



The Ali Amjad Clock (Bengali: আলী আমজদের ঘড়ি) is the oldest clock tower of Bangladesh located on the bank of Surma River in Sylhet City. It is locally known as "Ghori Ghar" and a popular tourist attraction adjacent to the Keane Bridge.

Ali Amjad's Clock is a historic monument in Sylhet. Built in the nineteenth century, this clock is located in Chandni ghat beside the Keen Bridge. It is a large clock erected on the top of a house. This historic monument of Sylhet is now in a dead-lock condition due to lack

of proper maintenance. However it is still a great attraction for the tourists visiting Sylhet.

The clock was made in 1874 when Mr. North Brook, the then Governor of North America visited Sylhet. This clock was made by Ali Amjad's estate fund to honor him. Therefore the clock is known as Ali Amjad's Clock.

The clock's diameter is two and a half feet and the clock hands are about two feet long. When there was no clock in this region, people used to guess the time according to the position of the sun. So the construction of the clock was very useful for the people of that time. During that time, people used to work according to the time of the clock at the entrance of the city. The clock bell could be heard from far beyond the city.

During the War of Liberation in 1971, this ancient Clock house was destroyed by the Pakistan army. After independence, Sylhet municipality reactivated the clock by repairing, but soon after the clock was stopped. In 1987 it was repaired and restored again. Since then the clock has been repaired and modified many times. And lastly, in 2011, Sylhet City Corporation repaired the clock again and it is now functioning properly. This is a must visit monument in Sylhet for the tourists interested in history.

Besides this landmark, there are four more landmarks listed in Sylhet. There's also fifteen attractions listed in this district in other categories. You will find the exact location of Ali Amjad's Clock on the map above.



A popular old proverb about the Sylhet city mentions the clock:

Coordinates 24°53'18"N 91°52'04"ECoordinates: 24°53'18"N
91°52'04"E

Location Sylhet, Bangladesh

Designer Nawab Moulvi Ali Ahmed Khan

Type Tower

Material Tin

Width 5.1 m (16.7 ft)

Height 7.4 m (24.3 ft)

Opening date 1874



History:

The tower was constructed in 1872 by Ali Amjad's father, Nawab Moulvi Ali Ahmed Khan, just two years before he was born. Nawab Ali Amjad Khan was the 8th Nawab of the Prithimpasha estate in Kulaura, Moulvibazar.

Many people think that Ali Amjad Khan, a Nawab of Prithimpasha, built this tower clock. But nobody could find out exactly when the clock has started ticking.

According to the Nawab's family tree, the clock was presented by Ali Amjad's father, Nawab Ali Ahmed Khan, which was later constructed in around 1895. Another source said, Ali Amjad was invited to visit Delhi and thereby was charmed by the clock made with the inspiration of the princess of Delhi. He also craved to build the same and eventually made the tower clock with a similar design and pattern in Sylhet.

During the War of Liberation in 1971, this ancient clock tower was dispersed by bullets of Pak Occupation Army. After Independence, the clock was repaired by Sylhet City Municipality that made it active. But the clock was stopped soon after.

In 1987, Ali Amjad's Clock was repaired and restored by a technician of a company in Dhaka. After launching the clock was provided with a remote controller to wind the clock. Within a short time the clock stopped again.

In 2011, the Sylhet City Corporation repaired the tower clock again; then it came into operation 24 hours a day.

People arrive here to see the tower clock from far flung places all over the country. But the clock recently has become inactive. The clock is worn out repeatedly due to lack of proper repair work done with the help of modern technology.