



Research article

## Two endangered Zamindar Houses of Magura District: An Archaeological Analysis

Shathi Khatun<sup>1</sup> and Md. Sahidul Islam<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Islamic History & Culture, University of Dhaka

<sup>2</sup>History and Civilization Discipline, Khulna University, Khulna-9208, Bangladesh

### ABSTRACT

The Permanent Settlement Act of 1793 led to the rise of a new elite class of landlords, known as Zamindars, across Bengal. Magura district, in southwestern Bangladesh, was home to several such Zamindars during the colonial era. The zamindars often constructed elaborate mansions, or rajbaris, to symbolize their social, economic, and political power and status. Usually, Zamindars used to make their houses magnificent to show off their nobility and power. After the abolition of the Zamindar system, these houses started to be abandoned, and due to carelessness, they disappeared into the lap of time. Such critical, endangered, and magnificent Zamindar houses can be found in the Magura district. Sreepur Zamindar House and Kadirpara Babu Zamindar House under Sreepur Upazila are among them. There are local beliefs and legends surrounding these two houses, which remind us of the past heritage of the prosperous Magura district. The archaeological importance of these two Zamindar houses is immense and undeniable. If the Zamindar palaces are completely obliterated, there will be no archaeological sources for future generations to know the colonial history of this locality. Hence, government intervention is urgently needed to preserve and renovate them. All types of data have been collected through field survey and interview methods to complete this article. In this article the researchers have tried to explore the architectural style and details of the present state, to create public awareness considering their archaeological importance, and to draw special attention from appropriate authorities for its preservation and conservation.

### Introduction

In exploring the local history and heritage of Bangladesh, the history of Zamindars and their archaeological achievements are of critical importance. Although the Zamindari system was abolished by the East Bengal State Acquisition and Tenancy Act of 1950, the social and cultural contributions of the Zamindars enriched the history of the British colonial era in Bengal. The term Zamindar (from the Persian 'Zamin,' or land, and 'dar,' which is an inflection of the verb 'dashtan,' denoting to have, hold, or possess) has passed into the historical vocabulary of medieval India to signify the superior landed interest. Zamindars during the Mughal period came to denote all rent receivers above the actual cultivators (Islam, 2003, p. 515). After the Mughal conquest of Bengal, "Zamindar" became a special title, and "Zamindar" means owner of various types of land and rights. Anyone from independent or semi-independent chieftains or tribal chiefs to self-possessed peasants could

be Zamindars. During the colonial period some changes were made in the responsibilities and duties of the Zamindars. In some cases they have benefited, and in some cases they have had to face severe legal hurdles. Many Zamindars were forced to abandon their posts, especially due to debt, and many wealthy individuals or merchants were able to acquire Zamindari overnight. However, once a person acquired a Zamindari, he became the socio-economic and cultural leader of that certain area. Apart from this, a kind of cultural circle was created around his residence, especially the Rajbari, or palace, around various religious festivals.

As a result, besides the Zamindars, the Zamindar house or palace had a special importance to the people of that area. Because of this, the Zamindars also tried their best to make his palatial house a unique building in the area. Due to the uprooting of the Zamindari system and the migration of the heirs to India after the partition, most of the Zamindar houses in Bangladesh were abandoned or

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\*Corresponding author: <[sahidul.du210@gmail.com](mailto:sahidul.du210@gmail.com)>

vacant. Such dilapidated Zamindar houses are seen often in different parts of Bangladesh. As these Zamindar houses are on the verge of destruction due to lack of proper renovation, the history of their builders has been forgotten by the people of the area.

There are two Zamindar palaces in Sreepur upazila of the famous Magura district. Such as the Sreepur Zamindar house and the Kadirpara Zamindar house. Almost half of the two-storied Zamindar palace has collapsed, and some parts still stand as a witness of time. These Zamindar Houses of Sreepur upazila can be transformed into a probable tourist site. For this, special steps are needed by the appropriate authorities, including the Department of Archaeology of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In the same way, the local people have to behave more consciously and responsibly. This research paper will explore the unpublished history, architectural details, and special features of buildings and the recommendations for their preservation and conservation.

