

**English translation:**

**Woman 1:** Bangladesh is home to 365 Muslim saints. Those who are interested can go around the different districts and visit the religious locations, where saints or other religious figures are buried. In every district, there is at least one or more religious establishments. In Dhaka, the beautiful Sonargaon<sup>1</sup> is located. Everyone should go and visit that tourist spot.

**Background voices:** Tell us a story about the history of Bengal.

**Woman 1:** When we were small, there were two lakes located in Cox's Bazar which still exist today, the Komoladighi and the Shagordighi. The history of Komoladighi is very interesting. Komoladighi was the only child of a zamidar.<sup>2</sup> When the Queen was pregnant, the king had a dream that he will have a very beautiful daughter and when she completes 12 years of her life, the king will have to sacrifice her in the name of Allah. The King had no children. The next day the King told the dream to his....

**Woman 2:** The Queen?

**Woman 1:** The King and Queen both had the dream. They then approached people who interpret dreams, such as Imam<sup>3</sup> or Moulana,<sup>4</sup> who are in the King's entourage. They told him that if this dream is truly a message, you will witness it three days in a row. Alas, the king saw the dream three days in a row. The King thought that if he had to sacrifice his daughter at the age of 12, what was the point of having the daughter? The King prayed all night and asked God, "The vision I had the last three nights... I do not have any children; if you give me a daughter and then take her away, I think it is better not to have a child at all." What was predetermined by Allah, he had already shown the King. In a few days, the news spread that the King was having a girl. In the meantime, there was a scarcity of water in the town. The King ordered his men to dig a lake. In Cox's Bazar, the Komoladighi and the Shagordighi are right next to each other.

Woman 1 asks Woman 2: [Don't you see it when you head over to Cox's Bazar?]

**Woman 1:** The Komoladighi and Shagordighi were cut next to each other. The lakes were cut really deep but no water would rise. Meanwhile the daughter turned 12. In these

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<sup>1</sup> On the Dhaka-Chittagong highway about 29 km from Dhaka, *Sonargaon* is one of the oldest capitals of Bengal. It was the seat of the Deva Dynasty until the 13th century. From that century onward until the advent of the Mughals, Sonargaon was the subsidiary capital of the Sultanate of Bengal. Another name of Sonargaon was "The City of Panam".

<sup>2</sup> *Zamidar* means landlord, and here zamidar and King have been used interchangeably, but they both refer to the King.

<sup>3</sup> The word *Imam* appears eleven times in the QURAN with different meanings. In this case the most relevant meaning is leader (2:124).

<sup>4</sup> *Moulana* means cleric or a person well-versed in religious norms and practices.

past 12 years, the lakes were completely empty. So the King was wondering why, even after two lakes have been cut, no water rose. He concluded that there must be a reason for that. The King then had the same dream again in which he saw that if he lets his daughter go to the lake, as soon as she steps on it, the water will rise. Can any father or mother give up their child? But in those times, *zamidars* were very religious, and considered Allah's orders to be very important. Then he pacified his wife, dressed up his daughter, and right at 12:00 pm, took her to the Komoladighi. As she went down into the lake step by step, water started to creep up and slowly Princess Komola drowned in the water. Ever since then, the lake has been called Komoladighi after the princess.

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