

# UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER



MAY 2025

## UCBD STUDENT AMBASSADOR ONBOARDING: A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS!



On Wednesday, 16 April 2025, Universal College Bangladesh (UCBD) proudly welcomed its newest cohort of Student Ambassadors through a vibrant onboarding session held at the UCBD Library & Resource Centre, followed by a hearty lunch at the Student Lounge & Café.

This session marked the beginning of a transformative journey for ten dynamic students selected to represent UCBD across various platforms — from social media and campus tours to peer mentorship and marketing campaigns. The onboarding featured a warm welcome, a detailed briefing on roles and expectations, and a sneak peek into upcoming ambassador-led activities planned for the next six months.

The initiative, led by UCBD's Marketing & Student Engagement team, aims to empower students to share their UCBD experience, inspire peers, and contribute to building a strong, authentic student voice for the institution.

We're excited to see these ambassadors take charge, tell their stories, and bring the UCBD spirit to life!

## PROF HEW VISITS MIRPUR CANTONMENT PUBLIC SCHOOL AND COLLEGE



On 6th April 2025, Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, visited Mirpur Cantonment Public School and College. He had an amazing Interactive session with more than 200 HSC students on "Careers of the Future."

Prof. Gill discussed how the world of work is changing and emphasized the importance of transferable skills for future success. He also 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.

During his visit, Prof. Gill also met with Lt Col Farzana Shakil, afwc, psc, G+, Air Def, a very distinguished army officer and Principal of Mirpur Cantonment Public School and College. They discussed the many opportunities available for MSPSC students at UCBD, and agreed to arrange scholarship exams for MSPSC students interested in pursuing international degrees at UCBD.



## VOICES FOR JUSTICE RING OUT AT UCBD

The Universal College Bangladesh (UCBD) campus buzzed with insightful discussions on April 9th as Global Studies students orchestrated a compelling seminar on human rights. Demonstrating their commitment to tackling critical issues both locally and globally, the students fostered meaningful conversations around women and girls' rights, freedom of expression, migrant workers' rights, minority groups, and the vital role of NGOs.

The seminar opened with inspiring speeches from UCBD's President & Provost, Professor Hew Gill, and Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Muhammad Ismail Hossain, who praised the students' initiative.



Esteemed speakers Abu Sayed Sumon from UNFPA, Bibi Russell, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Sayma Ferdowsy Director of BDRCS shared their profound experiences and perspectives. Mr. Sumon highlighted the alarming statistics of violence against women in Bangladesh and the UN's active role in policy formulation and empowering civil society. Bibi Russell passionately urged the youth to champion local culture and become advocates against human rights abuses like child trafficking and child marriage.

Dewan Muhammad Nur A Yazdani, Global Studies Unit Leader, who mentored the students throughout the event provided an overview, applauding the students for their commitment to fostering dialogue on such vital topics.



## PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE FOR THE UCBD STUDENT COUNCIL

On the vibrant afternoon of April 30, the UCBD Student Lounge & Cafe hosted a spirited presidential debate, moderated by Prof Hew Gill, Ms Pikasha Imam, and Ms Nahian Jamal Joyeeta. The event blended structure and spontaneity, giving candidates a platform to present their visions.

Anindo Ibrahim (MUFY Jan 2025) opened with a lyrical speech, envisioning "innovation and fiction" through cross-club collaboration and legacy-building. "I don't believe in leading," he said. "I believe in nurturing."

Mashrur Mahmud Khan (UCLan) followed without a formal speech but made a strong impression. "I'm not here to be President," he declared. "I'm here to make UCBD better," outlining ideas on extra-curriculars, sports, and cultural events.

Taseen Huda Mahee (MUFY) brought a composed presence. Despite a brief stumble, she spoke earnestly on mental health, anti-bullying, and recognizing hidden talent. "I want to be a voice for the voiceless," she said.

Diwan Shahrior Mofiz (UIFY) delivered an impromptu yet heartfelt message. "Ask for help, be a better person, and help each other be better," he urged, championing inclusivity and support for students with special needs. The unexpected highlight came from MUFY student Yeadin Ahmed, who challenged the candidates with tough questions before announcing his candidacy. "Let's start by being friends with each other before we try to lead anyone," he said.

In a wholesome close, each candidate shared one quality they admired in another. Prof Hew concluded with a message to Yeadin: "Don't worry, just be." As students exited, chatter about future candidates filled the room. One thing was clear: UCBD has no shortage of leaders. Now, it's time to decide who will shape what's next.



