-Obituary



Professor Emeritus Dr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ali (1941-2025)

The renowned statistician Professor Emeritus Dr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ali, Department of Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506, USA. He was born on February 8, 1941, in Tangra, India, to his parents, Madar Boksh and Jobeda Begum. He earned his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Statistics from the Calcutta University, India in 1961 and 1963, respectively. He served the Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi as a Senior Lecturer during 1964-66. With the support of the Fulbright Scholarship, Dr. Ali earned his Ph.D. in Statistics (with a minor in Economics) from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1969. In the same year, he joined the University of Kentucky in Lexington as an Assistant Professor of Economics. Over a distinguished 38-year career, he made lasting contributions to the field and retired in 2007 and from then he had been serving as Professor Emeritus, in the same University.

Throughout his outstanding and distinguished professional career, he received many prestigious awards. He was the author, co-author of more than one hundred publications (books, articles and reports, monographs) on Statistics, Applied Statistics & Operational Research, Economics, International Business, etc.

Dr. Ali lived a life defined by kindness, generosity, and wisdom. Professor Ali has financially assisted for improving the quality of education and research of many educational institutions in Bangladesh. The Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi, belongs to it. We launched a journal named "International Journal of Statistical Sciences (IJSS)" from 2002. Since 2023, IJSS has been running with the sponsorship of Professor Emeritus Dr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ali.

A scholarship has been launched in this department for B.Sc (Hons.) and M.Sc. students in recognition of outstanding result with the name of "Professor Emeritus Dr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ali Scholarship" from 2023 by his donation. A modern computer lab of the department has been renamed as "Professor Dr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ali Computer Lab" in 2023. We are gratefully remembered his efforts in the overall development of our department.

Beyond his academic life, Dr. Ali enjoyed playing tennis, swimming, and traveling the world with his beloved wife, Julia. He was known for his captivating storytelling, warm hospitality, and keen sense of humor.

Dr. Ali passed away peacefully on June 23, 2025 (*inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un*), at his home in Marco Island, Florida, at the age of 84. He was renowned across the globe for his scholarly work. He is survived by his siblings, stepchildren, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews, all of whom will miss him dearly.

We express our deep shock for the sudden death of Dr. Ali. This is a great loss to Statistics community in the world. We pray to Allah for eternal peace for the departed soul of Dr. Ali. Also, we pray to Allah to give strength to his family members to bear this great loss. May Almighty Allah grant him Jannatul Ferdous - Ameen.

Professor Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim Chairman, Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi

(On behalf of the Academic Committee of the Department of Statistics, University of Rajshahi.)