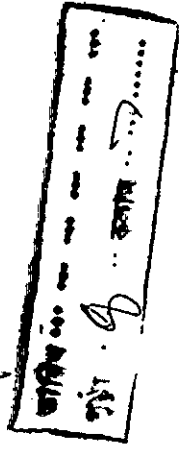


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PROF. Shahjahan also worked as Coordinator of the national and international projects, such as "The Development of the Himalayan Resources" in which four countries, viz. Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan worked jointly on the basis of regional cooperation; (b) Evaluation of the Joint Bangladesh-Dutch Project on the Delta Development and Land Reclamation; (c) Evaluation of the Bill Dakatia Project: An environmentally degraded water logged area due to over irrigation and salinity; (d) Erosion Control Measures at Sikalbaha on the river Karnafuli for 50 MW Power Station; (e) Rectification and redesign of canals 1, 2 and 11 of the East-West Inter-Connector and also in designing of the monitoring system for the bank erosion; (f) Review and Optimization Plan of the components of Teesta Barrage Project: (i) Barrage, Canal Hydraulic Structures, (ii) Study of Silt Problem (iii) Reviewing the Plan and Layout of the various Structures and (iv) Design of Silt Trap (v) Mathematical Model Study of the Pussur-Sibsa River System and Karnafuli River Entrance.

He also worked on the projects like Physical and Mathematical Modelling of the Brahmaputra right bankment and designing of the plan for Chandpur town protection. Besides these, he helped the Government in establishing River Research Institute at Faridpur and in preparing the Model of the Mobile Bed of Brahmaputra river. Almost all of the papers submitted were highly revered. Particularly his enlightening article on "Devising the Ganges: Farakka Barrage and its impact on Bangladesh" presented at the London University in 1993 was very much timely and it made known to all the present grim realities of Bangladesh due to Farakka barrage. He was associated with different important

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By Anowar Hossain

national and international organizations, bodies etc. He was Chairman: National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute; Committee on water resources, Federation of the Institute of Engineers for South and Central Asia; Vice President: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. He became Member Bangladesh-India Task Force on Flood Management: Bangladesh-China Technical Committee on Flood Management: Bangladesh-Bhutan Team of Experts on Flood Management Associate Member, American Society of Civil Engineers. Currently Prof. Shahjahan is Chairman and Life Member National Committee on the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Chairman, Association of Universities of Bangladesh (AUB): Vice Chairman, National Council for International Commission on Large same (ICOLD). Member, National Council for Science and Technology of the Government of Bangladesh; National Council of Environment; National Computer Council; International Institute of Environmental Studies and Disaster Management Board of Governors, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre; Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO; National Council of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh and National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI). Performing all the above assign-

ments efficiently, he has achieved high reputation for the country and his contribution towards building the nation is highly acclaimed on all hands. Every student longs for his certificate after obtaining degree. This helps him establish in the society. It is traditional that the University has to issue original certificates among the students through holding convocation regularly. But due to unavoidable circumstances convocation could not be held for a long period of 16 years in BUET. As such students seeking employment at home and abroad sometimes face trouble with their provisional certificates. Prof. Shahjahan felt the difficulties being faced by the students with utmost importance. As a result of his earnest efforts and bold steps, the 3rd Convocation of the University was held in 1992 after a long gap of 16 years 4th convocation was also held in 1993 by his earnest endeavor. In consequence of which convocation of this University is all but updated. And simultaneously he took measures to give the medals accumulated so far to the passed out students of the university. The education system of a nation should be dynamic and objective. For this purpose, updating in curriculum and syllabuses are essentially needed to suit the conditions of contemporary life, gradual development and expansion of learning in multifarious directions and socio economic changes of the day. Professor Shahjahan realized it and