## PARENT-TEACHER MEETING AT UCBD



UCBD held its Parents' Day and Session on Student Progression on Saturday, 12 April, for students enrolled in the MUFY, MCD, UoL, UIFY, and UCLan programs. The event was very well attended, with over 100 students and a similar number of parents. Parents and students met with members of the UCBD faculty academic team to review academic progress. The UCBD Enrollment team was also present at the event to discuss future opportunities, including transitioning to other UCBD programs or overseas partner universities.

During the day, our President & Provost, Professor Hew Gill, delivered two briefing sessions focused on academic progression. He explained the pathways available for students at UCBD and also international study options, setting out the fees and other factors to consider for parents planning their child's academic journey. Professor Hew also highlighted how MUFY students can complete the first year of a Monash University degree in Business, Engineering, or Information Technology at UCBD by joining the MCD program.

Additionally, he shared that MUFY graduates qualify for direct entry into the University of London degree programme or the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) degree programme. These pathways offer students flexibility in pursuing globally recognized qualifications. The session emphasized UCBD's dedication to supporting students in making informed decisions for their educational futures.



## CELEBRATING BENGALI NEW YEAR 1432 AT UCBD



On April 21, 2025, UCBD's Student Lounge & Café came alive in celebration of Pohela Boishakh. The space was adorned with handmade paper fans, masks, hand-drawn backdrops, colorful ribbons, and festive decor as students eagerly set up their stalls. The buzz of excitement filled the air as everyone worked to perfect their displays, including trays of nacho chips, watermelon soda, and a handmade backdrop.

Guests, including Dean Professor Ismail Hossain and President & Provost Professor Hew Gill, were welcomed to a vibrant Boishakhi Mela. A light-hearted moment arose when MC Tazreen, in a moment of nervousness, mistakenly referred to the Dean as "Dr." instead of "Professor Dr.," drawing smiles from the crowd.

The cultural performances were the event's highlight. Samia Sadat's heartfelt speech and moving performance, along with her pledge to donate 10% of her store's proceeds to Palestine, resonated deeply.

Sohana and Anha followed with soothing songs, and Zubair closed the set with an energetic performance that left the audience cheering for more. The event ended with the song "Esho Hey Boishakh" sung in a chorus, reiterating the event's true essence.

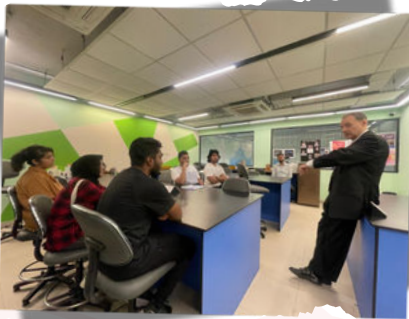
The stalls were a lively attraction. Izna, Maliha, Zayeema, and Raj ran jewelry booths, while Maliha also showcased her artistic skills with intricate "Alta" designs. Farhan's barbecue station sold out quickly, offering grilled chicken and paratha. Samia's stall, "Kolpona," offered a variety of clothing, jewelry, milk tea, watermelon soda, and a fun "everything-in-chips" snack, creating a colorful corner of the lounge.

Behind the scenes, students like Taseen Huda, Talha Zubair, Maliha Montaha, Ishrar Shahriar, Nikhat Tanjia, and Raian Islam worked tirelessly on logistics and decor, ensuring every detail was perfect. Raj Biswas, head of photography, captured the event's moments while running a successful accessory store.

Ms. Kakoli from the Café added to the festivities with a *Buy-One-Get-One* offer on all orders. As the event concluded, the day's memories were stitched together, reflecting the cultural spirit beheld by UCBD students.



## GLENRICH A-LEVEL STUDENTS VISIT UCBD



On 22nd April 2025, A-Level students from Glenrich International School (Uttara campus) visited the UCBD campus to meet with Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of Universal College Bangladesh. The students were excited to meet and hear from Prof. Hew, as they were eager to learn how UCBD could support their higher education goals. As the exclusive partner of Monash College Australia, the University of London, London School of Economics, and the University of Central Lancashire, UCBD offers many international programmes in Dhaka and valuable academic pathways to overseas partners. During the visit, students asked questions about the education systems in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and Malaysia, and the many international opportunities available at UCBD. During the very lively interactive session Prof. Hew also gave the students extensive guidance on subject selection and how to gain admission to the world's top-ranking universities. He said, "UCBD offers some of the best undergraduate degrees in the world here in Bangladesh. This means that AS, A2 and HSC students can get an excellent international higher education in Dhaka, then take their Master's degree at the very best international universities."

