

Presidency univ

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Abul Mansur Ahmad's son journalist Mahfuz Anam will represent the family at the event.

Presidency University said the event will include in-depth discussions on the history of the Language Movement, its global impact, and the ideas of Abul Mansur Ahmad.

It aims to present his political, literary, and intellectual contributions in a new light, the statement reads.

The university also hopes the event will help re-evaluate both the global intellectual context surrounding the Language Movement and the deeper connection between Bengali nationalism and the intersection of literature and politics.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was a respected politician, lawyer, journalist, and writer.

As a literary figure, his satirical works, including Abul Mansur Ahmad's Rochna Somogro, Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochhor, and Bangladesher Culture, remain unique contributions to Bangla literature.

Histhoughts and political role in the Language Movement, democracy, and the preservation of Bengali cultural identity continue to hold relevance today, said the statement.

Over 500

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Sajek after three separate landslides triggered by heavy rainfall blocked the Baghaichhari-Sajek road in Baghaichhari upazila, said Suvarno Dev Barman, president of the Sajek Resort and Cottage Owners' Association.

Atulal Chakma, chairman of Sajek Union Parishad, confirmed that landslides had struck in three locations along the road, halting traffic.

The UNO further said last night's heavy rainfall triggered the landslides. "Movement along the road was suspended. Local residents, the army, and fire service personnel worked together to remove the debris," she added.

Invisible in data, ignored in policy

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These figures were presented at a seminar yesterday titled "Women with Disabilities: Rights and Inclusive Services", organised by Women with Disabilities Development Forum (WDDF) at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Albert Mollah, executive director of Access Bangladesh Foundation, highlighted the severe invisibility of women with disabilities in the labour force. According to the 2021 National Survey on Persons with Disabilities, only 11.34 percent of these women participate in the workforce, with nearly 93 percent lacking any employment, compared to 59 percent of men with disabilities.

He said 37.09 percent are denied essential healthcare due to financial constraints, lack of family support, distant or inaccessible facilities, staff shortages, and privacy issues. Women with disabilities also face disproportionately high rates of mental, physical, and sexual abuse, especially those with intellectual and speech impairments, who are often abused by acquaintances.

A BRAC University study found that 74.3 percent experience mental abuse, 33.2 percent physical abuse, and 10.3 percent sexual violence, largely driven by their vulnerable social and economic status.

Salma Mahbub, founder and general secretary of the Bangladesh Society for The Change and Advocacy Nexus (B-SCAN), said women with disabilities are not truly recognised as women in society.

"A woman becomes a mother, carries a child, and faces reproductive health and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) needs – yet these realities are absent from laws, policies, and services."

"Even women without disabilities often hesitate to use public toilets; the situation is far worse for women with disabilities. Hospitals also lack accessible toilets, resulting in severe neglect and inhumane conditions."

Farida Yesmin, founder and executive director of Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA), emphasised that meaningful change at the state level requires following a specific protocol – something no government has yet implemented in a holistic or strategic way.

She said while the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) includes a small clause for women, its application has not been properly integrated with other laws in an intersectional manner.

She highlighted that healthcare services addressing the specific needs



Obituary

Mrs. Nasreen Sultana, wife of late Engr. Md. Mosharrif Hussain, Additional Chief Engineer (Retd.) of the Public Works Department (PWD) passed away on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 (5 Muhamarram 1447 Hijri), while undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in Dhaka. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raja'ün. At the time of her passing, she was 75 years old. She leaves behind two daughters, one son, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and many relatives and well-wishers. Her funeral prayer (Janazah) was held on the following day, July 2, after Zuhra prayer at the Taqwa Mosque in Dhanmondi. Later, in accordance with her wishes, she was buried at Banani Graveyard, in her father's grave.

It is worth mentioning that the deceased was the eldest daughter of late Engr. Shujauddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer (Retd.) of PWD; and the elder sister of Mrs. Nargis Sultana, whose husband is Engr. Mohammad Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, former Chairman of BCIC, Chief Engineer of LGED, and Chief Engineer of the Education Engineering Department.

We pray for the forgiveness of her soul and request everyone to keep her in their prayers. May Almighty Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah.

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3 killed in clash

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College Hospital, while the rest to Rowmari Upazila Health Complex.

Dr Nazrul Islam, the resident medical officer at the health complex, said the deceased had injuries to their heads and chests.

Rowmari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Lutfar

Rahman said, "We have so far detained one individual in connection with the clash. The situation is now under control."

He added that they were waiting for formal complaints to proceed with the investigation. The bodies were sent to Kurigram General Hospital for autopsy.

Highway bends turn

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signs, and in places where signs exist, they are either faded or difficult to see from a distance.

The bend at Khurier Ferry Ghat is extremely risky. There are no warning signs. Small accidents happen here almost daily," said local Aminul Islam.

Rahmat Ali, a BRTC driver, said, "Most of the bends on this highway lack functioning signal lights. Only two bends have them, and one of those isn't working either."

