

UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

CELEBRATING FALGUN 1431 – UCBD SPRING FEST

Spring burst into UCBD on February 27th with a vibrant festival filled with music, dance, and endless energy. The Level 6 Student Lounge transformed into a kaleidoscope of colours, decked out with kites, fairy lights, and handcrafted decorations, setting the stage for an unforgettable afternoon.

Students took center stage with show-stopping performances, from soulful music to electrifying dance numbers. The highlight? Fahim Shahriar's breathtaking rendition of *Phiriye Dao*, which had the crowd swaying, singing along, and demanding encores. The energy peaked as students and faculty hit an impromptu dance floor, making memories that would last a lifetime.

No festival is complete without food, and the student-organized potluck was a feast: Kabuli Chicken Pulao, Matar Pulao, Chicken Curry, and a spread of snacks, from *fuchka* to brownies. The photo booth, glowing with fairy lights and heart-shaped balloons, became a hotspot for capturing the joy.

What made it truly special? Students owned every detail from planning to execution. As the final song played, no one wanted to leave. Spring Fest 2025 was the event of the season, setting high expectations for next year!



UCBD SCIENCE CLUB (USC) HONOURS WOMEN IN STEM

The UCBD Library & Resource Centre buzzed with excitement as students gathered for an eye-opening session about women in STEM with Samreen Mehak, a 23-year-old Davis Scholar, scientist, and public program educator. She graced us with her presence in USC's celebration of International Day for Women and Girls in Science on the 11th of February 2025. The virtual session with Samreen turned into an interactive discussion, making every moment feel like a personal conversation with the curious students.

Samreen shared her journey as a young scientist in STEM, breaking down research methodologies and unveiling global opportunities for aspiring scientists. The Q&A session was a hit, with students eagerly firing questions about career paths, challenges, and cutting-edge research.



It was impressive that the turnout of male students equaled the female students, and they didn't seem to feel out of place and were rather excited to attend. We even got a rare close-up look at rocks from the Moon and Mars, straight from the *Smithsonian Museum!*

Beyond the insights, the event had an exciting lineup of activities that kept students engaged in the true celebration of ambition and the endless possibilities waiting in STEM. Science-themed games like "Would you rather" sparked curiosity, encouraging students to think critically about which scientific career they would rather have and why. To add more appeal, students designed "Women in Science" cupcakes, each carrying one female character with a STEM career and an empowering message: "Your career should feed you."



UCBD SPORTS DAY WINTER 2025: A THRILLING DAY OF SPORTS, TEAM SPIRIT, AND CAMARADERIE!



The much-awaited UCBD Winter Sports Day 2025 was held on the 22nd of February at International School Dhaka (ISD), our logistical and venue partner. The thrilling day began with a lively bus journey, filled with anticipation and last-minute game strategies. As soon as we arrived, the energy was electric!

Students, dressed in their vibrant UCBD team jerseys, eagerly huddled up, ready to take on the challenges of the day. From meticulously planned matches to enthusiastic cheers from the sidelines, the event was a perfect blend of competition and camaraderie.

Students played a major role in organizing and executing the event: from planning match schedules to distributing food and jerseys, their dedication was commendable. The football tournament was the highlight, with Team A clinching a hard-fought victory against Team D in the final, sealing the match with a 1-0 score. The badminton and basketball games added to the excitement, with intense rallies and skillful plays keeping the audience on their toes.

Even beyond the field, students volunteered tirelessly, ensuring seamless coordination, handling logistics, and capturing every memorable moment through the lens. As the final whistle blew, students boarded the buses, still buzzing with excitement and already looking forward to the next Sports Day showdown and more such events.



HARVARD SESSION FOR NOTRE DAME COLLEGE AT UCBD CAMPUS



Students from Notre Dame College, Dhaka attended an amazing, certified course session on Presentation Skills Development, curated by Harvard Business Publishing Education, at Universal College Bangladesh on 08th February 2025.

The session was conducted by Ms. Nawar Fairouz, Lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences & Humanities. All the students were delighted to receive their certificates from Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of Universal College Bangladesh, who himself studied with the Derek Bok Center at Harvard University.

Prof Hew shared how UCBD can support students in pursuing international education options right here in Bangladesh at the UCBD campus in Dhaka. He highlighted how the international programs offered at UCBD equip students with the essential work skills they need, preparing them for career success.

If you would like to arrange a Harvard session for your school or college, please contact UCBD at MarkTeam@ucbd.edu.bd

MONASH CD TERM 1 ORIENTATION



The Monash Continuing Degree program Term 1 2025 Orientation Day was held on 23 February, with a cohort of highly enthusiastic and dedicated students. The Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Muhammad Ismail Hossain, inaugurated the session with his valuable speech conveying the message of academic excellence from the mutual efforts of the mentor-mentees at UCBD.

Following the Dean's welcome, Ms Sumaiya Binte Kabir, Senior Lecturer in Economics, explained to the students the expectations in the MCD program, especially for Business students. Mr. Daniel Lum, Ms. S. Azra Karim, and Ms Asha Balaji from Monash were also present at the session. Mr Daniel visited in person to deliver his speech on the future studies at Monash along with Ms Azra for the new cohort of Business students, while Ms Asha Balaji conducted an exclusive session with the current MCD Engineering cohort, which has shown remarkable results with a hundred percent pass rate in T3 2024.

