth of Eastern Bengal, because there was no other family suitable enough to solve the common problems of the people. For various purposes people used to come to the Nawab's palace for consultation and to get solutions through arbitration. Not only the political activities, but also the nature of the socio-cultural and religious functions of Muslims were decided from this palace. The common people showed their respect to the Nawabs for their generosity and benevolent socio-cultural activities.

DECLINE OF THE FAMILY AND DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF THE PALACE.

Nawab Sir Salimullah could not properly take care or direct the Estate due to his heavy involvement with politics. The revenue income of the estate decreased and the Nawab ran into large debts. He was forced to sell the horses, elephants and even the precious Jewelry of the Estate to meet the necessary day to day expenditure. Ultimately Nawab Salimullah borrowed 16 Lac and 25 thousand Rupees from the British Government and handed over the management of the estate to the Court of Wards of the Government in 1907. Thus, the glory of Ahsan Manzil begun to decline.



No.10, Dilapidated condition of Ahsan Manzil, 1986, Pediment on north porch

During the time of Nawab Habibullah, the Nawab Estate fell into very miserable conditions because of mismanagement. The inheritors began to be separated with their share. Thus the Dhaka Nawab Family rapidly began to decline and, except Ahsan Manzil palace and its surrounding areas along

with other garden houses, the Government of Pakistan acquired the Dhaka Nawab Estate on 4 March 1952, under the act of Zamindari Abolition Law. Henceforth, the inheritors of Nawab Family could not even carry out the maintenance work of the Ahsan Manzil for want of money. Nawab Habibullah left the palace and started to live at Paribagh Garden House. After his death in 1958, his eldest son Khwaja Hasan Askari became Nawab only in name.

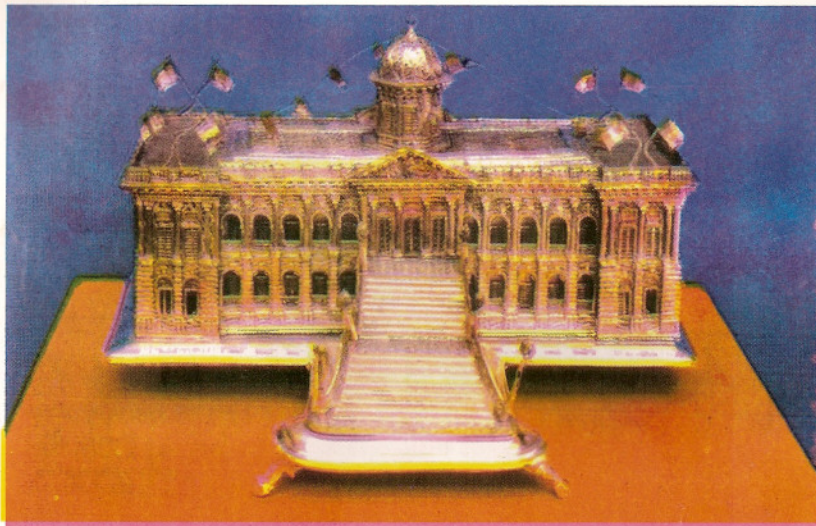
In 1960s, the mentionable articles of the Ahsan Manzil were sold among the interested members of the Nawab family. The whole palace fall into a disastrous and dilapidated condition due to want of repair. The rooms were rented out to many tenants, without discretion by the sharers. The palace was gradually filled up by unauthorised persons due to the carelessness of its owners.



No. 11, Drawing Room, vaulted & decorated wooden ceiling

ESTABLISHMENT OF AHSAN MANZIL MUSEUM

Considering the historical importance and architectural significant of Ahsan Manzil palace, the Government was trying to conserve it since the later part of the Pakistani rule. After the independence of Bangladesh, most of the notable person of the Nawab family went on abroad in search of a livelihood and work. Unauthorized habitation, by trespassing and unbearably dirty slums grew up in and around the palace due to negligence of concerned authorities. In 1974, the owners of the palace decided to sell it by auction.



No. 12, Model of Ahsan Manzil, Filigree (Before Tornado of 1888)

But the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman, cancelled its auction proposal. He realized its historical and architectural importance and ordered that a museum and tourist center be established here after its proper conservation. But the work could not progress much. At the time of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman the project made some progress under the chairmanship of D.C.M.L.A. Rear

Admiral M. H. Khan. During the rule of General H.M. Ershad, Ahsan Manzil and its surrounding area were acquired on 3rd November 1985 under the Martial Law Regulation Act. No. 4, 1985.



No. 13, Grand Staircase, ground floor, 1993

After that the implementation of the work on the Museum started. But most of the Nawab's House area, along with half of the portion of *Andarmahal*, remained beyond acquisition. The total area of acquired land was 5.65 acres. Out of that 0.68 acres from northern side was given to Dhaka city Corporation to establish a super market and 4.96 acres of land with the palace buildings, remained for museum purpose. In 1986, the work began according to the above order keeping the original structure undisturbed and reconstructing the old environment as far as possible. The Bangladesh National Museum became the executive authority under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for the implementation of the project, while the reconstruction and beautification of the building and its surrounding areas

were to be done by the Public Works Department. Development plan and architectural design were made by the Directorate of Architecture. The Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka District acquired the buildings with adjoining lands and gave compensation to the concerned people.

Bangladesh National Museum established a new Museum here through the collection and display of the objects in galleries. This became a branch Museum of the Bangladesh National Museum with all its controlling powers. The total cost of the project stood at Tk. 1357.94 Lac.

The highlights of the expenditure are as follows :-

1. Acquisition of lands with buildings 5,93,44,000.00
2. Reconstruction and beautification 5,11,62,000.00
3. Collection of objects, Furniture's and establishment of Museum with salary of the staff 2,52,88,000.00

The Museum was inaugurated by the then Honourable Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia on 20 September 1992.



No. 14, Inauguration of Ahsan Manzil Museum, 20 September 1992

There are twenty-three rooms where display is made out of thirty one rooms of the palace building (*Rangmahal*). Among these, nine galleries are displayed according to the original environment on the basis of the photographs of Mr. Fritz Kapp, a skilled German photographer, taken in 1904. The emaciated household material and broken utensils which were gathered in the store and crockery rooms of Ahsan Manzil and the old office of Nawab wakf estate, Edward House (photo no. 45) were used for display after proper conservation. Besides those, many objects were also collected comparing with the old ones. Furniture's are made anew according to the original designs from the photographs of the different rooms of the palace taken in 1904.



