

# HERITAGE STUDY OF MUSLIM WORLD

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ALI RAZA SOOMRO



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# **HERITAGE STUDY OF MUSLIM WORLD**

**DR. ALI RAZA SOOMRO**



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### **ABSTRACT**

Lalbagh Fort is probably the largest Mughal in Bangladesh. The construction of the complex ran only for one decade and it was left abandoned for unknown reason. The brief history of the megaproject had been buried since 1688 and the fort remained incomplete till date. Several attempts have been made so far to recover the memories of this monument after the amnesia of centuries. However, the incomplete nature of construction, the limited amount of archaeological resource, literary evidences and epigraphic records at the disposal of the architectural historians appears as the main thicket. Two of the buildings in the fort complex was visited and documented during the Heritage Studies Trip 2011 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Years Architecture Students of International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). The author accompanied the trip as an advisor and made his own personal records to document the fort and its major architectural features. This paper is an attempt to elucidate the architecture of the fort complex as the author experienced.

**Keywords:** Dhaka City, Mughal fort, Mughal gardens, Lalbagh Fort

### **INTRODUCTION**

The first Mughal viceroy of Bengal Subahdar Islam Khan (1608-1613), shifted his capital from Rajmahal further inland to Dhaka in 1610 to subjugate the rebelling landlords. He renamed the new capital as Jahangir Nagar after the name of the ruling emperor Jahangir).

As a capital of *Subah-e-Bangla*, one of the most revenue earning province of the Mughal Empire, Dhaka has experienced actual urbanization rapid development in terms of trade and commerce since the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The whole 17th century could be considered as a golden age in the history of Dhaka. However under the rule of Shaista Khan (1662-1677 and 1679-1689) Dhaka attained its peak of development in every aspect. The city then stretched for 12 miles in length and 8