### Objectives

The general objective of this ongoing research work on the 'Two Endangered Zamindar Palaces of Magura District' is to analyze the history, ground plan, architectural style, and various aspects of the decoration of the Sreepur Zamindar house and Kadirpara Zamindar house and highlight their historical and archaeological importance to the interested readers and appropriate authorities. This research work has some specific objectives, namely:

- To judge the historical truth of some legends prevalent in the society about the Zamindar houses.
- To dispel the prevailing misconceptions regarding the construction period of the Zamindar house.
- To determine the influence of contemporary architectural styles and features on the structure, architectural style, and decoration of the Zamindar House.
- To present the importance and significance of the Zamindar House as an archaeological example to the public.
- To draw the special attention of the appropriate government authorities to take necessary measures to renovate and preserve these two endangered Zamindar houses of Magura district.

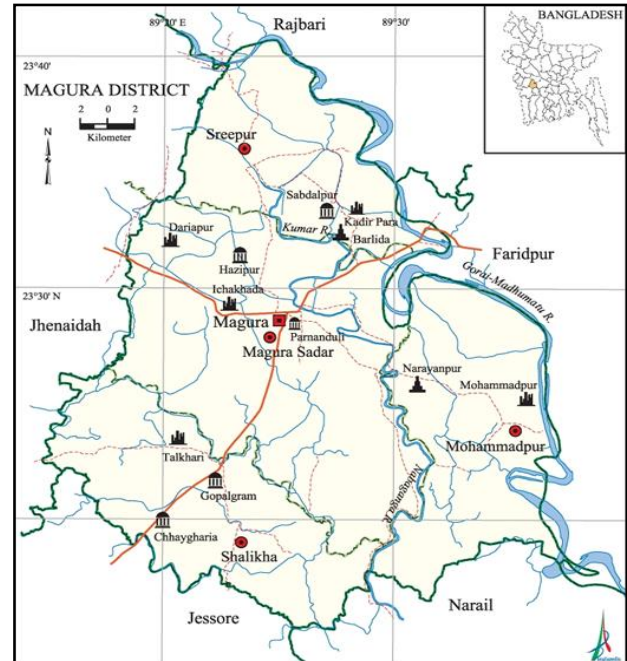
### Research Methodology

Usually the methods of art, architecture, and archaeological study are relatively different from any other arts and humanities study or research. The present study on 'Two Endangered Zamindar Palaces of Magura District: An Archaeological Analysis' is a mixed-methods study in nature. Most of the data used in this research work was in qualitative form, and a small amount of data was in quantitative form. To complete this study, the researcher had to rely on both primary and secondary sources for data collection. Primary sources include site surveys, field research, and observation. On the other hand, books, newspapers, periodicals, and journals belong to secondary sources. Notably, the Sreepur Zamindar house and the Kadirpara Zamindar house exhibit the colonial architectural style and features of the 19th century. In this study, various quantitative data have been obtained through field observation to present the structure and style of two Zamindar houses. In addition, a comparative study

with contemporary Zamindar palaces based on historical methods has been conducted to determine the influence of the colonial period in Bengal. Moreover, in this study, the APA 7th edition is used for citations and references.

### Magura District

Magura is a historically rich district of Khulna division, situated at southwest border region in Bangladesh. The



district is located in Khulna Division with an area of

**Image 1:** Map of Magura District (Source: Banglapedia)

1039.10 sq. km. The district is located in between 23°15' and 23°41' north latitudes and in between 89°15' and 89°42' east longitudes (Islam, 2003). It is bounded by Rajbari district on the north, Jashore and Narail districts on the south, Faridpur district on the east, Jhenaidah district on the west. Magura was made the sub divisional headquarters in 1845, not on account of its being a trade centre, but because dacoities was frequent in the neighborhood (Bari, 1979, p.313-314). The first subdivision officer of Magura subdivision was Mr. Cockburn. Although it was a part of Jashore district for a long time, Magura Sreepur subdivision was elevated to a district in 1984 as part of the administrative decentralization of the country after the independence of Bangladesh. It is said that once upon a time Magh dacoits lived here (Nuruzzaman, 2007, p.136) and the Magura is derived from the word 'Magh'. Another opinion is that the Magura is derived from the word 'Mora Gang' (Dead River) or Magur Mas (Catfish) (Rahman, 2010, pp.179-180).