No. 15, Palace Dining Room, 1993

ACQUITTANCE OF GALLERY

No.1 Introducing Ahsan Manzil -1

The history of Ahsan Manzil palace and related information, photographs and paints depicts the dilapidated

formation meeting of All India Muslim League in 1906 are placed here. A unique octagonal table with tortoise leg (photo no. 18) and some original utensils have also been exhibited here.

No. 8 Billiard Room

The Billiard table and other furniture are made new on the basis of the photograph of 1904. Head with horns of various animals collected by the Nawabs are exhibited on the walls.

No.9 Chest or Treasury Room

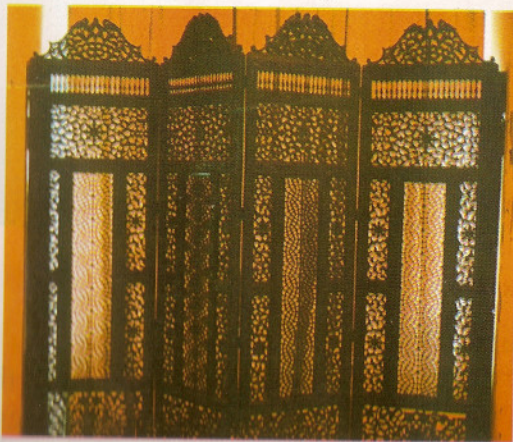
The room was used as coffer room of the Nawab family. The large iron chest with 94 drawers and other iron chest and wooden almirah are original objects used by the Nawabs.



No. 19, Large Iron Chest, height-254 cm

No. 10 Introducing the Nawabs

This gallery is planned to introduce the renowned personalities of the Nawab family. With life size oil paintings, their biographies are also given in short. A genealogical table of the Nawab family and some personal diaries written by Nawab Khwaja Ahsanullah are displayed here.



No. 20, Decorated wooden partition, height-210 cm

No. 10 (A) Corner staircase Room

Different types of porcelain used by the Nawabs are shown here with big almirahs. Originally two rooms were here with ground and first floor. At the time of reconstruction a new staircase was built here for the visitor.



No. 21, Curry-dish with monogram, porcelain, L-26, W-18, H-25 cm.

No. 11 Portrait - 1

Portraits in oil painting of the politicians, landlords, social reformers and educationist of the contemporary period of the



No. 22, Decorated Curry-dish, porcelain, dia-47.5 cm.

Nawabs are hung here. The Nawabs had a close connection with them. Some coins and medals used by the Nawabs are also shown here.

No. 12 In memory of Salimullah

To commemorate the contribution of Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah this room has been dedicated to his memory with photographs, illustrated albums, documents and mementos. His private letters and personal belongings have also been displayed here.



No. 23, Double plate (Hot plate), porcelain, dia-26 cm.

No. 13 Portrait - 2

Like gallery No. 11 Portraits of poets, litterateurs, intellectuals, scientists, historians of the Nawabs era are hung here. The ivory works displayed here were found at Ahsan Manzil. A gangway which conected the palace building with *Andarmahal* is the interesting scene of this gallery.

No.14 Hindustani Room

According to Fritz Kapp's photograph of 1904, it is known as Hindustani Room. Chairs, tables, showcases, chandeliers, wall-paper are made in accordance with the photograph. Some

objects are collected keeping similarity with other ones of Ahsan Manzil. (Photo No. 24)

No.15 Grand Staircase (first floor)

The staircase room has been repaired according to the photograph of 1904. The grapes-motif decoration of the railing baluster are made like original. The wooden ceiling with geometric design and the hanging crystal lamp shade are original.



No. 24, Hindustani Room, 1993

No. 16 Palace Library Room

It is also arranged according to the photograph of 1904. The Nawabs collected different types of books of which about one thousands books on law and justice, novel, hunting and sports etc. are displayed. The Furniture other than almirahs have been made like the original.

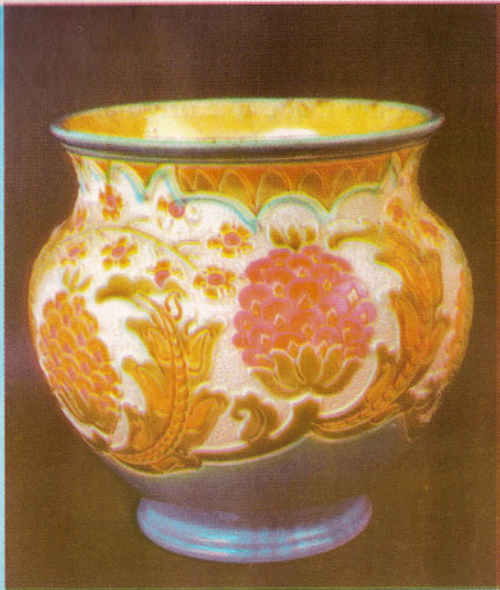
No. 17 Card Room

This gallery has also been arranged on the basis of the photograph of 1904. Almost all the utensils are original and

collected from Ahsan Manzil. Chairs, tables and the showcases are made like original. The floor decoration and glass panels on the windows are also remade according to the old broken originals (Photo No. 51).

No. 19 State Bed-Room

The room has been termed by Mr. Fritz Kapp's photograph of 1904 as the State Bed room. The Furniture has been remade on the basis of the said photograph (Photo No. 9). Many high officials including the Viceroy, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governors of British India, came to Ahsan Manzil and rooms were kept for those guests.



No. 25, Flower vase, porcelin, height 27 cm.



No. 26, Flower vase (Surahi) porcelain, height-82 cm.

No. 18 Nawab's contribution to the water warks of Dhaka

The Gallery has been arranged to show objects and information about the first filtered water supply connection made by Nawab Khwaja Abdul Ghani in 1874, at a cost of two and a half Lac of rupees.

No. 20 Nawab's contribution to Dhaka Electric Supply

It has been arranged to show the objects and information about the first electric supply to Dhaka city by Nawab Ahsanullh in 1901, at a cost of four and a

half Lac of rupees. A list of expenditure incurred by the Dhaka Nawab Estate on charities and public utility etc. are also shown here.



No. 27, Palace Drawing Room, 1993

No- 21, Palace Drawing Room

Distinguished guests were entertained here. It was also used as a meeting room for high officials. The floor and the charming vaulted ceiling of this room are made of wood. All of it have been arranged according to the arrangement in the photograph of 1904. Except the two big mirrors, other furnitures are made like original. Most of the utensils are acquired from Ahsan Manzil.