## BANGLADESH YOUTH LEADERSHIP CENTRE AT UCB

On 10th April 2025, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) Marketing and Training team, visited UCBD campus and conducted a session on leadership for students. Drawing an impressive crowd at the Library & Resource Centre, students engaged deeply with the BYLC facilitators discussing key leadership questions such as, "What essential skills do we need in this era?", "Why do we need leadership skills?" and so on.

The session sparked vibrant interactions, with students showing strong interest in leadership development. Based on the positive and fruitful interaction, BYLC is designing a customized leadership training module tailored specially to UCBD student's needs which will take place in the month of October 2025. In the upcoming leadership training programme BYLC will focus mainly on: Adaptive Leadership and Teamwork, Self Discovery, and Staying Connected to Purpose. Key topics include discovering leadership, exercising leadership with or without a title, diagnosing challenges, mobilizing systems, effective teamwork, self-awareness, understanding loyalties, building tolerance, persuasive communication, and maintaining personal resilience.

BYLC's proven leadership training approach equips young professionals with essential 21st-century skills. Through this partnership, we are confident UCBD students will become the adaptable, resilient, and solution-oriented leaders, ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.



## UCBD SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH TOP DHAKA SCHOOLS



UCBD has recently signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several top schools in Dhaka. Mr. Kingshuk Gupta, Chief Operating Officer of UCBD, represented the institution at each signing. Partners include Academia School Dhaka, signed by Dr. Md. Kutub Uddin at their Lalmatia campus; European Standard School, signed by Principal Md. Morshedul Islam at Dhanmondi; and Capstone School Dhaka, represented by Principal Lt. Col. Tofayel Ahmed Chowdhury (Retd.) at UCBD's Gulshan campus.

These partnerships aim to empower students through exclusive workshops on career development, higher education, and international study options. UCBD's international faculty will also provide training for school staff to enhance teaching practices. Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, emphasized the commitment to equipping Bangladeshi educators with world-class skills to achieve academic excellence. Interested in partnering? Contact us at: [president@ucbd.edu.bd](mailto:president@ucbd.edu.bd)

## UCBD CORPORATE TO CAMPUS TALK BY ARIF KHAN OF SHANTA

Mr. Arif Khan, Vice Chairman of Shanta Asset Management, visited the UCBD campus to deliver an engaging presentation titled 'The Bangladesh Financial System – Interactions Between Money Markets and Capital Markets.' His talk was part of UCBD's Corporate to Campus initiative, which connects students with industry leaders. Drawing from his extensive experience, Mr. Khan offered deep insights into Bangladesh's financial ecosystem and its comparison with SAARC nations. He also discussed major shifts in global finance and how Bangladesh could position itself as a developed economy. The session concluded with a lively Q&A moderated by Mr. Dewan Muhammad Nur-A Yazdani, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Business & Management.

Mr. Khan emphasized the importance of blending theoretical knowledge with practical market dynamics. He praised the Corporate to Campus initiative for bridging classroom learning with real-world business experiences, adding, "It is essential for students to understand both the theory and practical forces that shape our markets. I am delighted to share my experience with such promising and curious minds."

Prof. Hew Gill, President of UCBD, highlighted the value of practical exposure within UCBD's Australian and UK qualifications. "Our Corporate to Campus talks help students deepen their understanding and build business networks essential for career success," he said. UCBD encourages professionals, entrepreneurs, and business leaders across Bangladesh to contribute to this initiative. Interested speakers can contact Prof. Hew at: [president@ucbd.edu.bd](mailto:president@ucbd.edu.bd).





## PROFESSOR HEW VISITS BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE MOHAKHALI



On 28 April 2025, Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, visited Bangladesh International School & College (BISC) in Mohakhali, New D.O.H.S, Dhaka. Over 200 students from Grades 11 and 12 joined his interactive session on life after HSC. The hall was packed with students, some of whom stood at the back, eager to engage.

Prof. Hew spoke directly with students, asking about their career goals and sharing insights on how global job markets are evolving with technology. He introduced UCBD's UK degree programmes, offered at the Gulshan campus, and highlighted the transferable skills these programmes build. "HSC graduates can begin immediately," he said, announcing upcoming scholarship exams and available financial aid.