### (A) Sreepur Zamindar House

#### Location:

The Zamindar house is located in Sreepur Upazila, 15 kilometers north of Magura district headquarters. It is located on the left side of the Sreepur-Sachilapur road, 1 kilometer north from Sreepur upazilla Sadar. Also, the Zamindar house is located next to the boundary wall of Sreepur Mohila College.

### History of Sreepur Zamindar

It is known locally that Sardaranjan Pal Chowdhury established the zamindari here. Sripur and the surrounding area were under the zamindari. The vast palace-like house of Sreepur zamindari is currently in a dilapidated condition. Its main gate is now seen but on the edge of ruin. It is known locally in the history of the zamindari that this zamindari was purchased from Nawab Alivardi Khan. According to marital sources, Sardaranjan Pal Chowdhury was related to Maharaja Pratapaditya of Jessore, who was one of the twelve Bhuiyans of Bengal.

Maharaja Pratapaditya's son Udayaditya married Bibhupal Chowdhury, the daughter of Zamindar Sardarjan Pal Chowdhury. Based on this source, Maharaja Pratapaditya came to Sreepur. There is also a legend that the poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote the novel "Bauthakurani'r Hat" centered on this Bibhupal Chowdhury.

The analysis of the above information shows that one of the main subjects of the novel Bauthakurani Hat by poet Rabindranath Tagore is the king of Jessore, Prajapaditya, and the king of Sreepur. A marital relationship was established between Pratapaditya of Jessore, one of the twelve Bhuiyas of Bengal, and the king of Sreepur. That is, Pratapaditya's son Udayaditya married Surma, the daughter of the king of Sreepur. On the other hand, Udayaditya had a sister named Biva, which is found in the novel of the poet. It is also known from the novel that there was no good relationship between King Pratapaditya and the king of Sreepur. Udayaditya's statement to Surama (daughter of the king of Sreepur) in this regard is worth mentioning:

*"Your father, the king of Sripur, does not want to accept my father as the chief and does not want to accept you as a subordinate of the Jashore region, and for this my father wants to maintain his own chieftainship by showing neglect towards you. If anyone insults you, he does not even listen. He thinks that the fact that he has made you his daughter-in-law is enough for you. Once in a while, I feel like I cannot bear it anymore; I should give up everything and take you away. I might have gone by now, but you have only held me back."* (Translated into English from Bengali, Thakur, 1422 Bengali, p. 610).

Although the characters are in a novel, it seems not at all unusual for the Zamindar of Sreepur to have a real-life relationship with the king of Jessore, Pratapaditya. In this case, it also seems natural for them to have a hostile relationship as kings of bordering kingdoms.

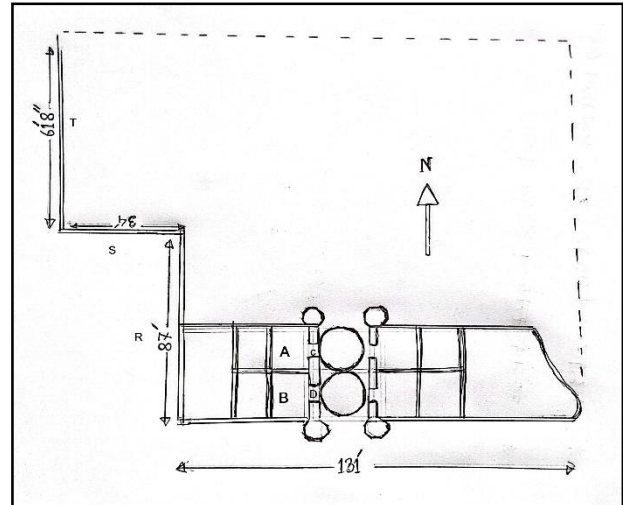
### Architectural Details:

Since the main building of the Sreepur Zamindar House has been destroyed, it is difficult to estimate its type and style. However, the two-storied main gate and boundary wall of the Sreepur Zamindar house are in a dilapidated condition.