No- 22, Round Room (first floor)

The dome on top of the palace is erected over this room. The arms and armoures displayed here have been found in Ahsan Manzil. From its front verandah, the big open staircase slowly drops down to the south lawn of the palace.



No. 28, Ball Room with wooden floor, 1993



No. 29, Crystal Table, cut glass, height. 82cn.

No.23 Ball Room

The gallery has been arranged in accordance with the photograph of 1904. There was no other ball room as gorgeous as this in Dhaka at that time. The Nawabs were patron of both eastern and western culture. Here they also arranged indian music and dances, and some-time western music and ball dance. An imaginary oil painting of such singing and dancing scenes are placed here to throw some light on

the past. The decorated silver throne chair and crystal chair and table are original and were used by the Nawabs.

The display and development of a museum is a continuous process. There is a plan for visitors to enjoy the proposed galleries of *Andarmahal* in future.



No. 30, Crystal & Silver Chair-Table displayed in the Ball Room, 1993

HISTORY OF THE DHAKA NAWAB FAMILY

The ancestors of the Dhaka Nawab Family lived in Kashmir. However in search of fortune, two brothers of the family named Khwaja Abdul Wahab and Khwaja Abdullah migrated to Dhaka from Kashmir and settled at Begum Bazar in about 1730. The elder brother Khwaja Abdul Wahab, started a business here, but the younger one Khwaja Abdullah, was a very pious and learned man. He started to preach Islam to the general people by teaching them the rules and discipline of Islam and he was able to get a large number of followers within a very short time. Realizing the spiritual knowledge of Khwaja Abdullah, Hazrat Shah Noore of Maghbazar, the famous

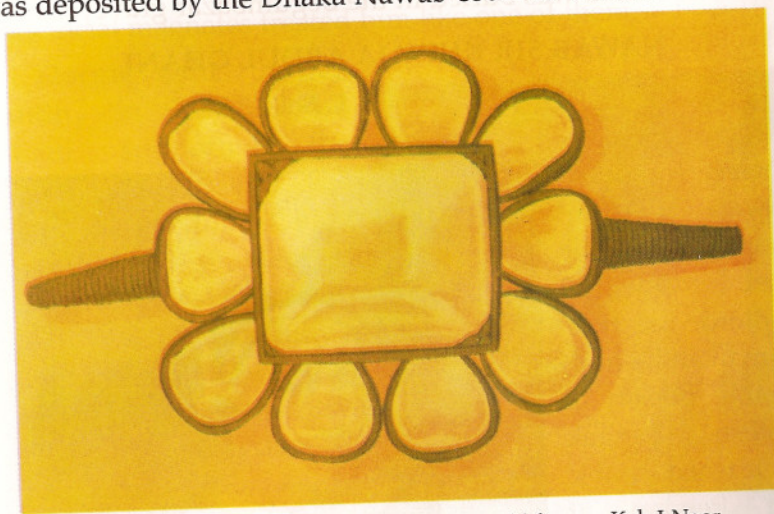
spiritual guide of the Naib - e - Nazim of Dhaka, became one of his disciples. Moulavi Khwaja Abdullah's son Khwaja Hafizullah also started to preach Islam and do business simultaneously. He earned a lot of money by trading gold, jute, salt and leather. At that time many noble and old zamindars fell into ruins due to the effect of permanent settlement law of the British Government. Khwaja Hafizullah bought the Aila-Teewarkhali pargana of Barisal district in 1812 and upgraded the Khwaja family into a zamindar family. His nephew (son of his elder brother *peer* Khwaja Ahsanullah) Khwaja Alimullah (photo no. 31) was the real founder of the Dhaka Nawab family.

Khwaja Alimullah had many indigo factories. Furthermore, besides jute, salt and leather trade, he had a successful money lending business. He was also a founder Director and a share holder of the Dhaka Bank. He purchased vast landed property in Dhaka, Comilla, Mymensingh and Barisal areas. He collected horses, elephants and precious jewellery and showed aristocratic style of living. During his time the name and fame of the Khwaja family spread out all over India. He purchased a *Kuthibari* (office-cum-residence) from French traders at Kumartulee area and left his ancestral residence of Begumbazar and began to live there. Khwaja Alimullah realized that nobody could establish himself in that circumstances without receiving European education and culture. So he learnt English and arranged English education



No. 31, Khwaja Alimullah, died 1854

for his family members. He liked the European style of living and made friendship with Englishmen by mixing with them freely. He did some development work for Dhaka Municipality and many other social welfare activities with the help of the British. With the help of the English, he also set up the Ramna Racecourse. He purchased the famous diamond *Dariya-i-Noor* (photo no. 32) at a government auction in 1852. The diamond is still exist in a vault of the Sonali Bank where it was deposited by the Dhaka Nawab court of wards.



No. 32, Dariya-I-Noor, Diamond, sister of world famous Koh-I-Noor.

After the death of Nawab Ghaziuddin Haider, the last Naib-e-Nazim of Dhaka in 1843, the line of the Mughal Nawabs come to an end. The death of Naib-e-Nazim, who as the *mutawalli* of Hussaini Dalan, was responsible for the expenditure of the Muhurram upset the old arrangements. In these circumstances, Khwaja Alimullah came forward to bear the expenses from his own pocket. The very next year the Government bestowed the mutawalliship on him and thus his family rose to the premier position in Dhaka. Khwaja Alimullah made a *wakfnamah* in the service of Allah and gave all the income of his Atia pargana to the poor permanently. Seeing the success of Khwaja Alimulla, all the other members

of the khwaja family handed over the managing power of their landed property to him. Khwaja Alimullah did a wakfnamh in fevour of his second son, Khwaja Abdul Ghani in 1846 and made him a powerful *Mutawalli* for the management of all the properties of the Khwaja family. That famous wakfnamah was the main key to the success of the Khwaja family of Dhaka. According to the conditions of the wakfnamah the Mutawalli managed all properties with his own hand and the other members of the family received fixed allowances. Khwaja Alimulla died in 1854 and was buried in the Begumbazar graveyard.

NAWAB SIR KHWAJA ABDUL GHANI

(1813-1896) K. C. S. I.