MCD Business senior Nishat Tasnim Noshin shared her academic journey and success strategies with the new cohort. Ms. Joyeeta introduced student clubs and extracurricular opportunities, Mr. Shafik covered academic and attendance policies, and Ms. Samia highlighted available support services. The session concluded with Mr. Biplab's technical briefing on using Monash Learning Management System Moodle.

ACKNOWLEDGING WORLD CANCER DAY



On 4th February 2025, UCBD joined the global observance of World Cancer Day to raise awareness against cancer. This year's theme, "United by Unique," serves as a powerful reminder of our collective commitment to combating cancer while recognizing each patient's unique journey.

Taking this opportunity to educate and encourage preventative actions, UCBD students actively participated in spreading awareness and advocating for healthy habits to reduce cancer risks. Students from the event organizing team, including Labiba Mahpara (UIFY), Nikhat Tanzia (MUFY), Najah Hasan Ruha (MUFY), Taseen Huda Mahee (MUFY) and Nehan Noor Rouf (MUFY), working with Ms. Ananna, Executive Coordinator to the President & Lecturer in Psychology, led an initiative to create and distribute handmade purple ribbons to students, faculty, and support team members, symbolizing solidarity in the fight against cancer.

Additionally, students Sharyan Mirtaj Fahmi (MUFY) and Senara Rosemary Fernando (MUFY) designed motivational and awareness-building posters, which were displayed throughout the campus to spread vital information about cancer prevention and support.

Cancer affects millions worldwide, and many of us have experienced the loss of a loved one to this disease. Cancer Awareness Day was a great opportunity for students to be curious, advocate, educate, and support those affected by cancer.



HARVARD SESSION FOR BIRSHRESHTHA NOOR MOHAMMAD PUBLIC COLLEGE AND OXFORD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AT UCBD

Students from Birshreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College and Oxford International School attended an amazing, certified course session on Presentation Skills Development, curated by Harvard Business Publishing Education, at Universal College Bangladesh on 22nd February 2025.

The session was conducted by Ms. Pikasha Imam, Senior Lecturer and UCBD International Foundation Year Programme Co-ordinator. All the students were delighted to receive their certificates from Mr. Kingshuk Gupta, Chief Operating Officer of Universal College Bangladesh. The session was also attended by Mr. Saidul, Mr. Abdullah, and Mr. Sahariar from BNMPCC alongside their students.

If you would like to arrange a Harvard session for your school or college, please contact UCBD at MarkTeam@ucbd.edu.bd



HONORING INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY A TRIBUTE TO OUR LANGUAGE MARTYRS



On February 20, UCBD students gathered in solemn remembrance, dressed in black and white, to honor the brave souls of the Language Movement. The Student Lounge on Level 6 was transformed into a space of reflection, where students and faculty paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for our right to speak in our mother tongue.

At the heart of the event stood a beautifully crafted Shaheed Minar model, surrounded by paper flowers and Bengali alphabets, symbolizing respect and remembrance. Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, encouraged students to embrace their linguistic heritage, while Nivan Nur Yamin's heartfelt Bengali speech emphasized the power of our mother tongue.

The emotion deepened as a short, animated film brought the struggles of 1952 to life, followed by Sarina and Najah's moving poetry recitations that echoed the pain and pride of the movement.

The event reached its crescendo as voices united to sing "Amar Bhai Er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February," filling the room with the undying spirit of Ekushey. More than a tribute, the gathering was a powerful reminder of cultural pride, unity, and the legacy that lives on in every spoken word of our mother tongue.

UCBD VISITS MENTORS' EDUCATION



On 11th February 2025, Mr. Pankaj Puri, UCBD Head of Enrolment, Mr. Tanzil Chowdhury (Manager, UCBD Marketing), and Ms. Jesmin Khandaker (Senior Enrolment Counsellor), visited Mentors' Tuition Centre, Kalabagan Branch to conduct a student workshop. The UCBD team was warmly welcomed on behalf of Mentors' Education Limited by Mr. Anindya Chowdhury (Director & CEO), and Mr. Raisul Islam Ratul (Programme Director, GED), who were also present.

The UCBD team informed the students about the many international programmes offered by UCBD, and how they could pursue international education opportunities right here in Bangladesh, at the campus in Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

The students showed particular interest in the degrees offered by the University of London-London School of Economics, and the University of Central Lancashire. These are three-year programmes leading to full UK degrees in business, finance, accounting, cybersecurity, software engineering, and other disciplines. Students follow exactly the same curriculum taught in the UK, and when they graduate they receive the same degree certificate as students in the UK.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT UCBD



➤ UCBD STUDENT WORKSHOP IN GLENRICH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL-UTTARA - 6TH MARCH

➤ INTERNATIONAL PI DAY QUIZ BY UCBD SCIENCE CLUB- 13TH MARCH

➤ EID-CARD MAKING AND IFTAR DONATION - 18 & 19TH MARCH

➤ INDEPENDENCE DAY - 26TH MARCH

➤ UCBD STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION CIRCULAR - TBA

➤ UCBD INTRA MUN - 9TH APRIL

➤ BENGALI NEW YEAR CELEBRATION & BOISHAKHI MELA - 15TH APRIL

➤ YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP WITH BYLC

➤ DHAKA FLOW FEST - WELLNESS & FITNESS

New Student Clubs:

- 1.UCBD Event Organizing Committee
- 2.UCBD Business Club
- 3.UCBD International Relations Club
- 4.UCBD Film Club
- 5.UCBD Literature Club

