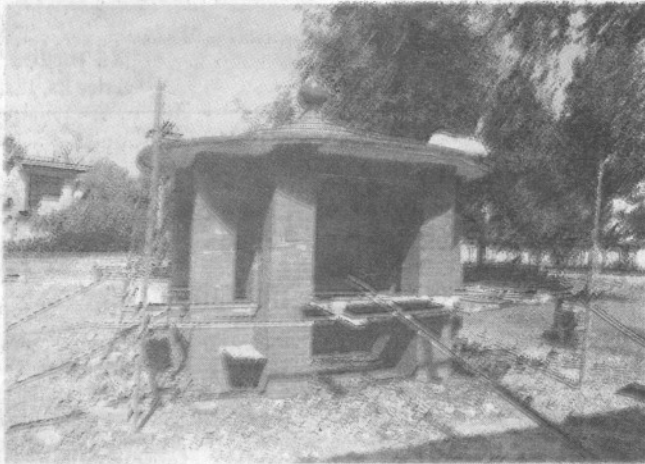


Model Town set to have new look



An old structure in a triangular park being renovated.

By Hamid Ali

THE oldest planned housing scheme in the City — Model Town — is going to have a new look by 'just sacrificing' its traditional identity.

A large-scale construction work on main access roads and adjoining triangular parks is going on, though the dwellers have objected to the new development projects. The old residents are not pleased with the new constructions, though it

seems necessary to overcome problems of the increasing vehicular traffic. The beautification attempts, the residents believe, are damaging the age-old look of the society.

Model Town Cooperative Housing Society's Rs 17 million development works, including widening of the Main Boulevard, from Model Town Morre to Central Park, construction of eight new bus stops and beautification of the triangular parks in front of each housing block on the

Circular Road, were formally inaugurated by Lahore Commissioner Shahid Najam last week.

Since establishment of the Model Town Cooperative Housing Society in 1924, this is, perhaps, the biggest development and construction activity, which would change the general outlook of the area.

Arshad Hussain, a resident of D-Block, objected to construction of the new bus stops, saying their large structures would hinder the sight of decades old bus stops built in 'Canopy style' at the triangular parks. "The new bus stops, which are being constructed right in front of the old ones, have changed outlook of the parks and the residential blocks", he opined.

"I have an emotional attachment with the old bus stops. With greenery around and clear view of the Circular Road and the Central Park ahead, we used to sit here to wait for the vans and buses", recalled Mian Tammam, a resident of G-Block.

Administration of the Model Town Society is spending Rs 11.5 million on widening and reconstruction of the Main Boulevard and footpaths, Rs 4.6 mil-

lion on beautification of the triangular parks and Rs 2.4 million on construction of the bus stops.

A Model Town Society official said a large-sized gate would be built at the Model Town Morre after completion of the ongoing development works. The Main Boulevard is being widened 18 feet, he said adding that a median would also be constructed. A big fancy fountain was also being built at the roundabout of Central Park main gate. We have awarded contracts for beautification, landscaping and installation of mercury lights at the triangular parks. A new spacious bus stop was also being constructed inside the Linear Park near Model Town Morre for the commuter vans, the official added. He clarified that the new bus stop structures would not obstruct view of the old ones as they were being constructed without sidewalls.

The official said the development works were needed to solve problem of traffic congestion on the Main Boulevard and give an attractive look to the society. The new bus stops were being built on 2.5-km long Circular Road to facilitate the com-

Block amid locals' objections



Big walls of new bus-stop hinder the sight of old 'canopy-type' stop. —photos by Mohsin Raza

muters, said a senior official adding that the Daewoo Company had refused to operate its buses in Model Town due to absence of proper bus stops. How-

ever, he hoped, the Daewoo service would soon resume operation in Model Town.

The construction work has blocked entrance of majority of

houses on the Main Boulevard. The contractors have converted two parks in front of Block-A into dumping ground for their construction material