### Main Entrance:

The main gate of the Zamindar House is located on the south side of the main building. It was a two-story building with a south-facing facade. The length of the gate's currently standing east-west arm is 131 feet. On both sides of the alley in the middle of the main gate, there are two octagonal pillars with a bamboo knot design rising to two stories and the length of each side is 10 inches. The

circumference of the lower semicircular part of the two pillars is 4 feet 4 inches. It is noted that two huge pillars are used on both sides, in front and behind the main gate. Local materials, especially bamboo girdles, have been



**Image-2:** Ground Plan of Sreepur Zamindar House (Drawn by writer)

There is a beautiful angular arch in front of the middle alley of the gate. The height of this arch is 10 feet 7 inches, and the width is 5 feet 4 inches. The width of the alley is 6 feet, and the length is 20 feet. There are two domes on the alley, and there are a total of four guard rooms, two on each side. The first of the guard rooms, the rooms on the right and left (marked 'A' and 'B' in the ground plan), are square-shaped. The length of one side of the rooms is 8 feet. There is a niche in the south wall of these two square rooms. The height of the niches is 3 feet 11 inches, and the width is 2 feet. There is a semicircular arch to enter the two square rooms. The height of the arch is 6 feet 11 inches, and the width is 4 feet 2 inches. The other two rooms (marked 'C' and 'D' in the ground plan) are relatively large and rectangular. The length of the rectangular rooms is 8 feet 3 inches, and the width is 5 feet 6 inches. In two rectangular rooms, they also use niches measuring 2 feet 7 inches high and 1 foot 11 inches wide.



**Image 3:** Main Entrance of Sreepur Zamindar House

The another rooms of the main gate are in a dilapidated condition. Especially the second floor and the



**Image 4:** a Gaurd room of Main Entrance

staircase leading to the second floor cannot be identified.

#### Dome

Two domes are still visible inside the main entrance. The domes are placed on two square bases. The length of one side of the square is 6 feet. The radius of the two domes is 3 feet and the diameter is 6 feet.

#### Boundary wall

Apart from the main gate, there is no trace of the north and east walls of the Zamindar's house. However, the west wall is still standing in a dilapidated condition. The lengths of the walls marked 'R', 'S', 'T' in the ground



**Image 5:** Present boundary wall of Sreepur Zamindar house

plan are 34 feet, 21 feet, and 61 feet 8 inches respectively. In the middle of the wall marked 'T' there is an enclosed arch with a design. Its height is 5 feet 8 inches and width is 2 feet 5 inches. To the left of this arch, there is another relatively small arch. Its height is 5 feet 1 inch and its width is 3 feet 1 inch. There are 3 more enclosed arches in this wall.

#### Decoration:

The main gate can be identified as the most decorated part of the Sreepur Zamindar House. There are two huge

octagonal pillar in the middle of the main gate which is special symbols of the Zamindar House. The design of the two pillars is similar to the knots of local bamboo. There are three rectangular panel designs on the upper part of arch. It can be thought that some special symbol/sign was used at these three places. There are small dental motif designs are visible on lower part of cornice.

#### Present condition

Currently, the Sreepur Zamindar house has become an endangered house. The main building of the Zamindars house has long since disappeared. Only the ground floor of the main gate and some parts of the western boundary wall of the Zamindar house are still standing. A brick roof and tin shed building have been built in the place of main building of the Zamindars house. The second floor of the main gate is destroyed and the ground floor is dilapidated and has become a habitat for various creepers, bushes and insects. The current owners live permanently in Dhaka. As a result, the new buildings they have built are also largely abandoned. There is a plate with the owner's mobile number on the main gate of the Zamindars's house and to enter inside, one has to be patient enough about permission and the owner's arrival in Sreepur.

