

BULLETIN



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RAY OF LIGHT CARE SERVICES IN BANGLADESH

Ray of Light Care Services has started operation as the first ever comprehensive and person centered Caregiving Service in Bangladesh. The organisation provides Personal Care and Home Help Services, which includes Nursing Care; Companionship; Befriending; Respite Care; Day Care Facilities and Child Care Services to a variety of age groups by highly trained professionals. Currently, neither in the developed nor in the developing world, the growing demand for care services is being met with a proportionate growth in the number of qualified professionals. Nizam Chowdhury, Managing Director at Ray of Light Care Services, was directly involved in the sector in UK for over 20 years, and

SIFAT MOSADDEK BHUIYAN

realised a similar potential demand of such services in Bangladesh. This compelled him to come back and set up an organisation here with a very clear vision. Trusting random strangers with no proven training or track record with the care giving responsibility of precious family members is inconceivable in Bangladesh. The staff at Ray of Light Care Services, called 'Friends of Ray of Light', is hand-picked after a thorough filtering process. They are provided with intensive in-house training in order to provide for the sophisticated needs of each client. The organisation also provides full support for regular

household chores such as the bill paying, banking, and shopping needs by highly trained staff. This makes Ray of Light Care Services a unique service provider that caters to any and household care assistance. With an encouraging number of responses, Ray of Light Care Services is looking forward to set the standard as a pioneering services provider in this sector, which is poised to grow in coming times. Children, sick, disabled and the elderly people can finally be trusted with professionals trained by a very experienced management at Ray of Light Care Services. All in all this organisation provides a comprehensive support which is going to be tailor-made to your needs and requirements.