felt the necessity of radical change in the prevailing semester system. With this end in view, he introduced course system of studies from 1990-91 session in this University in lieu of semester system. The Unique advantage of the course system of studies is that it offers the student flexibility in choosing the course depending on his ability, competence and convenience and enables him to progress at his own pace. The other advantage is that it has done away with the traditional pass or fail on an annual basis with further advance of reducing the number of theoretical courses and examination paper around five in each term. The students can now choose fewer or more courses than the normal course load depending on his or her capabilities and need. The introduction of internationally accepted letter grades and grade points including GPA instead of numerical grades has helped merit being rewarded and recognised without discrimination. The system has fostered growth of teacher student contact ushering in a happy academic atmosphere in the university. The commencement of the classes of the students who are admitted every year in the BUE is delayed due to some reasons. Naturally these meritorious students have to wait in an inactive state till their classes begin. Professor Shahjahan for the first time in BUET took a special mass education programme for such students under gov-

ernment's patronage. This programme aims at educating at least ten illiterates by every student and turning them into literate ones. Meanwhile this programme has success fully been completed with the help of special grant of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. In regards to mass education, this venture will be marked out as a mile stone in the days to come. Evil doings of mastans and miscreants at all educational institutions in Bangladesh are not unknown to anybody. It has stretched its supremacy like a deadly disease in every part of the country. Terrorism in education at institutions is now a daily and customary affair. Scuffle and killings are taking place frequently and in consequence various educational institutions including universities are being closed for an indefinite period. Due to this alarming situation students education-life has been falling in severe uncertainty and session Jam is increasing in almost all institutions. The whole education system of the country is now indirectly at stake and standing in front of threat. But the BUET is an Exception. Immediately after taking over charge as Vice Chancellor, Professor Shahjahan took up the gauntlet to wipe out terrorism and chaos from the campus. He adopted various far sighted and bold measures to eliminate terrorism from the BUET campus. As a result of his defiant and bold steps, eradication of terrorism has been

possible. Security of life and property on the campus have been fully ensured. BUET is the only institution in Bangladesh where misdeeds of the mastans have been brought under control to a great extent and in fact it is due to Prof. Shahjahan that congenial atmosphere for education and peace and tranquility have been preserved. Professor Shahjahan took part actively in the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. At that time he used to perform overall duties for the freedom fighters' organization stationed at the Engineering University area. He acted as a representative of the freedom fighters to the National Committee formed by Shaheed Ziaur Rahman under the leadership of the then Establishment Minister Major General M. Majid-ul-Haq. Professor Shahjahan has more than 50 publications in national and international journals and 40 technical reports on national and international problems. He is a co-author of an engineering book entitled "A text Book of Surveying."

Professor Shahjahan has made commendable efforts in promoting education, specially engineering education in the country. He has been awarded EKUSHEY PADAK for 1996 in recognition of his notable contribution to the field of education. He was also awarded (a) Maulana Akram Khan Memorial Gold Medal, 1993 (b) Genesis, a cultural organisation Gold Medal, and one daughter. (End)

1994 and (c) Dhaka Jubo Foundation Gold Medal, 1995 for his outstanding contribution to the field of education.

Besides discharging his occupational responsibilities, Professor Shahjahan is actively associated with activities of various cultural and social organizations. He is the Advisor of Keraniganj Chattrachari Kallyan Samity. He is also and Adviser to the Executive Committee of "Dristikun Darsak Forum". He has been elected President of Dhaka Samity for the term 1994-1996. The Dhaka Samity is doing yeoman's service to the society, such as arranging literary programmes for the poor students and blood donation to the needy. He is president of Zinjira Jubo Samity. Organizing eye-camps, distribution of scholarships and stipends among the poor and meritorious students, setting up of libraries, making arrangements for improvement of hygienic and sanitation condition, supply of pure drinking water and health care in the locality are the main functions of this Samity. Dr. Shahjahan is a widely travelled Professor. He visited the USA U.K. India, Thailand, Malaysia, Italy, Nepal, Denmark, Pakistan, Iraq, Japan, Brazil, China, Bhutan, Holland, Canada and Ireland. Professor Shahjahan has a liking for all kinds of outdoor and indoor games. Once he was a very skillful player of Football, Cricket, Hockey and Badminton.

Professor Shahjahan is known to his friends and colleagues as a man of amiable disposition and charming personality. As educationist, administrator, a scientist and an engineer of high calibre and versatile genius with great social consciousness Prof. Shahjahan is a proud and illustrious son of Bangladesh. He is happily married and has a small family of one son and one daughter.