

তারিখ ... 26/10/77 ...  
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## Institute that remembers Sher-E-Bangla

From Our Barisal Correspondence

It is quite befitting that Barisal Medical College is now renamed as the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College. Everyone hails it because the institute has been named after a great son of Bangladesh Sher-e-Bangla A. K. Fazlul Huq, who in his life time became a great legendary figure who placed the well-being of his countrymen above all considerations and devoted his whole energy to the altruistic deeds when the people were in extreme need of them.

We owe a great deal to him for many of his noble deeds. But his contribution towards the establishment of a medical school at the headquarters of this district can never sink into oblivion. The health of the people of this region became a prime concern for him and since 1938 during his incumbency as the Chief Minister of the then Bengal he had been making vigorous attempts to establish a medical college or, if not, a medical school with a modern hospital at Barisal town. But his attempts did not materialise then.

The attempts of the Sher-e-Bangla dates back to 1938 when he along with the then Governor Sir John Herbert came down to Barisal and according to a Cabinet decision had the foundation of medical school laid by the Governor at a site at Amanat-

ganj where at present Barisal TB Hospital and the Red Cross Maternity are situated. The efforts of the Sher-e-Bangla for establishing a medical school at Barisal are obvious from a letter which he wrote on October 13, 1956 as the Governor of erstwhile East Pakistan to the then Chief Minister Mr. Aftab Rahman Khan wherein he had recounted his attempts. The letter reads as follows: "In order to enable you to remember the facts I have to take you back into history. Sometimes after I had taken office in 1937 as Chief Minister I had a resolution passed in the Cabinet for taking proper steps for taking over steps to have a medical school or college and a hospital at Barisal. Sir John Herbert was then the Governor. He was most sympathetic in dealings with me and I had very happy days with him as Governor and myself as Chief Minister. I got the Bengal Cabinet to accept the proposal of having a medical school and a hospital at Barisal and some time in 1938 Sir John Herbert went down to Barisal and laid the foundation stone of a medical school and a hospital. A few days afterwards political events put an end to my official relationship with Sir John Herbert and the matter went into oblivion. Later I tried several times to bring

the matter to the notice of Government but could not succeed. Very recently I had a talk with the United Front Ministers that there should be a regular medical college and hospital on a magnificent scale on a plot of land near about Sagardi in the suburbs of Barisal town. I am told that with the advent of your Government the proposal has been relegated into cold storage of neglect. I am surprised to hear this news ... I do not understand why it should be so. I shall be grateful if you kindly look into records of the whole case and send me the file for my perusal. I will not take this insult to me lying down. I hope you will bestow your best attention on the subject."

Yet the project did not materialise and after some time the Sher-e-Bangla was removed from the office of the Governorship and thereafter he died with one of his long cherished dreams unfulfilled.

At length the foundation stone of the Medical College and Hospital was laid at Sagardi in 1964 and the construction was completed eight years ago. The work of a modern 585-bed hospital is nearing completion too. Very appropriately the college has been renamed after the Sher-e-Bangla.