

Archaeologists consider the exposed structural remains as a Buddhist temple according to its structural and evolutionary features. This cruciform temple (the four projections spread around the square structure of the square) is believed to be an important addition to the evolution of the Eastern Indian temple architecture after the 7th century. According to the terminology of temple architecture, such temples are known as the Sarbotavadra style. Ground plan of the central temple of Somapuri Mahavihara, Shalban Bihara and the Vikramasila Mahavihara are similar to this temple. Later this architectural form of temple influenced Buddhist temple architecture in southeastern Asia. Till now, it is the only Sarbotavadra temple discovered in the active delta region of south-west of Bangladesh.

Visiting Hours

In Summer

1 April to 30 September  
Tuesday to Saturday  
10:00 AM - 06:00 PM  
Monday 02:00 PM - 06:00 PM  
Sunday: Weekly Holiday

In Winter

1 October to 31 March  
Tuesday to Saturday  
09:00 AM - 05:00 PM  
Monday 01:30 PM - 05:00 PM  
Sunday: Weekly Holiday



Regional Directorate Office, Khulna  
Department of Archaeology  
Ministry of Cultural Affairs



**Bharat Bhayna**  
An Early Medieval Buddhist Temple



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Bharat Bhayna Buddhist temple is situated in Bharat Bhayna village of Keshabpur upazila of Jessore District, about 300m east and south-east of the Burnvadra River. Famous archaeologist Kashinath Dikshit has been conducted the preliminary survey work in adjacent areas on 1922-23. Later, the Department of Archeology, Bangladesh conducted the archaeological excavation in 1984-85, 1996-2001 and in 2016-17. Based on form and style of temple architecture, the first construction period of the uncovered structure can be sometime between 7th-9th century.

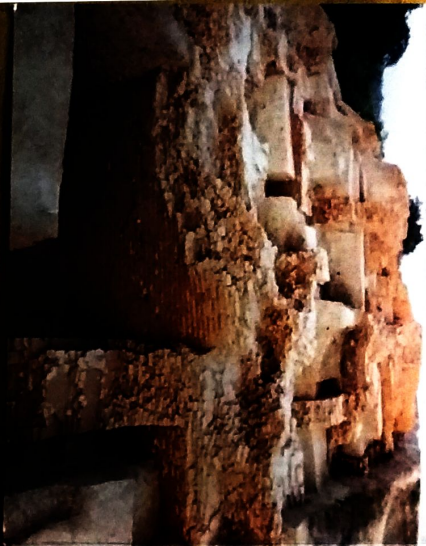




There is a 3 meter wide circumambulatory pathway around the main structure. Based on recent excavation, it can be assumed that it was transformed into two or more periods. In the first period, probably a square architectural structure was constructed with panel ornaments, with an entrance door on one side. Later, four projections were added around the four sides with this panel ornamented square structure. Walls with panels and some parts of later addition (projections) were finally covered with the walls of the last period.

There is a square shaped 11.88 m high brick built platform at the top of the architectural structure. It is formed with 4 blind cells with 2.80 meter thick walls. There was a superstructure on this platform. Now, the walls and the fragments of very few courses of bricks can be found. Moreover, other features are totally destroyed.

Structural remains of Bharat Bhayna Buddhist Temple

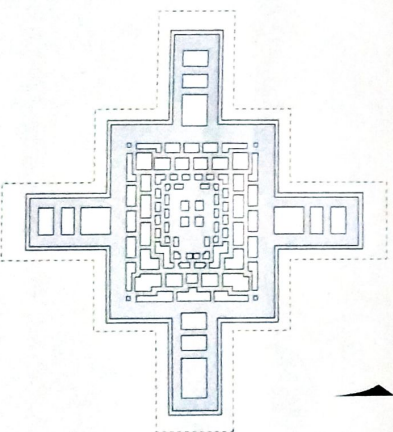


A high space constructed with ninety-four blind cells of different shape to build the platform. To make a space elevated and consolidated with blind cells for constructing religious architecture on the top is a popular and significant feature of the architecture of the ancient Bengal. Although such architectural construction techniques are used in elsewhere in South Asia. The use of this technique can be seen in different



Fragment of a Terracotta bull head

Ground Plan of Bharat Bhayna Buddhist Temple



archaeological sites of Bangladesh (such as Gokul Mebh of Mahasthangarh, Dumdum Prasthan Dhibi of Jessore etc.).

Fragments of terracotta plaques of human body and animal body, various types of ornamented bricks, potteries used for various daily and religious rituals have been found from archaeological excavation. It is a protected archaeological site by Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ornamented bricks with various types of geometric and floral design (copping, denting, arch, flower etc) have been found from archaeological excavation. Probably the architecture was decorated with these ornamented bricks.

Decorated Panel of Earlier Square Structure



Besides, various types of potteries have been found from archaeological excavation. Most of them are Bowl, Handi, Dhupdani, Kalasa, Storage jar etc. This kind of potteries have been found from different sites of Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Fragments of terracotta plaques have been found from archaeological excavation. Among them, different parts of human body (such as: head, arms and legs, clothes and ornaments, etc.) and animal body (e.g. bull head).



Fragment of a large size terracotta plaque

Human Head : Fragment of Terracotta Plaque

