

## 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 Ahmader Rochona Somogro, Amar Dekha Rajinitir Ponchash Bochhor, and Bangladesher Culture, remain unique contributions to Bangla literature.

Histhoughtsandpolitical 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."

Mahbub called for broader research into the barriers faced by women with disabilities in education, healthcare, employment and daily life, along with special measures, quotas, and guaranteed accessible services.

Nazrana Yeasmin Hira, programme coordinator (Rights and Governance) at Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), said properly nurturing and funding organisations of women with disabilities would significantly reduce many of their challenges in accessing rights and opportunities.

"Empowering these organisations will ease law implementation. Members can engage local communities to demand why rights aren't upheld or why data is missing," she said.

Supreme Court lawyer Rejaul Karim highlighted the need to include underrepresented groups beyond physical disabilities, such as those with autism and Down syndrome, when designing services.

He stressed evaluating whether vocational trades offered are women-friendly, noting that gender segregation in work and trades often prevents women from participating due to social stigma.

"Changing this situation is urgent. Women with disabilities constitute about 15 percent of the population, and without their contribution, the country's economy cannot sustain."

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

of women with disabilities – such as gynaecology, maternal care, and hospital accessibility – remain limited to discussion. As a result, access, availability, and affordability are very low, depriving many of essential care.

Yesmin said new laws and policies alone are insufficient; effective implementation and adequate funding are vital.

Shirin Akhter, chairperson of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, said despite repeated requests, a dedicated disability corner for women with disabilities at the National Disability Development Foundation remains unestablished. Its absence in the Department of Social Services reflects a lack of priority for their special needs and privacy.

She also highlighted major gaps in vocational training centres, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), where visually impaired, hearing-impaired, and wheelchair users receive little support.

Having inspected multiple centres, Akhter expressed concern over the lack of a clear plan or timeline to address these issues.

Mere discussions and promises are not enough; empowering women with disabilities requires concrete action, sufficient funding, and strategic commitment to deliver inclusive, accessible services, she said.

"Despite debates around quotas, reserved rights are necessary because women with disabilities face unique challenges, especially regarding employment. A special employment policy was proposed two to three years ago but remains unimplemented. Such a policy would help secure their rights and opportunities," said Ghulam Faruq Hamim, Bangladesh programme team lead, ADD International Bangladesh.

Barrister Sara Hossain, executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST), said accurate data on how many women with

disabilities reach the stage of making legal claims or accessing courts is lacking. Court records do not currently include information to identify persons with disabilities, she noted.

She stressed the urgent need for government and private institutions to guarantee opportunities and facilities for women with disabilities. She urged pressure on the private sector – including offices, courts, BGMEA, BKMEA, and chambers of commerce – to take specific inclusive measures for women with disabilities.

Ashrafun Nahar Misit, executive director of WDDF, called for logical and effective action, stressing the importance of consultations among disability organisations.

She said as natural disasters and accidents increase the number of people with disabilities; planning must include their needs to ensure full societal participation.

Md Saidur Rahman Khan, director general of the Department of Social Services, speaking as chief guest, said it is vital to identify and fix systematic failures within government institutions. "This is not a personal struggle but a systemic issue that requires urgent attention," he said.

He welcomed the gradual increase in allowances for persons with disabilities as a positive step but warned it was only a temporary solution.

"Rehabilitation and measures to foster self-reliance, inclusive education, economic empowerment, health and wellbeing are crucial."

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.

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.

# 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

# 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.

Imam, 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.

# 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.

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.

Moreover, existing social security programmes often fail to respond adequately to real-time climate shocks

and disasters.

To address these issues, the study recommends implementing a Need-Based Adaptive Social Protection model that uses real-time disaster data and household profiling for more targeted support.

It also calls for anticipatory cash transfers based on early warning systems, expanded digital innovations such as mobile payments and SMS alerts, and greater focus on gender and disability inclusion.

Addressing the event as chief guest, KM Abdul Wadud, additional secretary at the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, said one of the major challenges facing the country is poor budget utilisation, with less than 60 percent of allocated funds being spent annually.

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

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.

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.

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.

# Obituary

**Mrs. Nasreen Sultana**, wife of late Engr. Md. Mosharraf Hussain, Additional Chief Engineer (Retd.) of the Public Works Department (PWD) passed away on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 (5 Muharram 1447 Hijri), while undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in Dhaka. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un. 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 Zuhr prayer at the Tagwa 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 Khuriar 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	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-30	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

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