

COIN OF IBRAHIM SHARKI SULTAN OF JOUNPUR, HIS ARMY GENERAL KHAN JAHAN SETTLED AT BAGERHAT, BANGLADESH

Noorul Islam

Ibrahim Sharki Sultan of Kanowz was the follower of Hazrat Nur Qutb Alam of Gour. When Hazrat Nur Qutb Alam found that the persons accepting Islam in the Gour locality are killed by the persons of Danuzmardan Dev (Raza Ganesh). Then Hazrat Nur Qutb Alam informed his follower Sultan Ibrahim Sharki for help to protect the newly converted Muslims.

Sultan Ibrahim Sharki took up the matter seriously and came forward with his army reached Bengal to help Hazrat Nur Qutb Alam. He stayed for some days and defeated Raja Ganesh and managed to convert his son Zadu into Muslim and renamed Jalal Uddin then Ibrahim Sharki left Bengal.

After some days Raja Ganesh reconverted Zadu and started repeating his old practice. Then Hazrat Nur Qutb Alam again informed and this time Sultan Ibrahim Sharki Came with a permanent arrangement to treat with raja Ganesh.

He came with an army general with his army and settled all the problems and permanently arranged to leave his general with Army in Bengal. This general moved from Gour towards south Bengal Via Jessore, Mohammadpur where he halted converted some people to Islam, built eleven mosques and reached at Bagerhat in the district of Khulna. Where he settled in the Sundorbon area. He built *Saith Gumbad* Mosque (sixty-domed mosque) and excavated big Tank of about one mile long where there are still crocodiles living since last hundreds of years. During the excavation of this tank one Buddhist temple and Buddhist sculpture were found which was handed over to non-Muslims for worship. Later on correctly identified as Buddhist sculpture and handed over to Kamalapur Buddhist Temple at Dhaka Bangladesh.

So far our knowledge goes, the area of Khan Jahan mainly was around the area of Jhinaidaha, Jessore, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barisal, Patuakhali, Mymensingh and Dhaka. It is curious that, though his history in details is not known still his activities and establishment for preaching Islam is renowned namely:

1. Shingdaha Aulia Mosque, Jhinaidaha.
2. Barobazar (11 Mosques), Jhinaidaha ancient Archaeological sites.
3. Garib Shah's Mausoleum, Jessore.
4. Borhanuddin's Mausoleum, Jessore.

5. Shuvaraja Maszid, Avainagar, Jessore.
6. Arashnagor Maszid, Dumuria, Khulna.
7. Maszid Kur Maszid, Koira, Khulna.
8. The entire archaeological sites of Bagerhat.
9. Kosba Maszid, Barisal.
10. Maszidbari Maszid, Patuakhali.
11. Ghagra Maszid, Mymensingh and
12. One mosque at Dhaka town.

The archaeological sites related to Khan Jahan's name spread all over south Bengal. He built the road from Jessore to Satkhira and Jessore to Murli Kasba, Paigram Kasba Digholia and Senhati via Bagerhat. He also built many roads of Bagerhat. Now it is expected by the archaeological researcher to Re-excavate the big Bagerhat Tank to find out the civilization of the contemporary period.

Bagerhat as stated in district gazetteer of Khulna. It is the headquarter town of the Bagerhat subdivision situated on 22°39' N. Latitude and 89°47' E longitude the town is 20 miles to the South-east of Khulna city. It stands on the river Bhairab and is connected with Khulna Bagerhat railway as by a fair weathered kutcha Road.

Area of the town is 2.53 square miles and the population is 27,912 according to 1974 census. The famous historical mosque called the *Saith Gumbad* Mosque having 81 domes and 60 Pillars built by the great saintly ruler Hazrat Khan Jahan situated about four miles to the west of Bagerhat. There is a big *dighi* (Tank) popularly called Ghora Dighi with an area of about 100 acres near the mosque.