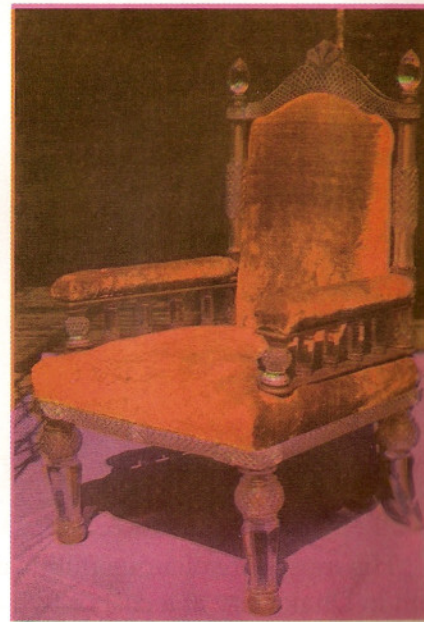
Throughtot the nineteenth century, Khwaja Abdul Ghani was the most influential landlord, the richest man and a honourable person of Eastern Bengal. He learned Arabic and Persian at home, and English form Dhaka Collegiate School. Khwaja Alimullah made a wakfnamah in 1846 and appointed his son, Khwaja Abdul Ghani, as a *mutawalli* for all the properties of the



No. 33, Nawab Sir Khwaja Abdul Ghani K.C.S.I.

family. He expanded the zamindari and other properties and the prosperity of Khwaja family reached the highest level during his time on account of his intelligence, thrift and high popularity. He was a very learned man and was a patron of arts and letters. All the musical talents of the both sexes and meritorious persons and Urdu poets of Dhaka city used to get allowances from his estate. On account of his cordiality and liberal manners he drew respect and admiration from one and all. Although he was not a ruling prince, yet the Viceroy and provincial magnates treated him like one of them.

During the sepoy mutiny in 1857, Abdul Ghani supported the British Government. The talented Abdul Ghani solved major problem of the people by arbitration. He arbitrated successfully a Shia Sunni riot that occurred at Dhaka in 1869. The Panchayet system of Dhaka was fully developed through his persistence efforts. The British Government gave him honourable post and titles for his generosity, social welfare work and loyalty to the crown. He was made honorary magistrate in 1861, Member of the Bengal Legislative Council in 1866, Member of the Governor General Legislative Council in 1867, C. S. I. in 1871, Nawab in 1875, (Nawab title was made hereditary in 1877 for the eldest male member of the line), K. C. S. I. in 1886 and Nawab Bahadur in 1892.



No. 34, Decorated Chair, crystal height 117 cm.

Nawab Abdul Ghani made several contributions towards beneficent and charitable work, not only in this city and elsewhere in Bengal but also beyond the Indian Subcontinent. He paid handsomely towards the re-excavation of Zubaida Canal at Makkah, and relief for the sufferers of Rush-Turkish war. Every year he paid free passage money to large number of pilgrims to Makkah as an act of virtue. He often paid princely donations to flood and famine funds.



No. 35, Dhaka Water Works, Chandnighat, 1880s

His most conspicuous public act was the water works system in Dhaka city at a cost of two and a half Lac of rupees. The foundation stone of the water works was laid by Viceroy Lord Northbrook on 6 August 1874 and opening ceremony was performed by Mr. F.B. Peacock, the Commissioner of Dhaka Division, on 22 May, 1878. According to the desire of Nawab Abdul Ghani the filtered water was supplied among the general people without any cost. He established a Bangla-English High School at *Kumartulee* in 1863. Beside that, he established the Jamurki High School in Tangail and

Muradnagar High School in Comilla. He played a pivotal role in establishing Dhaka Madrasha. (now Kabi Narzul Govt. College) in 1874. He purchased land to establish that Madrasha. He donated a lot of money to Mitford Hospital, Kolkata Medical College, Aligarh College and to build Buckland Band in Dhaka. Abdul Ghani had a number of local wrestlers under his employ who entertained people by demonstration of their physical feats. He supported women to act in dramas in spite of the opposition of the leaders of the conservative society. He decorated Dhaka city with many parks and garden houses. From the 1st January, 1876 onwards, on every first day of the new Christian Era, he arranged a grandeur fair at Shabagh. On that occasion, their delightful Shahbagh garden wore a



No. 36, Trophy Cup, metal, height-36.5 cm

gala appearance where music and dancing by famous artist entertained the visitors. Nawab Abdul Ghani maintained a costly Portuguese Band party, who entertained the guests on festives occasions with the Enropean tunes. He was a great patronizer of horse races at Dhaka. In several occasions his ponies had won the Viceroys cup in Kolkata horse race. Khwaja Abdul Ghani handed over the responsibility of the Dhaka Nawab Estate to his eldest son,

Khwaja Ahsanullah on 11 September 1868, when he worked behind the stage. He died on 24 August 1896 and lies buried in the family graveyard at Begumbazar, Dhaka.

NAWAB SIR KHWAJA AHSANULLAH

(1846-1901) K. C. I. E.

Khwaja Ahsanullah was the eldest son of Nawab Abdul Ghani. His mother language was Urdu. He learned Persian from Abdur Rahim Saba and Arabic with the Holy Quran, from Ramzan Ali. For his English education, an English tutor from London was appointed with the salary of one thousand rupees per month. Nawab Khwaja Ahsanullah wrote many poems and songs in Urdu and Persian languages. His poetic name was *Shaheen* (Falcon). His book of verses named *Kulliate Shaheen* was published. The dramas which were written by him were played on the stage of Nawab house. He was an excellent musician and songster. An Urdu weekly



No. 37, Nawab Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah K.C.I.E

named *Ahsanul Kasas* was published from Dhaka in 1884 under his patronization. He wrote a book (unpublished) about the authentic history of the Khwaja family of Dhaka titled *Tarikhe-Khandane-Kashmirya*.

