

## NOTICE BOARD



### AIUB hosts International Symposium on Responsive and Responsible Universities in collaboration with Magna Charta Observatory

The American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), through its Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), in collaboration with the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO), successfully hosted the International Symposium on Responsive and Responsible Universities: Global Perspectives from the Magna Charta Observatory Research Initiative from September 25 to 26 at its Dhaka campus.

The symposium brought together over 150 participants, including dignitaries from the University Grants Commission (UGC), Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC), and the British Council Bangladesh, alongside Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, and IQAC Directors from universities across the country.

Distinguished international guests included David J Lock, Secretary General of MCO, Dr Mary Deasy from Technological University Dublin, Ireland, and Dr Agata Strzdała from Wrocław Medical University, Poland, who joined in person. Participants from Lithuania and the United Kingdom joined online, ensuring strong global

engagement.

A major highlight of the event was a panel discussion on "Shaping Responsible Futures: Higher Education and Community Engagement", with contributions from the UGC, BAC, private university Vice-Chancellors, advisors, and David J Lock, reflecting on how universities can address societal challenges. On the second day, the programme was honoured by the presence of Prof. Dr Gulshan Ara Begum and Prof. SM Kabir of the BAC.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Dr Saiful Islam, Vice-Chancellor of AIUB, and a vote of thanks by Prof. Dr Md Abdur Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor of AIUB, followed by a vibrant cultural performance by the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC).

The symposium reaffirmed AIUB's commitment to responsible higher education, community engagement, and sustainability, while strengthening global partnerships under the Magna Charta Observatory initiative.

### Zeenaat Zoarder Ripa receives international recognition at LEAP 2025



Zeenaat Zoarder Ripa, Deputy Director of Public Relations at Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT), has achieved a historic milestone by winning her first international honour at the prestigious LEAP 2025 International Educational Awards.

She has been awarded as the Winner in the category "Women Leadership in Education", representing Bangladesh on the global stage among 70 countries, 760 nominees, and 400 leading institutions and universities worldwide.

### PROF. DR QUAZI DEEN MOHD KHOSRU JOINS AS THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR OF PRIME UNIVERSITY

The President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of Prime University has appointed Dr Quazi Deen Mohd Khosru, Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), Bangladesh

University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), as the Vice-Chancellor of Prime University. He officially joined on September 3.

Prof. Dr Khosru is a renowned scholar with an international reputation in the field of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He completed his BSc from Aligarh Muslim University, India; MSc from BUET; and PhD from Osaka University, Japan. He has also held various important positions throughout his distinguished career.

Prof. Dr Khosru has carried out significant research in multiple areas of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.



### Dark energy isn't constant: CASSA scientist authors groundbreaking paper on the fate of the universe

A new research paper authored by Anowar Jaman Shajib, an Associate Member of the Center for Astronomy, Space Science and Astrophysics (CASSA) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), challenges a long-standing assumption about the nature of dark energy. It presents evidence suggesting that dark energy may not be a constant after all, opening up new possibilities for understanding the fate of the universe.

The paper, titled "Scalar-field dark energy models: Current and forecast constraints", was published in the Physical Review D journal on September 8. It is authored by Anowar Shajib, who is also an Einstein Fellow at the University of Chicago, and Prof. Joshua A Frieman, an Emeritus Professor at the University of Chicago.



The dominant theory for more than two decades has been that dark energy is constant – the so-called cosmological constant first proposed by Einstein and others. But recent astronomical surveys are now indicating that this energy might actually evolve over time.

This has profound implications. If dark energy weakens over time, it could affect the future trajectory of the universe. Instead of ending in a catastrophic "Big Rip" or collapsing in a "Big Crunch", the universe may cool and fade slowly into a "Big Freeze".

If dark energy continues to grow stronger over time, then in the distant future, everything from galaxies to atoms and particles – even the fabric of space and time – will be torn apart and scattered. This catastrophic scenario is known as the "Big Rip".

On the other hand, if dark energy weakens and the expansion of the universe comes to a halt, then gravity will pull galaxies and matter back toward each other. Eventually, the entire universe will collapse into a single, dense point – essentially the reverse of the Big Bang. This is called the "Big Crunch".

But as suggested in the research by Shajib and Frieman, if dark energy evolves very slowly, the universe will continue to expand indefinitely. Galaxies will drift farther apart, new stars will stop forming, old stars will burn out, and the universe will grow cold, dark, and inactive. Over time, all heat and light will fade away, leading to a final, motionless state known as the Big Freeze, or heat death.