About three miles from Bagerhat town and about half a mile from the main road to Shait Gumbad is situated the tomb of Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali on the bank of bigger Tank, called the Thakur *dighi* with an area of about 180 Acres. There are some crocodiles in the *dighi* which are fame and said to be the descendents of the crocodiles kept by Khan Jahan Ali and which responded to the call of Kalapahar and Dhalapahar. Their descendants also respond to the same call would take fowls from the hands of the devotees without attacking them. The *dighi* and the tomb of Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali and a mosque beside it present a great view.

The mausoleum of Khan Jahan Ali: It is a splendid specimen of solid masonry work of the 15th century. It is 42'8" square covered by a large dome with an ornamental pinnacle at the top. The height of the outside wall to the spring of the dome being 24'2".

The tomb of Khan Jahan Ali is in the centre, the stone sarcophagus resting on a double stone terrace. The latter again stands on a brick terrace which was ornamented with glazed tiles of various patterns of blue and white being predominating colour. The floor was also laid out

with similar hexagonal tiles attraction feature of the building. The date of death is 26th Zill Hijjah and was buried on Thursday the 27th of the same month in the year 863 A.H.

Plate 49.1: Billon tanka – Shams al-Din Ibrahim Shah – 1402-1440 AD – 826 AH (1422 AD) Sharki dynasty – Jaunpur Sultanate – 7, Now preserved in Noorul Islam Shangraha Sala, Dhaka.



Plate 49.2: Overall view of Arabic inscriptions on the tomb of Khān Jahān,
[Photo courtesy: Prof. Yusuf Siddiq].

It is a matter of great regret that the extension of the newly built mosque has covered the space and closed the space for taking any perspective and isometric view of the mausoleum of Khan Jahan Ali and *ibadat khana* with the big tank. The tourists from home and abroad are unable to obtain any picture of the whole show at a glance.



Plate 49.3: Overall view of *al-asmā' al-husnā* [ninety nine most beautiful names of Allah] inscribed on top of the sarcophagus, in addition to several other inscriptions including those containing Persian verses on the foundational platform of the tomb, [Photo courtesy: Prof. Yusuf Siddiq].



Plate 49.4: Khan Jahan Mausoleum complex inscription at Bagerhat, [Photo courtesy: Prof. Yusuf Siddiq].

Translation:

The feeble slave, who is in need of the mercy of the Lord of the universe, the lover of the offspring of the leader of the prophets, the sincere one for the righteous ‘*ulamā*’, an opponent (lit. hater) of infidels and polytheists and the helper of Islam and the Muslims Ulugh Khān Jahān, mercy and forgiveness be upon him, passed away from the abode of this world to the abode of eternity on the night of Wednesday, twenty-six of Dhū ’1-Hijja [29 October] and was buried on Thursday, twenty-seventh of the same [30 October], [in the] year eight hundred and sixty-three [1459].

Text of the inscription (Plate 3):

انتقل العبد الضعيف
المحتاج إلى رحمة رب العالمين المحب لأولاد
سيد المرسلين المخلص للعلماء الراشدين
المبغض للكفار والمشركين والمعين للإسلام والمسلمين
الغ خان جهان عليه الرحمة والغفران من دار الدنيا
إلى دار البقاء ليلة الأربعاء في ستة وعشرين من
ذوالحجة
ودفن يوم الخميس سبع وعشرين منه
سنة ثلاث وستين وثمانماية



Plate 49.5: Khan Jahan Mausoleum complex inscription at Bagerhat,
[Photo courtesy: Prof. Yusuf Siddiq].

Text of inscription (Plate 5):

هذه
 روضة مباركة
 من رياض الجنة لخان الأعظم
 خان جهان عليه الرحمة والرضوان تحريرا
 في ست وعشرين من ذي الحجة سنة ثلاث وستين وثمانماية

Translation:

This is a blessed garden among the gardens of Paradise for the noble Khān Jahān, the mercy and favour (of Allah) be on him; written on the twenty-sixth of Dhū 'l-Hijja, [in the] year eight hundred and sixty-three.