#### (B) Kadirpara Zamindar House

##### Location:

The Zamindar house is located in Kadirpara village under Kadirpara union, 12 km east of Sreepur upazila headquarters in Magura district. The house is also known as Kadirpara Babu Zamindar house.

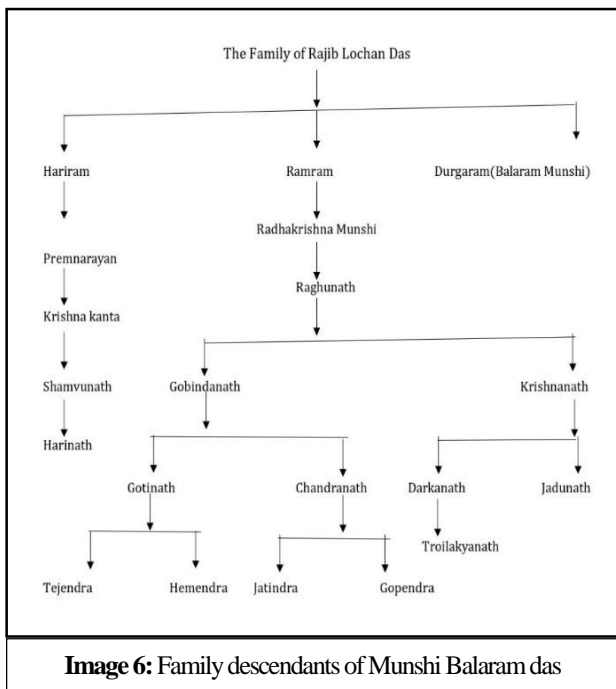
##### History of Kadirpara Zamindar

It is known historically that the ancestor of the Kadirpara Zamindar clan was Naradas or Nardev Das. Mahatma Narasimha Das is regarded as the progenitor of the Das family (later the Munshi family), whose descendants finally settled at Shailkupa as a result of warfare and hostilities (Asad, 1989, p. 203). He belonged to the Atrigotriya clan (Mitra, 2011, p. 415). According to Satish Chandra Mitra, after a dispute with Ballal Sen, Barendra Kayastha Tilak Karkat and Jatadhar Naga established a kingdom in the Shailkupa region under Jessore, and then Barendra Kulintraya Das, Nandi, and Chaki came to their shelter and started living there. The descendants of Naradas, due to wars and the evolution of fate, moved to various places and finally settled in Devtala in a part of Shailkupa. Over time, they were given the title of Majumdar by the Nawab government. Since long ago, the service of the Ramgopal idol established by a monk in Shailkupa was going on; once the responsibility of its service was entrusted to this Das dynasty, Bhavananda or Image 5: Present boundary wall of Sreepur Zamindar house Khatun & Islam Khulna University Studies 22(2):xx-xx:2025 6 Krishnananda. Then he built a service house for the idol next to his own house in Devtala. When the atrocities of the Magafiringis began in Devtala on the banks of the river, Krishnananda's grandson Rajiv Lochan and his family acquired property in the village of Dwariyapur on the banks of the Hanu River and later in Kadirpara and started living there permanently (Mitra, 2011, p. 416).

Rajib Lochan had three sons named Hariram, Ramram, and Balaram, respectively. It is said that Ramram and Balaram once fought off the attack of the fearsome robbers with immense courage, which grabbed the attention of Raja Sitaram Ray. The Raja granted the siblings a whole village called 'Bil Pakuria' and appointed Balaram as Munshi in his court. After Durgaram was appointed as Munshi, Sitaram affectionately called him Balaram for his bravery and courage. Since then, Durgaram Das Majumdar Munshi has been known as Balaram Munshi. Balaram's handwriting was as beautiful as his character. He was as trustworthy as he was efficient. Balaram's signature can be seen in all the certificates issued by Sitaram.