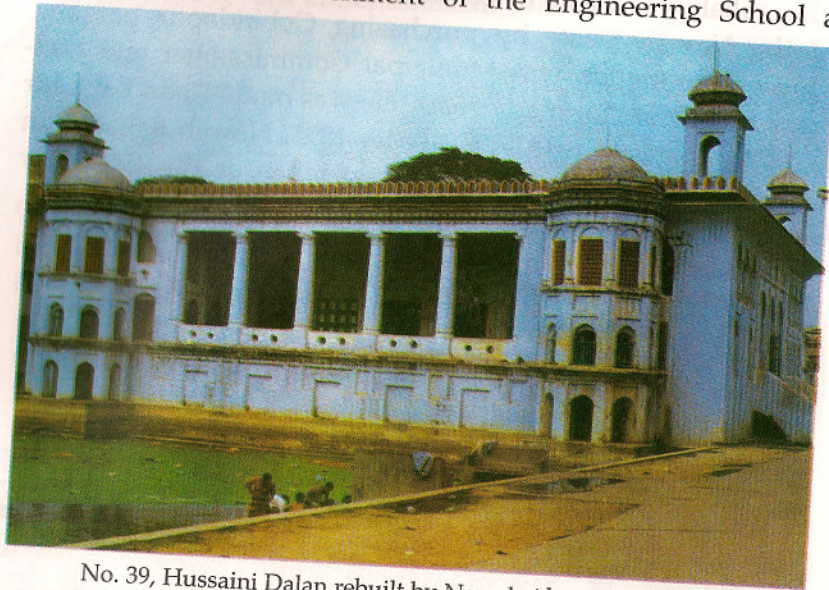
Nawab Abdul Ghani gave the responsibility of the Nawab Estate to his son Khwaja Ahsanullah, in 1868. Khwaja Ahsanullah was a man of gentle and calm nature. He expanded the Nawab Estate by purchasing Gobindapur pargana. Khwaja Ahsanullah was Municipal Commissioner and honorary Magistrate for many years. He was made Khan Bahadur in 1871, a Nawab in 1877, C. I. E in 1891, Nawab Bahadur in 1892, K. C. I. E. in 1897 and a member of the Governor General's Legislative Council in 1890, and again in 1899. Ahsanullah showed his brilliancy in the council.



No. 38, Ahsanullah Engineering College, (Now BUET)

Nobody's acts can be compared to the generosity of Nawab Ahsanullah in this country. He donated more than fifty Lac of Rupees at that time without any hisitation. There were no mosques, mausoleums or important public institutions in this region which did not receive his munificence. Nawab Ahsanullah reconstructed the Hussaini Dalan of Dhaka (photo

no. 39) at a cost of more than one Lac rupees after its demolition by the earthquake of 1897. He promised to give necessary grants for the establishment of the Engineering School at



No. 39, Hussaini Dalan rebuilt by Nawab Ahsanullah in 1899

Dhaka. After his sudden demise, his son Nawab Salimullah gave one lac and twelve thousand rupees in 1902, to fulfill his fathers noble intentions. The institution was known as Ahsanullah Engineering School, afterwards a College (photo no. 38) and now the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Nawab Ahsanullah donated a lot of money to build the Dhaka Madrasha building and for its other purposes. He built Madaripur Khwaja Hafizullah Mosque and Madrasha, Shah Ali Bagdadi Mosque and caravansarai at Mirpur and the Bygunbari mosque at Savar. Every year he used to send forty pilgrims to Makkah to perform Hajj at his own cost. He sent sixty thousand rupees for the re-excavation of Zubaida canal at Makkah. He established Patuakhali Begum Hospital and Lady Differin Hospital at Dhaka. In the memory of his deceased father, Nawab Abdul Ghani, he created a relief

fund in order to help the poor and distressed people at a cost of one lac rupees in 1896. He gave one lac rupees to create another fund for the prevention of plague epidemic which occurred in 1898. He donated forty thousand rupees to help the famine stricken people of Mymensingh and Barisal in 1896 and also spent eighty thousand rupees for the development of Comilla town in 1898. For the modernization of Dhaka city he contributed four and a half lac of rupees for the installation of electricity in 1901. The people used the electricity free of cost for many years. He patronized and gave a large amount of money to establish the Kolkata Mohamedan Sporting Club in 1894. He also patronized and gave all kinds of support to establish the Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club in 1899. There is a road at Kumartulee named after him. He had a very dignified face with attracted respect and obedience. He died on 16 December, 1901 and lies buried in the family graveyard at Begumbazar, Dhaka.



No. 40, Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage, Estd. 1909



No. 41, Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur

NAWAB SIR KHWAJA SALIMULLAH

(1871 – 1915) K.C.S.I., G.C.I.E

Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimullah, the pioneer leader of the Muslim rejuvenation in the Indian Sub-Continent, was born on 7 June 1871. He received his education under the supervision

of British and German teachers and also Urdu and Persian scholars at home.

In his early life he left home because of strained relations with his father, and took service of a Deputy Magistrate from 1893—1895. He got responsibility of the Dhaka Nawab Estate in 1901 after the death of his father, Nawab Khwaja Ahsanullah. Then he dedicated himself of the development of Dhaka city and its social activity. He was a man of religious outlook, and like his father was inclined to prodigal liberality. Soon after his installation he encouraged people to start mass education, in consequence of which several night schools were opened in Muslim *Mahallas* of the city. In problems of social and political importance he assembled the *Mahalla Sardars* of this city and explained their position to them. He observed *Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi* (prophets birth day) & *Fateha-i-Dowaz Daham* with great zeal, and in a very befitting manner, and encouraged the town's people to do so. On that day all Muslim localities of this city used to be tastefully decorated and illuminated. Nawab Salimullah had remarkable power of organization and also profound influence upon the Muslims of Bengal.

Nawab Salimullah supported the scheme of the partition of Bengal suggested by the British Government for the greater interest of the deprived people of Eastern Bengal. To enlist the support of the people infavour of the partition of Bengal when the Viceroy Lord Curzon (photo no. 6) visited East Bengal in February 1904 and stayed in Dhaka, he put him up in Ahsan Manzil as a guest of honour. During this visit of Lord Curzon, Khwaja Salimullah played a real Nawab in his hospitality and had serious discussion in the Ahsan Manzil. The long discussion which took place between the Nawab and the Viceroy, helped the boundary of the new province to expand. The modified and enlarged scheme envisaged the carving out of a new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam to be placed under a Lieutenant-Governor with its capital at Dhaka. Thus

the consequence of this partition turned towards the interest of the people of East Bengal. When the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam finally came into being on 16th October 1905, the Muslims accepted the matter with good grace. Though a few Muslims still opposed the measure, most of the Muslims and also the lower cast of the Hindu people, felt that it would give them an opportunity to receive their share from the Govern-



No. 42, Foundation of All India Muslim League, 1906

Nawab Salimullah organized the people in favour of the partition of Bengal during the complex situation of the antipartition movement led by the leaders of the National Congress and Hindu intellectuals. At first he assembled the Muslim leaders of the new province in Northbrook Hall (photo no. 43) in Dhaka and founded 'The Mohammedan Provincial Union' on 16 October 1905, the very day when the partition of

ment. Dhaka saw much development as a new province from 1905 to 1911. Nawab Salimullah took a great interest in the progress of Muslim education. He demanded the establishment of a High Court and a University at Dhaka in his welcome address at the reception ceremony of Lt. Governor Sir Stewart Beily, at Curzon Hall in 1911.

