

## Obituary



**Late Prof. Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed**  
(1923-2018)

Professor Wahiduddin Ahmed, a renowned civil engineer, teacher, academic administrator, expert in technical education, former Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and a Fellow of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) passed away on Saturday, 03 November 2018 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilhi rajiun). Professor Ahmed was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1923 in a respectable Muslim family of Comilla (now Chandpur).

Professor Wahiduddin Ahmed, obtained a B.Sc. degree from University of Dhaka and graduated in Civil Engineering from the Aligarh Muslim University in 1946, obtained Masters degree in Civil Engineering from University of California (Berkeley), USA in 1950 and Ph.D (Civil Engineering) from University of Wales, UK in 1962.

Professor Ahmed joined the then Ahsanullah Engineering College (now BUET) as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in 1951. He became Professor and Head of Civil Engineering in 1962 and Dean of Faculty of Engineering in 1966. He served as the Founder Principal of the Chittagong Engineering College and Principal of the Rajshahi Engineering College during 1968 - 1974 and became Director of Technical Education in 1974. He joined as the Vice-Chancellor of BUET on 25th April, 1975 and retired as the Vice-Chancellor on the 25th April, 1983. Professor Ahmed acted as a full time member of the National Pay Commission in 1984. He was an Adviser of the Caretaker Government headed by Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed from December, 1990 to March, 2001 and then became a Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering of BUET. He also acted as the Vice-Chairman of the Bangladesh Institutes of Technology (BIT) Council during 1986 - 1993.

Professor Ahmed was Chairman of the Association of Bangladesh Universities; Member of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities; Trustee, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand; Chairman of the National Educational Environment Committee; Member of Bangladesh National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO; Member of the National Council of Science and Technology; Member of the Standing Committee of National Science and Technology; Chairman of the Association for Engineering Education in South and Central Asia

(Bangladesh Branch); Member of the Board of Governors, National Foundation for Research on Human Resource Development; Member of the Social Science Research Council; Member, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh; Member, Board of Governors, Administrative Staff College, Bangladesh.

Professor Ahmed was a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. He was appointed a member of the Panel of Honorary Advisers of the Board of Trustees of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), in recognition of his long and meritorious service to AIT as its Trustee for many years. He was actively associated with many social welfare organizations including Diabetic Association of Bangladesh. He was Secretary General, President and Ombudsman of Bangladesh Diabetic Association. He had many publications in national and international journals.

Prof. Ahmed attended the conference of the Vice-Chancellors of the Commonwealth Universities in Hong Kong in 1981; Conference held in Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok during the celebration of 20th Anniversary of AIT Foundation in April, 1979; 12th Quinquennial Congress of the Commonwealth Universities, Canada from August 15, 1978 to August 31, 1978; Conference of the Heads of the Commonwealth Universities in New Zealand in February, 1976; UNESCO Regional Science Council Seminar on "Technicians Education and Training - Bangladesh" 1979; Conference of the Heads of the Directorate of Technical Education in Singapore in March, 1975; Seminar on International Intervisitation Programme of the Educational Administration in U.K., June-July, 1974; Seminar on Engineering Education in Bangkok, March, 1965.

In addition, Professor Wahiduddin attended a number of seminars and conferences on Formulation of Science and Technology Policy of the country and on education (general and technical, science and technology) arranged under the auspices of the Universities, Ministries and Institution of Engineers.

Prof. Ahmed visited U.K., U.S.A., Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, Thailand, India, Hong Kong, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

Prof. Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed left behind one son, three daughters, number of grandchildren and a host of well-wishers, students, colleagues, relatives and friends.

In his sad demise, the Academy lost a valued fellow scientist and the nation a great son. We pray to the Almighty Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful, to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to give strength and courage to the members of his family to bear the loss with fortitude.

**- Jamilur Reza Choudhury**