After this, Munshi Balaram established his power, amassing vast wealth in Kadirpara, thereby laying the foundation stone of the Kadirpara Estate. The Munshis were involved in philanthropy, educational upbringing, and religious reformation in Dariapur and Kadirpara. The Dariapur Shri Shri Siddheshwari Kalimata Temple was founded by the Munshis of Kadirpara. The last zamindar of the estate, Babu Gopendranath Munshi, was a physician and licensed medical practitioner who used to provide treatment free of charge to financially challenged commoners. The names of those who are found as the next descendants of Narahari Das are Narahari > Bidyananda > Kashiswar > Kansari > Balairatna > Krishnananda > Janardhan > Rajivlochan.

The list (Mitra, 2011, p.416) of Balaram Munshi is given below:



**Image 6:** Family descendants of Munshi Balaram das

The zamindars of Kadirpara endowed 10 acres land of their property in favour of their family deity Radhakanta Lakshmi Narayan Jiu. According to a report published in *Dhaka Tribune* in 2017, there was an incident of vandalizing the Radhakanta Lakshmi Narayan Jiu and Shitala temples at Sreepur Upazila, within the Debuttar Estate (Haque, 2017). The Zamindars also founded the Sri Sri Siddheshwari Kali temple in Dariapur. In 2022, there was an incident of theft in the Siddheshwari Kali temple (Molla, 2022).

**Architectural Details**

The Kadir Para Zamindar House, established by Munshi Balaram Das, seems to have been very beautiful once. An old photograph shows that the Zamindar House was two-storied with a verandah and was shaped like the English letter 'L'. However, at present only the staircase of the house stands as a witness to the times. The length of the present part of the building is 37 feet and the width is 21 feet 2 inches. There is a staircase with 11 steps to go from the ground floor to the second floor. From a general perspective it is not clear whether this staircase was the only staircase to go to the second floor? There is an arch above the entrance to the staircase, which is 7 feet 2 inches high and 3 feet 8 inches wide. There is a niche in the eastern wall of the staircase, which is 1 foot 6 inches high and 9 inches wide. This niche was probably used to light at night.



**Image 7:** Old image of Kadirpara Zamindar (Source: Wikipedia)

Only one room is found in the present part of the building. It is located under the stairs. The entrance to this room is 4 feet 6 inches high and 2 feet 5 inches wide. Also, the internal length of the room is 8 feet 6 inches and 3 feet 8 inches wide. This room is called 'Aadhar Kutha' or 'Aadhar Kuthari' by the locals. They thought that once the Zamindar used to detain and torture his rebels in here (Interview: Das, 2025). There are two niches on both sides of the staircase room, which are 1 foot 11 inches high and 1 foot 1 inch wide.

The temple of Radhakanta Lakshmi Narayan Jew, the family deity of the Zamindar, is located just 100 yards away from this building. The history of this temple is about 300 years old. The current main temple building seems to be newly constructed.

**Decoration**

It is indeed difficult to estimate the overall decorative style of the palace by looking at just a dilapidated part of the vast Zamindar Palace built by Munshi Balaram Das of Raja Sitaram Roy. Most of the plasterwork on the walls of this dilapidated part of the building has fallen off. As a result, the decorative style of the contemporary period is no longer visible.

### Present condition

Like the Sreepur Zamindar House, the Kadirpara Zamindar House is also a critically endangered archaeological site. Most of the large palace house has been destroyed and the site has taken the shape of a mound much higher than the surrounding flat land. If the site can



**Image 8:** Present image of Kadirpara Zamindar House

be excavated in a proper manner, it may be possible to recover the ground plan of the Zamindar House. Like the Sreepur Zamindar House, the Kadirpara Zamindar House is also a critically endangered archaeological site. Most of the large palace house has been destroyed and the site has taken the shape of a hillock much higher than the surrounding flat land. If the site can be excavated in a proper manner, it may be possible to recover the landform of the Zamindar House. The house, covered in bushes due to careless neglect, still stands as a witness to time and is part of the work of Munshi Balaram Das. Local residents say that cleaning and decorating work is done around the building more or less every year on the occasion of the worship of the Radhakanta Narayan Jiu deity.