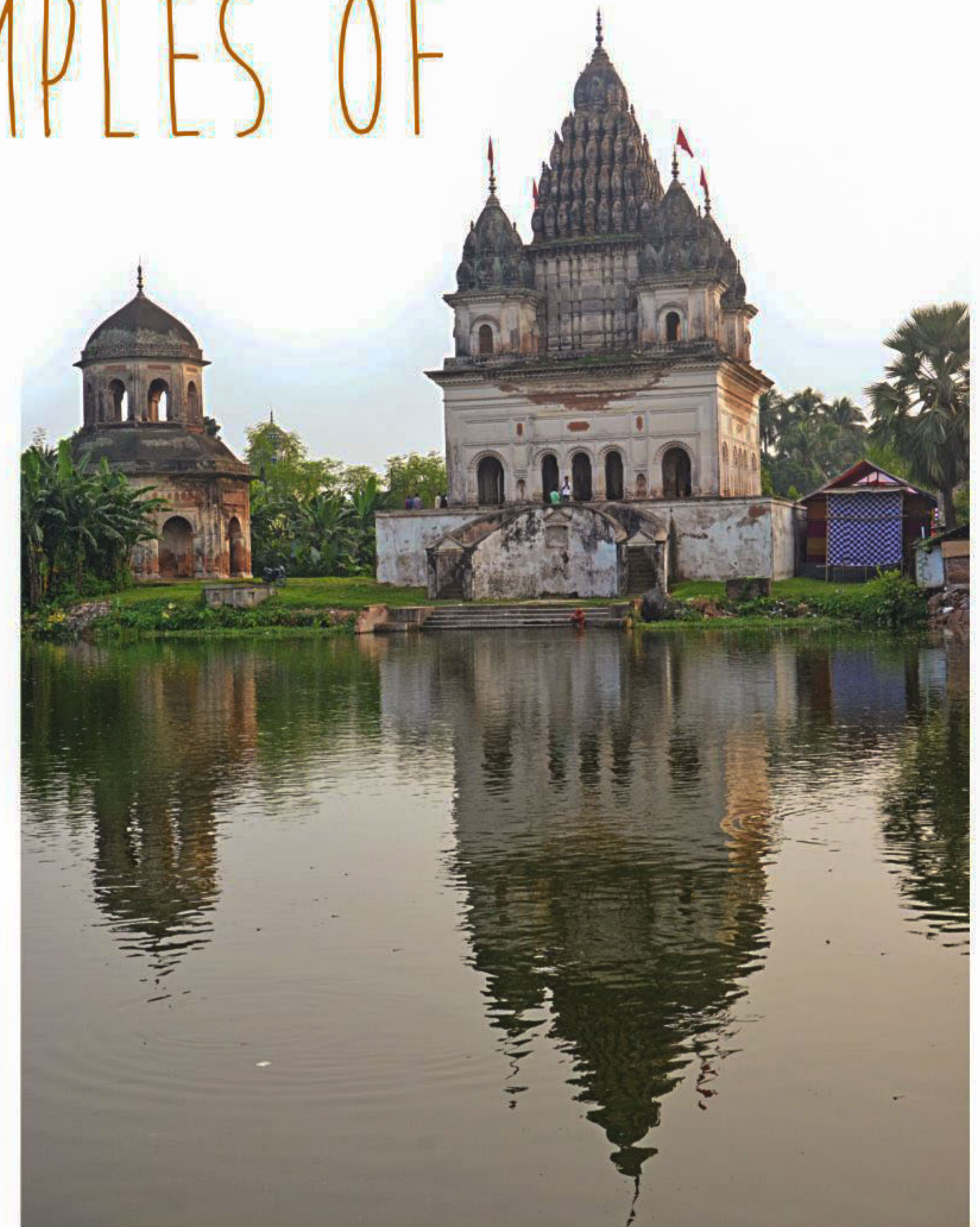
HERITAGE

The royal palace of Puthia, a small town near Rajshahi district, is one of the most popular archaeological sites of Bangladesh. For its grandeur and rich history full of myths and legends, this palace of a Mughal era zamindar dynasty attracts a lot of tourists, history enthusiasts and researchers. However, besides the royal palace, the palace precinct holds some of the greatest historical and architectural resources of our country. This is the temple complex of Puthia which includes fourteen ancient Hindu temples of different architectural styles erected by the lords of this palace in different times of their rule over the north-western part of Bangladesh that spans more than three centuries.

