

✓ Bangabandhu Memorial Library or business centre?

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Bangabandhu Memorial Library in the district town hardly sees any reader as the four-storey building has virtually turned into a business set-up, housing a hotel, a bKash centre, and a conference room.

There are some books kept in three selves on the ground floor but in absence of librarian or any other staff to help readers get access to the books, those remain untouched.

There is not even any photo of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The four-storey library building adjacent to Goroshthan Jame

Masjid area of the district town was inaugurated by Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs State Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Singh on October 30, 2015.

From the very beginning, the building gave the impression of a commercial set-up, said several town dwellers.

Mong Owai Ching Marma, assistant engineer of Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) said, "BHDC implemented the project of 'Bangabandhu Memorial Library' at a cost of Tk 1.50 crore in the financial years of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016."

"District Awami League's [AL] Organising Secretary Mozammel Haque Bahadur was contractor of

the project. Although the project was meant for highlighting Bangabandhu to the readers, few local AL leaders planned to make it a commercial building, he added.

Contacted over phone
Mozammel declined to comment
in this regard.

"The purpose of establishing Bangabandu Memorial Library in the tourist town was to highlight the works, historical moments, political life and personality of Bangabandhu but a few leaders of the ruling party have turned it into a political party," he said.

party leader

Md Sattar, a local AL man who is using the third floor of the building for hotel business, said: "I don't want to make any comment in this regard. If you have any query you may contact with party leaders."

Bangabandu Memorial Library.
B a n d a r b a n D e p u t
Commissioner Dilip Kum
Banik said, "We are not aware
the condition of Bangaband
Memorial Library."

Kwe Shwe Hla, chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), also president of the district unit AL, said, "District unit AL is now taking care of the library after the implementation of the project."

BHDC sources said there is a provision to hand over a library to the cultural affairs ministry after implementation of the project but it was not followed in case of Bangabandhu Memorial Library in the district town.