### An Overview

After the Battle of Buxar in Bengal, the British did not have to face any strong opponents in establishing the rule of the East India Company. As a result, they focused more on firmly establishing their own rule. In this regard, they finalized the system of establishing an elite class loyal to them. As part of this, the way was paved for the establishment of a new class of landowners through permanent settlements. It is generally believed that the word 'Zamindar' is derived from the Persian word 'Zamindar.' According to the *Bangla Academy Bengali-English Dictionary*, the English meaning of the word "zamindar" is "one who, as the owner of land, receives revenue from tenants; a zamindar" (Ali et al., 2004, p. 221). According to the book *Bangla Academy Adhunik Bangla Abhidhan*, the word "zamindar" means the zamindars who have to pay rent (Chowdhury, 2016, p. 503). According to historian Irfan Habib (1987), in the definition of the word "zamindar," the title "zamindar" was used to refer to the head of a region (Rahman, 2009, p. 7). In land terminology, the one who directly pays revenue to the state is the Zamindar (Rahman, 1997-99, 192). During the Mughal period, the word "zamindar" was used to refer

to all rent recipients as well as the actual farmers. The Zamindars were not only the owners of the rent collection but also the owners of the land (Islam, 2003, p. 458). Analyzing the above lexical meaning and definition, it can be said that the Zamindars used to own a certain amount of area through permanent settlement and would deposit the rent collected from that area in the treasury, in return for which they enjoyed the necessary facilities for a comfortable life. However, they did not have the right to buy and sell land.

In fact, with the Permanent Settlement issued in 1793, a new elite class called the Zamindars emerged in the Bengali socio-economic system. They used to build palaces in their respective areas to display their nobility and valor. It is noteworthy that during the crisis of Mughal rule in India, the British gradually started colonizing India. This transformation brought about a kind of change not only in the political sphere but also in the architectural style of the country. In this sequence, some European architectural styles mixed with the local traditions to create a new architectural style called 'colonial architecture.' Since the Zamindars were performing their functions directly under the British, the Zamindars started imitating the British in building new structures. That is why they started applying European styles in the houses built for themselves.

The most striking feature of the Sreepur Zamindar House is its main gate. The construction of the main gate as a separate multi-storied building is rare in the architectural history of Bangladesh. It is generally believed that only wealthy and influential zamindars could afford to build such architecture. An example of such a main entrance arch is seen at the Dighapatia Palace in Natore. However, in terms of architectural and decorative style, the Sreepur Zamindar deserves special mention. The two large octagonal pillars at the front of the main entrance are a particularly important feature. Local materials, especially bamboo girdles, have been used in the decoration of the pillars. Such features are generally seen in mosques of the Sultanate period in the architectural history of Bangladesh. Such as the Gora Mosque of Jhenaidah, the Prabajpur Shahi Mosque of Satkhira, the Khanjali Mosque of Shuvradha village of Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore, the Ranbijoypur and the Singair Mosque of Bagerhat, the Kusumba Mosque of Nowgaon, the Chhota Sona Mosque of Chapainawabganj district, etc.

In the main entrance, we have seen the *Danta (Dental)* motif design just under the roof cornice of the 1st floor. These features have also been seen in the Bengal architecture of the Sultanate period. Such as Kotwali Darwaza in Gaur (Dani, 1961, p. 94). But these features have got the popularities in Colonial architecture such as the Lion Gate of Patisor Kacharibari (Rahman, 2017, p. 59) at Atrai Thana in Naogaon District, the Dimla Kali Temple at Mahigong in Rangpur District, the Temple of Zamindar Palace at Dinajpur District (Alam, 2018, pp. 99 & 138), the Dublahati Palace (Hossain, 2007, pp. 368-70) at Naogaon, and the Kansatt Zamindar Palace (Raru, 2017, pp. 96 & 126) at Chapainababganj.