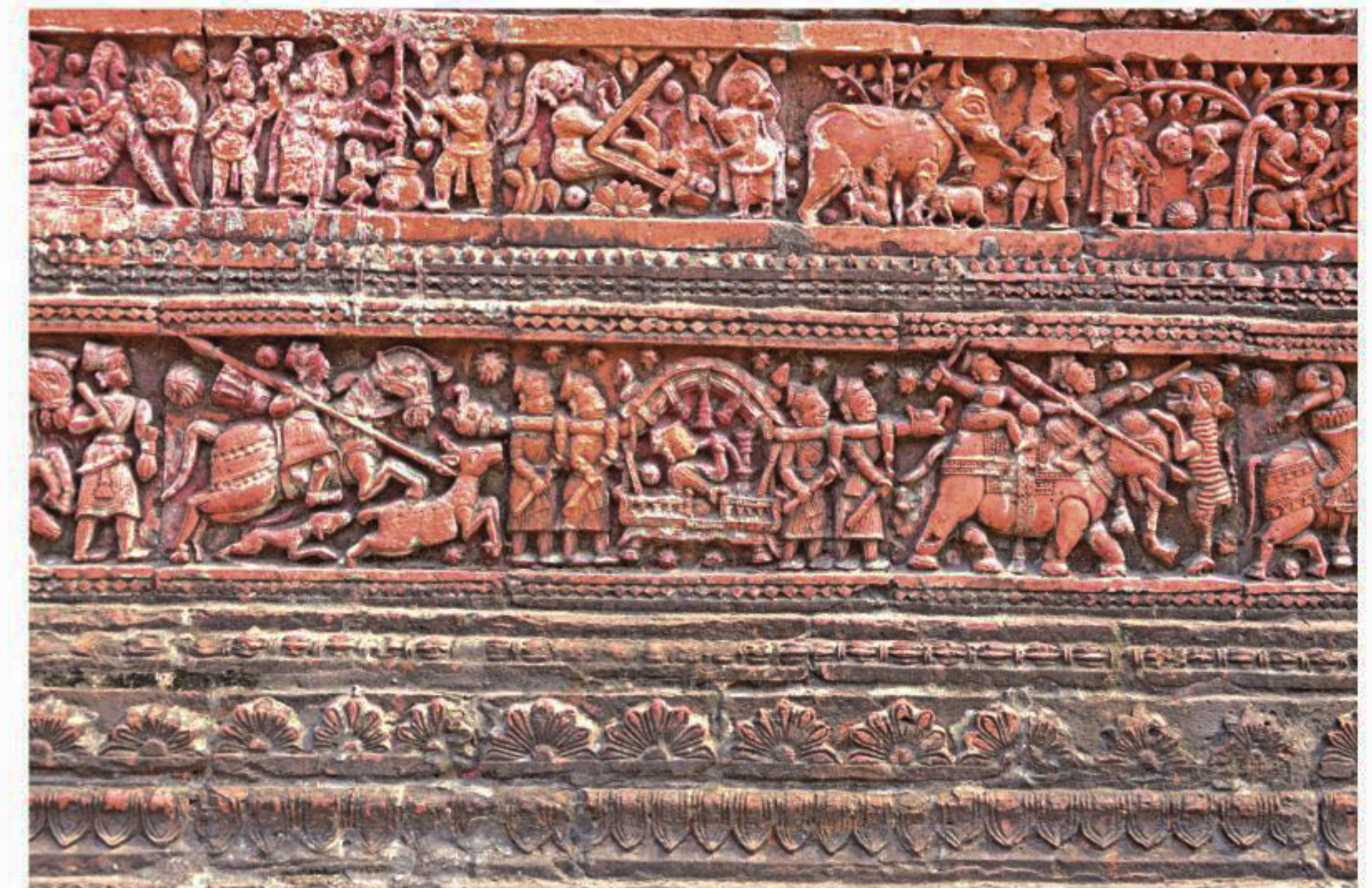
A large four storey structure coated with white plaster towers above the surrounding lakes, bazaar and all other buildings and guards the entrance to the palace precinct. This square shaped fortress like building is actually the largest temple of the Puthia temple complex. Housing ancient black-stone statues of the holy Hindu couple Krishna and Radha, the temple, known as Dol Govinda temple was erected in 1778. The temple's four storey structure which gradually goes up and finishes with a small square chamber is much similar to the Panchamahal structure of Fatehpur Sikri. In the palace courtyard lies another impressive offering to the divine lovers Radha and Krishna which is called Bara Govinda temple. Placed on a high stone carved platform, this gigantic brick built structure is famous for its exquisite terracotta ornamentation. The outer wall

THE TEMPLES OF PUTHIA

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN
PHOTOS: ANWAR ALI



THE TEMPLES OF PUTHIA ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RICH CULTURAL HISTORY OF BENGAL. AS MOST OF THE TEMPLES ARE STILL FREQUENTED BY HINDU DEVOTEES, MOST OF THE STRUCTURES OF THE COMPLEX ARE MORE OR LESS IN GOOD CONDITION.