Bengal was effected. The meeting was presided over by Nawab Salimullah, who was the patron of the Union. This appears to have been the first attempt to consolidate the Muslims of Eastern Bengal on a political platform. Nawab Salimullah organized and addressed meetings at several places of Eastern Bengal to make branches of the said union. It also brought to the forefront Nawab Salimullah as the foremost leader of the Muslims of East Bengal.

In order to create educated Muslims he formed like Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan, 'The East Bengal and Assam provincial Mohammedan Educational Conference' in April 1906. This was helpful in bringing the disunited Muslims of East Bengal together and a common feeling of interest to generate among them.

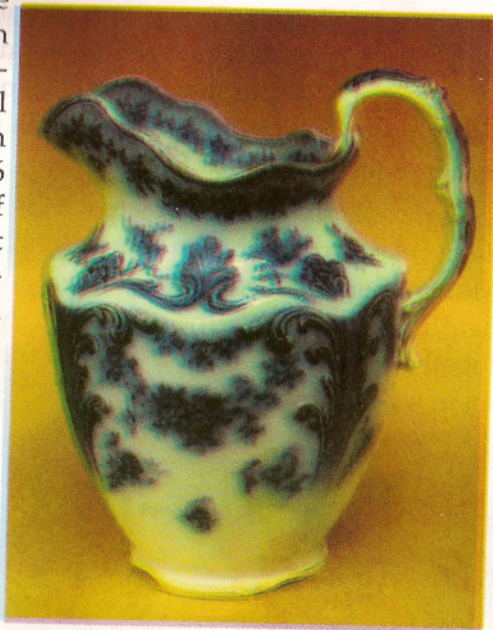


No. 43, Northbrook Hall, estd. 1880, (present condition 2005)

In the interest of the Indian Muslims, Nawab Salimullah drew up a scheme for the political party named 'Muslim All-India Confederacy' and it was circulated to the different Muslim organizations and leading Muslims of the Subcontinent. He suggested that the objects of the confederacy should be to safeguard Muslim interests and to counteract the

growing influence of the Indian National Congress. Finally, he issued an invitation to Muslim Leaders to meet to form such political party at Dhaka in December, 1906. Subsequently, through the efforts of the Nawab, the 20th session of 'All India Moham-medan Educational Conference' was held on 27 to 29 December, 1906 at Shahbagh Garden of the Nawab of Dhaka. At the end of that conference "All India Muslim League" was formed on the proposal of Nawab Salimullah on 30 December 1906. Nawab Bahadur perso-nally bore the whole expenses of the said conference. He lavishly entertained the Muslim notables of India in his Shahbagh garden which at that time, had formed into a veritable city of tents. The birth of Muslim League was a triumph for Nawab Salimullah and a glory for the city of Dhaka. In course of time, that political party established Pakistan through its movement in 1947. Now the Eastern part of that state is called independent Bangladesh.

Nawab Salimullah was made C.S.I in 1902, a Nawab Bahadur in 1903, C.I.E. in 1906, K. C. S. I. in 1909 and G. C. I.E. in 1911. The British Government very seldom awarded this title to people other than Feudal Chiefs of India. He was a nobleman of high democratic spirit. He mixed freely with high and low alike and accosted them with his usual peals of laughter. His heart always glowed if he could help a Muslim. He was very liberal in recommending cases of Muslims for some kind of employment.



No. 44, Jug, porcelain, height- 30 cm.

Nawab Salimullah became very offended at the annulment of the partition of Bengal on 12 December 1911 at Delhi Darbar. He was so shocked by the news that he refused to attend the Delhi Darbar on several pretexts. But he was compelled to be present there because a personal invitation was extended to him by the British Emperor. It is reported that, 'Sir Salimullah refused to accept the title of G. C. I. E. conferred on him at Delhi Darbar, saying that it was 'a bait of bribe and a halter of disgrace around my neck'. He was however, persuaded to accept the title, but never wore the insignia.

After the confidential discussion with Mohammedan Leaders at Delhi, Nawab Salimullah immediately submitted a letter to Viceroy, Lord Hardinge describing the important eight points supporting the interest of the Muslim of East Bengal. In January 1912, the Governor General Lord Hardinge came to Dhaka in response to the said demands of Nawab Salimullah's letter. A group of Muslim delegates consisting of nineteen member under the leadership of Nawab Salimullah called on Lord Hardinge separately on 31 January 1912 at Shahbagh. The Viceroy gave the Muslims assurance that their interests would be safeguarded under the new administrative set up and made an important declaration. As a compensation for the annulment of the partition of Bengal, Lord Hardinge declared before the Nawab and other deputationists that he would establish a University at Dhaka. It is an immemorable contribution of Nawab Salimullah to establish the Oxford of the East, the Dhaka University inspite of the opposition by Hindu leaders. The promised university came into existence as the Dhaka University in 1921.

For the modernization of traditional madrasha education, Nawab Salimullah introduced the Reformed New Scheme Madrasha system with the help of British Government. Subsequently it was turned into Alia Madrasha. He made an effort to establish the department of Islamic Studies in Dhaka University for the confirmation of higher education of

madrasha students. Following the Aligarh College system, Nawab Salimullah took extensive initiative to establish a hostel in Dhaka for Muslim students. He established the Asmatunnesa female word in memory of his grandmother at



No. 45,
Edward
House, office
of the Dhaka
Nawab Estate
was exist
here.