Sohel Tanvir, president of Nirapad Sarak Andolon's Barguna chapter, said, "The responsibility to fix these dangerous bends and reduce road crashes lies with

the Roads and Highways Department. But we're seeing negligence instead, which is costing lives."

Contacted, Kumarash Biswas, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department in Barguna, said, "Signal lights have already been installed at several bends, and more will be added. The worn-out road markings will also be repainted soon."

PRAYER TIMING

JULY 25

Fazr Juma 12:30 5:00 6:50 8:15

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Fakhrul calls for

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yesterday morning, Khairul served as the 19th chief justice of Bangladesh.

Responding to a question, Fakhrul said, "His short verdict and the full version were so drastically different -- like sky and earth. This was not a judicial decision; it was a political manoeuvre."

The BNP leader said the judiciary is supposed to be

the institution people trust the most. "But he destroyed that trust because of his political mindset, which caused major damage to the country," he said.

Fakhrul also commented on reports about plans to demolish the Shishu Academy building opposite Curzon Hall, next to the High Court.

"We oppose this," he said, noting that BNP founder and President

Ziaur Rahman took the initiative to construct the Shishu Academy and was the first to establish it.

"I believe relocating this institution from its current location would be a completely wrong decision. Our position on this matter is clear -- we do not want the Shishu Academy building to be moved from that area or replaced with another location," Fakhrul said.

Travel ban on ex-NRBC Bank

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Kazi Shahid Ahmed, who jointly leads the family-run conglomerate.

Judge Mujahidur Rahman of Dhaka's Artha Rin Adalat 5 (Money Loan Court) issued the orders on Thursday.

Imami, who is also the current chairman of publicly listed IT company Genex Infosys, faces multiple allegations including embezzlement through proxy loans and manipulation of the stock market. The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) had frozen his bank accounts on

November 15 last year as part of an ongoing investigation.

Adnan Imam joined the NRBC Bank board in December 2017 following a reshuffle of the bank's directorship. He recently resigned from the board.

The Daily Star has previously reported on how Imam and the chairman entered the boardroom of the bank with a gun and took out related party loans worth Tk 28 crore from the bank.

"They are trying in every possible way to dispose of all their properties and move abroad permanently.

The collateral securities against the credit facilities availed are verily insufficient in contrast with the loan money," said the petition by UCB.

"They have taken all sorts of preparations to leave the country permanently and the bank will have no means to recover such enormous loan money," it added.

The Daily Star has previously reported that Imam secured UCB capital facilities worth at least Tk 1,516 crore for six companies owned by or directly connected to him.

All affected, only 18% got support

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and 42 percent are in debt -- often due to repeated borrowing to repay previous loans.

Additionally, 76.6 percent of households reported that at least one member had migrated in recent times, driven largely by loss of livelihood and mounting debt burdens.

Despite high awareness of social safety net programmes such as the Old Age Allowance (91.8 percent) and Widow Allowance (83.7 percent), actual benefit receipt remains significantly low -- only 26.8 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively.

The event was moderated by Sharmin Akter Dolon of WDDF, where Dr Tania Haque, professor of the Department of Women and Gender Studies; Nasimun Ara Haque Minu, president of Nari Sangbadik Kendra, also spoke.

Persons with disabilities and displaced families face particularly severe barriers in accessing these benefits due to complex verification requirements and poor accessibility.

The research also identified several systemic challenges, including poor targeting, limited quotas, and overly complex application processes.

Corruption, lack of transparency in beneficiary selection, insufficient digital infrastructure, and frequent server downtimes further weaken the system's effectiveness.

He emphasised the role of media and public awareness, and noted that data-driven, evidence-based research is key to making accurate decisions and ensuring proper implementation.

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He also highlighted flaws in beneficiary selection due to a lack of reliable data, such as verified income levels.

"We are working on this, but we need strong inter-ministerial collaboration to establish an effective, climate responsive social protection framework," he added.

Mostafizur Rahman, national programme officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, emphasised that climate change brings

inherent uncertainty, and preparedness must be flexible and well-coordinated across organisations to ensure an adaptive social protection system.

OKUP Executive Director Omar Faruque Chowdhury delivered the welcome speech, while OKUP Chairperson Shakirul Islam, Friendship NGO's Kazi Amdadul Haque, and Abul Basar Md Amir Uddin, joint secretary at the Ministry of Finance, also spoke, among others.

Admission

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cannot be left vacant under any circumstances.

The government has also fixed admission fees for colleges across the country.

In Dhaka, MPO-listed colleges can charge a maximum of Tk 5,000 for both Bangla and English versions. In other metropolitan areas, the maximum fee is Tk 3,000.

At the district level, the fee has been capped at Tk 2,000, while at the upazila or town level, it is Tk 1,500.

For non-MPO or partially government-funded colleges, the fees are higher. In Dhaka, these colleges may charge up to Tk 7,500 for the Bangla version and Tk 8,500 for the English version.

শহীদ পুলিশ স্মৃতি কলেজ