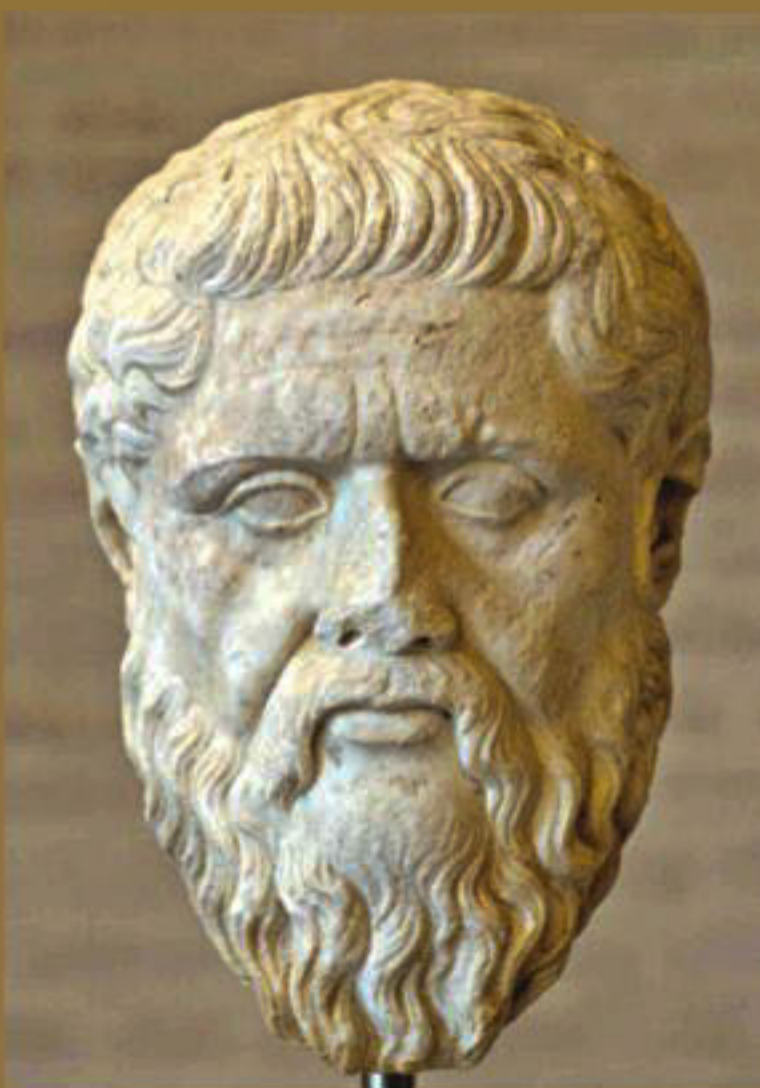
of the temple has gracefully depicted the legends of Ramayan, Radha-Krishna and also the historical incidents of Mughal campaigns in Bengal. The four pyramidal shaped vaults on the temple's main structure proves the awesome architectural brilliance of the people of this part of Bengal. However, it cannot be known by whom and when the temple was erected but it is assumed from its architectural style that it was built in the second of half of 17th century. The palace courtyard is studded with many small shrines belonging to many

deities. These shrines are also very beautiful and boast of exquisite terracotta decoration. Just a few metres across, beside the treasury house of the palace, situated a complex of four temples. These four historic temples are Boro Ahnik temple, Chhoto Ahnik temple, Chhoto Govinda temple and Gopal temple. Highly ornamented terracotta plaques, traditional Bengali architectures such as pyramidal vaults and arched roof (chauchala and dochala) are some of the most appealing aspects of these architectural beauties. Gracefully

landscaped by tranquil ponds and lakes, these temples are still frequently visited by Hindu devotees. On the other side of the lakes, there are two massive but a bit isolated temples. One is called temple of Tara and another is temple of Shiva. The first one is almost destroyed and engulfed by trees and shrubs. However, the latter is well preserved and highly revered by the Hindus as it is considered as the largest Shiva temple of the subcontinent. The white plastered Shiva temple, placed on a very high platform, is famous for its

unique architectural aesthetics. Crowned by five massive pancharatra structures (towers), it is also called Pancharatra Temple (Temple of the Five Jewels). The temples of Puthia are an integral part of the rich cultural history of Bengal. As most of the temples are still frequented by Hindu devotees, most of the structures of the complex are more or less in good condition. However, a few of the structures have ruined and measures should be taken to protect the existing structures from further destruction and any careless modification.

PEARLS OF WISDOM



"MUSIC IS A MORAL LAW. IT GIVES SOUL TO THE UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND, FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION, AND CHARM AND GAITY TO LIFE AND TO EVERYTHING."
PLATO
Greek Philosopher



"I THINK MUSIC IN ITSELF IS HEALING. IT'S AN EXPLOSIVE EXPRESSION OF HUMANITY. IT'S SOMETHING WE ARE ALL TOUCHED BY. NO MATTER WHAT CULTURE WE'RE FROM, EVERYONE LOVES MUSIC"
BILLY JOEL
American Pianist, Singer-song writer and composer



"WITHOUT THAT MOMENT OF CLARITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SONG, IT'S JUST COMPLAINING"
JONI MITCHELL
Canadian Singer-song writer