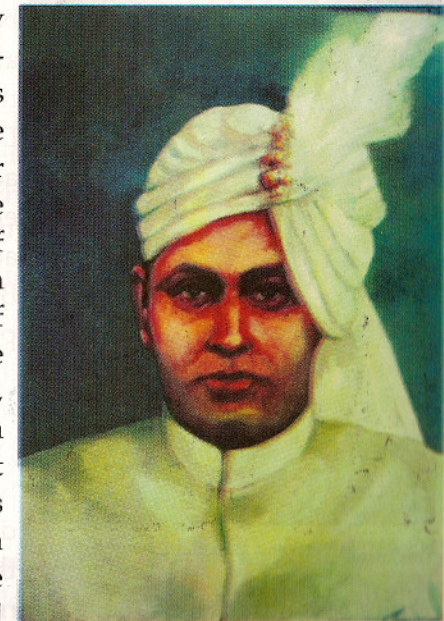
the Mitford Hospital. He donated money to establish the Dufferin Hostel in Dhaka, to develop Kolkata Madrasha into a college, and to build the Ranchi College. The Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage (photo no. 40) is another example of his abiding concern for the wellbeing of Muslim orphans. Nawab Salimullah ran into a large amount of debt for involving himself in politics and social works which meant spending a lot

of money. The British Government tried to keep him loyal to the Govt. by giving him loans on easy conditions for repaying the said loans. Nawab Salimullah borrowed 16 lac 25 thousand rupees from the Government in 1907, and was bound to hand over his estate administration to the Court of Wards.

After the annulment of the partition of Bengal the health of the disappointed Nawab broke down as a result of the attack of some fatal diseases. He went Kolkata for better treatment and died there on 16 January 1915. Next day, his coffin was carried down to Dhaka on a special steamer and was interred in his family graveyard at Begum Bazar.

NAWAB KHWAJA HABIBULLAH(1895-1958)

Nawab Khawaja Habidullah, the eldest son of Nawab Khwaja Salimullah, was educated at St. Paul School in Darjeeling and East-Bourne in England. He joined the second World War in the British army in 1914 and went to Baghdad sector as an Honorary Lieutenant. He was appointed the Nawab after his father's death in 1915. But he had not much power because the Nawab Estate was then under the Court of wards. The glory of Ahsan Manzil declined because of his ignorance about estate administration. However, Nawab Khwaja Habibullah supported the Khilaphat Movement actively and was the first President of Dhaka Khilaphat Committee. He was the President of Bengal Muslim League and



No. 46, Nawab Khwaja Habibullah

member of the All-India Muslim League working Committee. He did hard and brave work to solve the communal riots in Dhaka. He was a minister in the cabinet of A.K. Fuzlul Huq's coalition government from 1937 to 1943. Though he was not as wise as his forefathers, he was very much honored in the high



No. 47, Flower Vase, porcelain, height-25 cm.

society because of his family background and traditions. He was very handsome but incurred displeasure from many for



No. 48, Flower Vase, porcelain, height-28 cm.

his luxurious loving and voluptuous character. He began to dispose off the movable and immovable properties of the estate for money. Dhaka Nawab Estate was aquired by the Pakistan government in 1952, under the act of estate aquisition law. Being unable to maintain the palace, Nawab Habibullah left Ahsan Manzil and started to live in Green House at Paribagh. He died there on 21 November 1958. With the death of Nawab Habibullah, the Nawab title of the Khwaja

family given by the British Government, came to an end.

SIR KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN

(1894–1964) K.C.I.E

Khwaja Nazimuddin was a reputed member of the Dhaka Nawab family. He was the son of Bilkis Banu, a sister of Nawab Salimullah. His father's name was Khwaja Nizamuddin. Khwaja Nazimuddin had his early education at Dhaka and then he was educated at



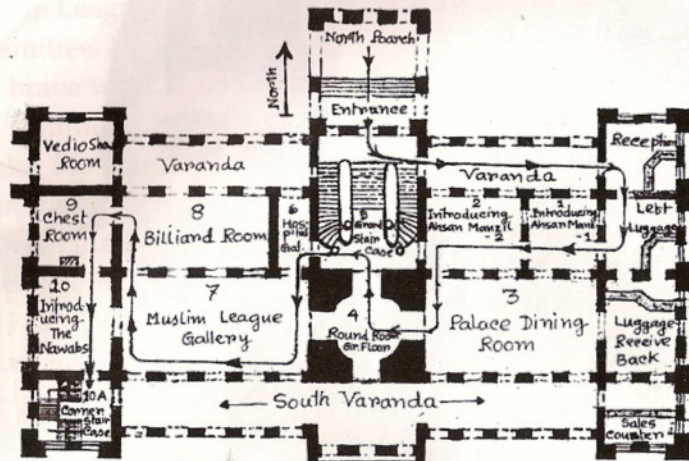
No. 49, Sir Khwaja Nazimuddin

Aligarh and London. He obtained M. A. From Trinity Hall of Cambridge and Bar-at-law from Middle Temple of London.

He was the Chairman of Dhaka Municipality from 1922 to 1929, Education Minister of undivided Bengal from 1929 to 1934, Home Minister in the Cabinet of A. K. Fuzlul Huq's coalition Government from 1937 to 1941 and Chief Minister of undivided Bengal from 1943 to 1945.

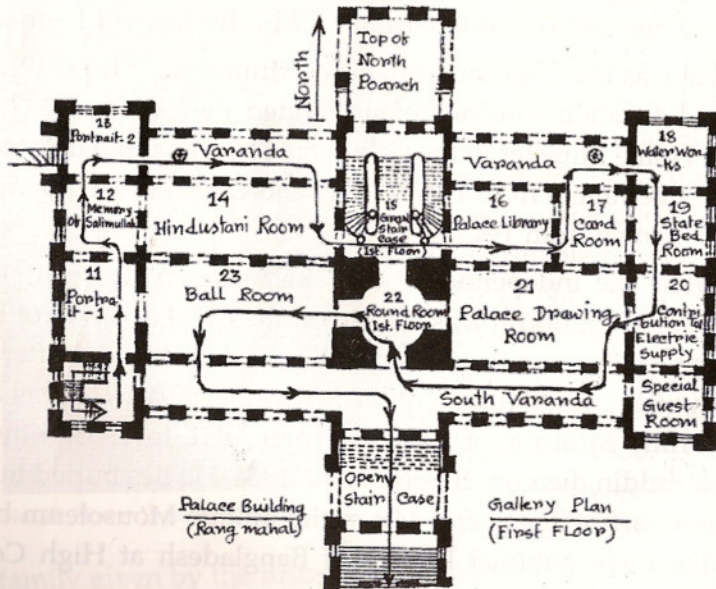
After the independence of Pakistan on 14 August, 1947 Khwaja Nazimuddin was appointed the Chief Minister of East Bengal. He became the Governor General of Pakistan after the death of Mr. M.A. Jinnah on 11 September, 1948. He was also the Prime Minister of Pakistan from 1951 to 1953. Khwaja Nazimuddin died on 21 September, 1964. He lies buried in the central part of *Teen Netaar Mazar*, the unique Mousoleum built for the three national leaders of Bangladesh at High Court premises in Dhaka.