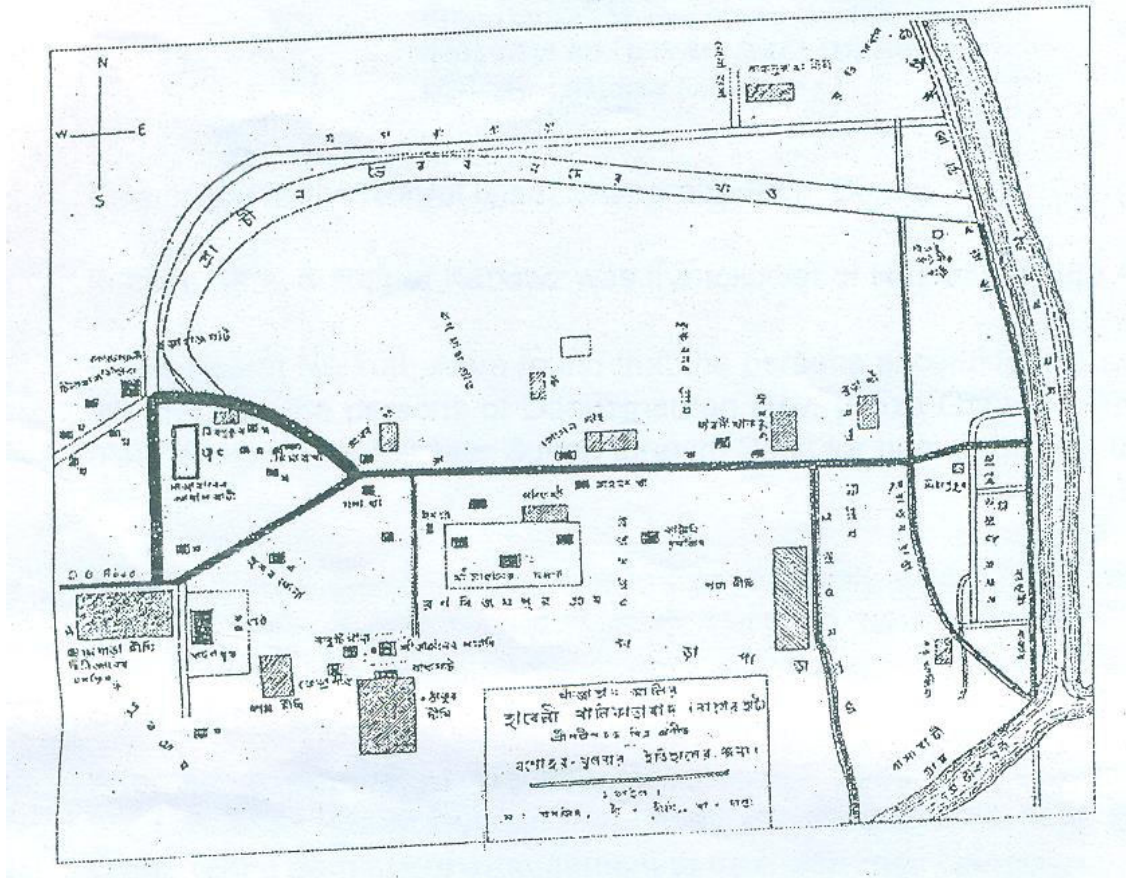


Plate 49.6: Map of Bagerhat region, Khalifatabad [Photo courtesy: Mitra, Satish chandra, 2006, *Jessore-Khulnar Itihas* (Bengali), Vol. 1, Dhaka].



Plate 49.7: Khan Jahan Mausoleum complex inscription at Bagerhat,
[Photo courtesy: Prof. Yusuf Siddiq].

As regards the conservation of the *Saith Gumbad* mosque, it was built hundreds of years before with mainly bricks. The roof suspended on arches who transferred the load of the roof and concentrated on 60 pillars of sand stone collected from temples with chain and bell motif and side massive four walls and the mortar of Bakhari lime and *surki* which lost its strength.

I draw the attention of the archaeological authority to scrutinize the matter seriously to avoid any accident in near future. In my opinion, an experienced structural civil engineer consultant should be engaged to scrutinize thoroughly and reinforce the entire structure with strong concrete frame structure for protection and preservation and maintain the historical architectural feature of the main large mosque with a view to protect the national monument.

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