He also met with BISC Principal Brig. Gen. Md. Rafiqul Islam (Retd.) and Vice Principal Ms. Sayeda Ahsema Lucy to explore opportunities for BISC students to access international education and contribute meaningfully to the nation's future.

## MS MARZIA DELIVERS WORKSHOP IN DHAKA UNIVERSITY

Ms. Marzia Al-Hakeem, UCBD Student Support Head and Lecturer in Psychology, was invited by Dhaka University Department of Clinical Psychology to conduct two training sessions on 29th April 2025. The workshops were part of the Clinical Skill Training for the MSc and MPhil students of the Department.

Post-graduate students of Clinical Psychology get intensive training on therapeutic skills for managing child and adolescent mental health problems before embarking on their clinical internship in government hospitals. Ms Marzia's sessions were part of this training, and she was asked to deliver workshops entitled "Involving Parents and Others to deal with Child Psychopathology" and "Adolescent Crisis Management". Ms Marzia was supported by two co-facilitators to deliver content that was both insightful and interactive, including group work, case studies, presentations, and role-playing for practising therapeutic skills. The participants contributed to the sessions with full enthusiasm. There was a "reflection session" at the end of the day and the participants gave feedback on the training, saying it enhanced their understanding and boosted their confidence in working with parents and caregivers to provide psychotherapy.

This skill training is mandatory for clinical psychology trainees as part of their curriculum. Ms. Marzia facilitated similar sessions for the previous batch in November 2024 and will be continuing to conduct training for future trainees both as part of her role of clinical psychologist and as part of UCBD's commitment to improve human capital in Bangladesh. If you would like to arrange a workshop or training session please contact Ms Marzia: [marzia.hakeem@ucbd.edu.bd](mailto:marzia.hakeem@ucbd.edu.bd)



## DHAKA FLOW FEST: A DAY OF WELLNESS AT UCBD



The UCBD Student Lounge transformed into a space for movement, reflection, and energy as students gathered for Dhaka Flow Fest, held from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on April 28, 2025. The occasion was marked by a room full of students, the sound of soft music playing in the background, and the soft splatter of rain on the terrace.

Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, opened the event with a few words about mental health, wellness, and why self-care matters now more than ever. Right after, Ms. Shazia Omar, founder & CEO of Dhaka Flow stepped in with a few calming words followed by a breathwork session to start off the day. Mr. Omar Sadat, Barrister-at-Law and President of the Gulshan Society, brought warmth and insight to the room, speaking about punctuality, health, and discipline; he kept it casual, engaging, and managed to get students thinking about being part of the UCBD Student Council and other ways they can do more for their community.

The rest of the afternoon was filled with movement, keeping everyone afoot. Students rolled out mats for yogasana training and followed a series of mindful stretches and poses, guided by instructors from Dhaka Flow. Between sessions, the lounge hummed with meditation music that blended with the sound of quiet conversation. The highlight of the event came during the self-defense training and friendly sparring session with Eduardo Alcanzare. There was a clear shift in energy, inviting laughter, encouragement, and adrenaline as students took turns practicing defensive techniques. Even faculty members joined the ring, drawing cheers and applause. The final segment of the day was led by Ruslan Hossain, who gave a short, engaging fitness class that students described as both challenging and motivating, leaving them a little sore in the muscles.

Behind the scenes, the event came together with the dedication of many. Maeesha Akhand and Sazib Al Mamun from Dhaka Flow worked tirelessly to coordinate logistics. Hafsa Ibrahim was constantly in motion, checking on participants, energising the crowd, and ensuring things ran smoothly from start to finish. UCBD's own campus ambassadors Taseen Huda Mahee, Najah Hassan Ruha, and Ashfia Jarifa Ashna helped lead student volunteers who worked in sync to make sure no detail was missed. It was a day rooted in wellness, activity, and reflection, and a reminder to take care of ourselves before anything else.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT UCBD



➤ **UCBD STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

➤ **UCBD SPORTS DAY AWARDING CEREMONY**

➤ **MONASH FOUNDATION GRADUATION**



➤ **WORLD TEA DAY**

➤ **EXTRA CURRICULAR AWARDING CEREMONY**

➤ **UIFY EXAMINATION WEEK**

➤ **MUFY EXAMINATION WEEK**

➤ **UOL-LSE EXAMINATION WEEK**

➤ **MONASH INFORMATION & ADMISSION CAMP**

➤ **IGAC REPUBLIC MODEL UN**

➤ **UCLAN PROGRESSION DAYS**