GALLERY PLAN



Palace Building (Rang mahal)

Gallery Plan (Ground Floor)

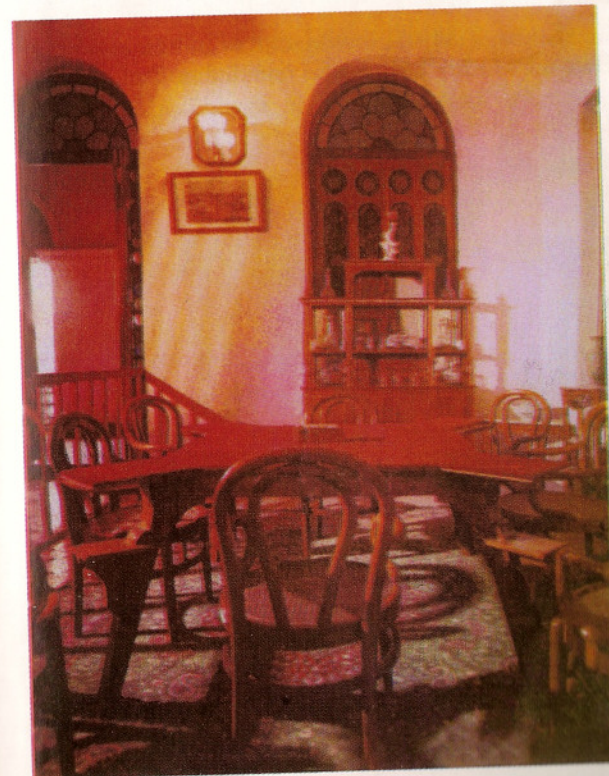


Palace Building (Rang mahal)

Gallery Plan (First Floor)

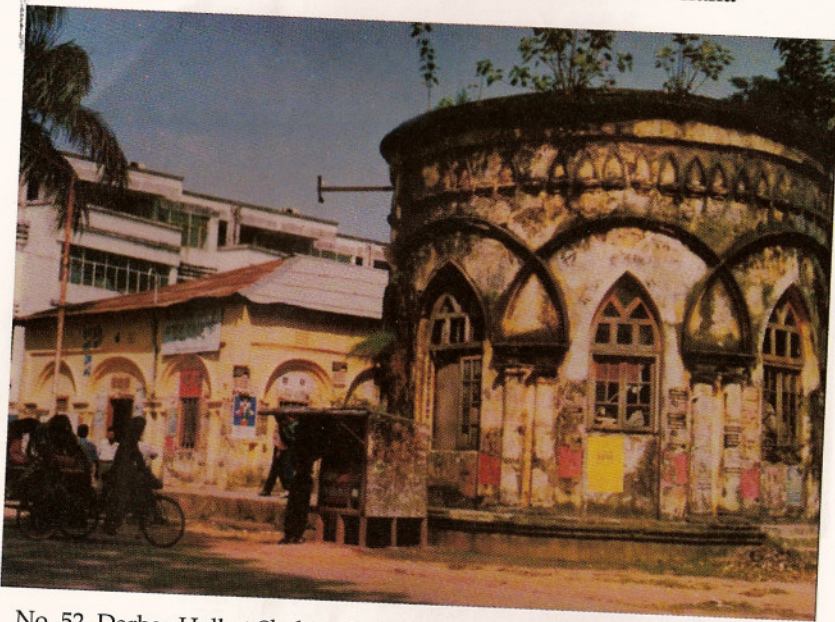


No. 50, *Andarmahal*, The residential part and ladies section of the palace, south view, 2005.



No. 51, Card Room, 1993.

The Gallery arranged according to the photograph of 1904.



No. 52, Darbar Hall at Shahbagh (1999), Now Madhu's Canteen of Dhaka University. Here the Muslim League was founded in 1906.



No. 53, Utencil, Tea-set, porcelain, found at Ahsan Manzil, 19th Century A.D.



Dr. Md. Alamgir was born on 20 March, 1958 at his native village Nagpara under Upazila Sailkupa of Dist. Jhenaidah. His father was late Md. Abdur Rauf Mandol and Mother Begum Sufia Khatun. He passed S. S. C. from Bipra Bogdia High School in 1973, H. S. C. from Sailkupa College in 1975 and obtained his B.A. Hons. and M. A. Degree in Islamic History and Culture from the Dhaka University in 1979. Dr. Md. Alamgir Joined the Bangladesh National Museum in 1982 as a Registration Officer and he was appointed as Deputy Keeper and in-charge of Ahsan Manzil Museum in 1989. After Joining the administration of Ahsan Manzil Museum Dr. Md. Alamgir started a research on the Nawabs of Dhaka. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the the University of Dhaka in 2000 for his research on Socio-Cultural Contribution of Dhaka Nawab Family. The title of his thesis was '*Banglar Muslimder Samaj Zibone Dhakar Nawab paribarar Obandan.*' The thesis will be published soon. Dr. Alamgir has written a large number of research articles about the history of Dhaka and Dhaka Nawab Family in various reviewed Journals and periodicals at home and abroad. He contributed 25 entries in the National Encyclopaedia of Bangladesh (BANGLAPEDIA) published by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. A research book entitled '*Nawabzada Atikullahar Zibon O Karmar Alope Dhaka Nawab paribarar samakalin citra*' written by him was published in June 2004. Another book entitled '*Ahsan Manzil O Dhakar Nawab Oitihashik Raparekha*' was Published in August 2003. Dr. Alamgir is associated with a magazine program named '*Mahanagar*' of Radio Bangladesh as a script writer on local history and historical monuments of Dhaka city. He is also associated with a program of Bangladesh Television, named '*Shei Dhaka Ei Dhaka*'. Dr. Md Alamgir is a member of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, member of Bangla Academy, member of *Bangladesh Itihas Parishad* and also life long registered graduate of Dhaka University.



Ornamental Chair made of silver and wood, found at Ahsan Manzil. The following information has been inscribed in the back circle of the Chair.

"Presented to the Honourable Khajah Abdool Gunny by the Members of his family as a token of the heartfelt gratitude and respect which they entertain for him and for the great kindness he has shown them during his management of the family affairs. Dacca 1870."