The main entrance has a large arch in front and two square domes inside. The Romans were the first to use domes extensively in the history of world civilization. They first invented the arch and then the dome. This

architectural style of the Romans was not their own. It was introduced by the Etruscans (Ahmad, 2012, p. 79).

On the other hand, it is difficult to guess the architectural features of the main building from looking at the unadorned façade of the Kadirpara Zamindar House. However, it is conceivable that this house was also built in the architectural style of the contemporary colonial period.

A settlement of the controversy regarding the timing of the construction of the Zamindar house and adjoining structures of Sreepur and Kadirpara is a matter that needs to be discussed. Because during the field survey, some of the locals said that these Zamindar houses are 300 years old, and some said 400 years old. To end the controversy after the above discussion, especially the uses of various colonial features, we can say that the architecture of Zamindar houses of Sreepur and Kadirpara was built in the 19th century, and it is not unreasonable to date these buildings as 225 years (approx.) old at present (2025).

### Findings & Recommendations

The Sreepur Zamindar House and Kadirpara Zamindar House of Sreepur Upazila of Magura district are important archaeological sites representing the local history of the colonial period in Bangladesh. Generally, two Zamindar houses symbolize the generosity, kindness and magnanimity of the then Zamindars as well as all the history related to oppression. These houses critically are on the brink of destruction. It is very important to preserve all these structures under the Department of Archaeology of Bangladesh to inform the new generation about the glorious history of the local past. Because antiquities or archaeological artefacts play an important role in the historical research and are used as the first source. Now-a-days antiquities are called as the cultural property in the developed world (Hosain, 2009, p.197). Antiquities sheds light on history whereas the written statement is silent on the search for historical facts (Ahmad, 2015, p.34). Our constitution has also given importance to this and it has been stated that, the state shall adopt measures to protect against disfigurement, damage, or removal of all monuments, objects, places, or particular artistic or historical importance or interest (*The Constitution of Bangladesh*, 1972, Part-II, Article-24). So the following steps must be followed to protect the Sreepur Zamindar house and Kadirpara Zamindar house from possible impairment and ruin:

1. It should be declared as preserved antiquities by the concerned department of Bangladesh government as soon as possible.
2. A high boundary wall should be constructed to prevent theft of palace debris, especially bricks, roofing timbers and railway line sheets etc.
3. Skilled and experienced manpower should be employed for proper renovation.
4. Necessary facilities should be prepared for the visitors coming from far away.

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### Conclusion

The colonial period deserves special importance in the architectural history of Bangladesh. The permanent settlement led to the emergence of a new elite in the socio-economic history of Bengal on the one hand and a new trend in the history of art on the other hand. In the structures built during this period, European architectural features mixed with indigenous architectural styles, which gave way to a new style known as Colonial architecture. As there are many Zamindars in the Bengal region, the construction of royal palaces became a general tradition as one of the means of expressing their credit and achievements. The Sreepur Zamindar House and the Qadir Para Zamindar House, located in Sreepur, Magura district, are two historically and archaeologically important monuments in the construction of local history in Bangladesh. The two houses are silent witnesses to the joys and sorrows of the colonial period in Bangladesh at the local level. But unfortunately, these two important archaeological sites have not yet come to the attention of the Archaeology Department of the Bangladesh government. But unfortunately, these two important archaeological sites have not yet come to the attention of the Archaeology Department of the Government of Bangladesh. Currently, the two buildings have fallen into a dilapidated and critical condition due to careless neglect. In order to preserve the history and heritage of this region and properly promote it to the next generation, it has been a long-standing demand of the locals that these endangered Zamindar houses should be declared as a protected monument under the Department of Archaeology of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and converted into a tourist center by making necessary renovations. If it is possible to do this, the awareness among the local people will increase for the preservation of the buildings, and the local art history of our country will be more enriched.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declares no conflict of interest.

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