

Field Trip 1

Location: Kaliakoir, Gazipur

Places visited: Dhol Samudra, Kaliakoir

Date of visitation: 12th, May, 2018

Participants: Chandrika Mondal, Graduate Research Assistant; Mohammad Riad Uddin, Research Associate; Dr. Syed Abul Basher, Professor; Dr. Salim Rashid, Director, CUSSD

Report:

On May 12, 2018, we started our journey to kaliakoir at 7.30 am. The distance of our destination from Natun Bazar, Badda is about 47 km. We reached our destination at 11 am. Basically, it took 3.30 hours but it will take less time in future because the construction of a flyover road is in progress at Konabari, Gazipur.

When we reached there we had seen three ponds. Local people called them “Choto Pukur”, “Majhari Dholpukur” and “Boro Dholpukur”. The big and the medium one of those ponds are really large in size. Nowadays, those sizes are really rear. The remarkable thing is these three ponds were built at the time of the Pala dynasty, local people said. We saw our national flower “Shapla” in those “dighi” looks very beautiful. We think, in the rainy season it blooms more and it might attract the people who love the flower. Local people said that one of the ponds was dug for the soldiers and the small one was dug for the members of the Pala family. However, the history of those ponds is an ancient story without proof. If the proof of the history of those ponds could be found, that could attract the domestic and international tourist.



Figure 1: Snap shosChoto Pukur

An Archeological place was identified just beside the “Choto Pukur”. Department of Archeology, Government of the Republic of Bangladesh dug the place for 2 years and found some signs from Pala Dynasty. Nevertheless, the government recovered the place for some unknown reason. In front of this place, there is a big field. Some archeological monument could be found in that place also, headmaster of Dholsumadra Primary School said. According to the interview of two persons

at the dholsumadra area, after digging approximately 6-7 feet the government found some monuments. Dholsumadra Primary School took a sample and kept it in a showcase. We saw the sample. Another teacher from girls high school confirmed the statement of the headmaster. He also added that he won the place and did not allow the government to dig the place without intensive. According to the history, Pala Dynasty had followed the religion of Buddhism and the archeology department also found some symbol of the Temple. When the government found that temple, some religious people came to that place to pray for their ancestors, local people said. So, these place might attract the Buddhist or Hindu religious people. If the place could be dug for 30 to 35 feet, the kingdom could be found, Prof Farid Uddin (lives at Kutamoni) said. He also said that what he wrote in his book that was not found yet.



Figure 2: Snapshots of the scenery beside the restaurant at Mokosh Beel.

All the information above confirms that there was a kingdom of Pala Dynasty. If the monuments of the kingdom can be recovered, the place will be an archeological tourism spot near Dhaka.

We found another beel named Uzan beel that will be very attractive for the tourist during the rainy season. During the rainy season the Beel twilights in the water. Local people use to catch fish in the rainy season. On the other side of the Ddhoolsumudra area, there is a forest. An archeological place with a Beel and a forest are available in one place which is near Dhaka. All of these can be very attractive to the local and international tourist.

The industrial area is very near to the Dholshomudra. Foreigners often visit the industrial area as a purpose of inspection. Dholshomudra area can attract them for a day tour as the area is very close to their visit area. The nearest archeological area is Comilla Moynamoti which is 114 kilometers far from Dhaka but this place is 47 kilometers far from Dhaka. For international tourist and visitors, this place could be a time saving the tourism spot.

Reported By: Chandrika Mondal, Graduate Research Assistant