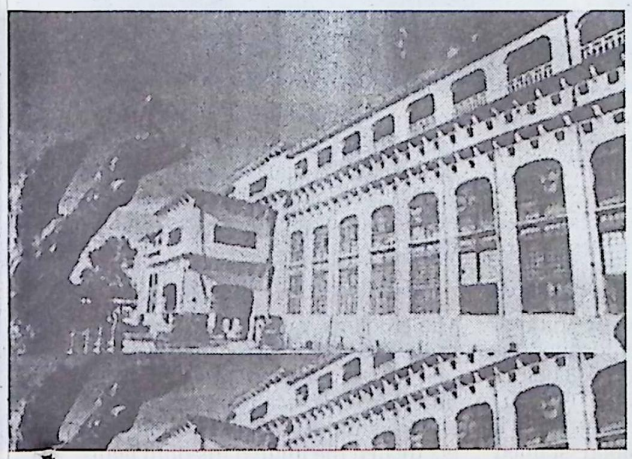
The Beginning

Though the college did not have a building of its own at the beginning, the present hospital building was there from long ago, even before the 'Bangabhango' of 1905. It was established in 1904 as the secretariat of the newly formed province East Bengal and Assam. Not doctors, but bureaucrats used to roam about in its busy corridors then!

In 1921, when University of Dhaka began its journey, the building was handed over to the University administration. At that time, a part of this huge building was used as the University's Medical Centre, another part as students' dormitory and the rest as the administrative wing of the Arts faculty truly a unique combination! During the 2nd world war it changed its color yet again, when it became the American Base Hospital. At the end of the war the Americans left, but the hospital remained. Through the course of time, the 100-bed hospital of that time is Bangladesh's largest hospital today.





In 1946, students were admitted in all years. The 1st year was named K-5, 2nd year K-4, 3rd year K-3, 4th year K-2, and 5th year K-1. All the students except K-5 had migrated from Calcutta Medical College. The main reason behind it was the partition of 1947. Though about half of the present students are females, there used to be none at the beginning.

Major W J Virgin, the head of the committee formed before establishing Dhaka Medical College, was the first principal. Since the college did not have Anatomy and Physiology departments at first, the students had their classes in Mitford Medical School. After a month, Prof. Pashupati Basu of Anatomy and Prof Hiralal Saha of Physiology joined the staff and the classes began in ward no. 22 of the hospital. There was no lecture gallery or dissection hall at that time. These needs were met after the foundation of the college building in 1955.

Current Condition

Starting with only one building, Dhaka Medical College now consists of a college building, an auditorium, a Nuclear Medicine Centre, male and female dormitories, burn units etc. scattered on about 25 acres of land. In 34 different departments and 42 wards - 234 doctors, 140 interns, 560 nurses and 1100 other staffs are dedicated to ensure 24-hour health services. The hospital now consists of about 1700 beds, rendering services to almost 3000 inpatients everyday. Due to tremendous patient load a new 600-bed building is being constructed.

Every year 180 students are admitted in the MBBS course. After passing 3 professional examinations of the 5-year programme a student becomes eligible of being a doctor and has to complete one year internship at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The Medical College also offers 39 different post graduate courses. Now there are about 1100 MBBS students and 900 doctors are in Postgraduate program. The present 37th Principal is Neurologist Prof. Quazi Deen Mohammad (K-30).

The mysterious 'K'

Each and every batch of Dhaka Medical College is named 'K'. No specific explanation was found regarding this 'K'. Therefore various theories are found. Some say 'K' is the 11th letter of English alphabet indicating that DMC was the 11th medical college in the subcontinent at that time. Whatever the meaning is, at this moment 'K' is the identity of almost 10,000 ex and present students of DMC. The latest batch is K-66.

Dhaka Medical College and its role in National History

It will not be an exaggeration to say that the history of DMC is the history of Bangladesh itself, as DMC was involved in all the national movements of Bangladesh. Dhaka Medical College dormitory (known as Barrack) was the heart of the language movement from 1948 to 1952. The Barrack was situated at the same place the Central Shaheed Minar is right now. There was about 20 tin shed barracks where the medical students resided. Being close to the then Parliament of East Pakistan (presently Jagannath Hall of DU), the medical dormitory was chosen as the centre of the student movement due to strategic reasons.