

## Valedictorian Speech of Md Mahdi Hossain, Monash College Graduation Convocation 2023

Respected Chairman, Dean, Members of the Board, Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Faculties, fellow Graduates - a pleasant evening to all of you.

It is indeed a pleasure, and a great honor, to have been given the opportunity to deliver the valedictorian's address this evening. I am immensely grateful to Allah for blessing me with this opportunity to be a valedictorian to this amazing batch of graduates. I'd also like to convey my gratitude to all the amazing administrators who worked hard to create a wonderful experience for us at UCB, and my family for their unconditional love and support. My heartfelt congratulations go out to all my fellow graduates on reaching an important milestone in our scholastic journey. Today is truly ours.

In addition, I am also thankful to the board of directors at UCB, and everyone involved for their amazing effort in establishing a world-class education center here in Bangladesh, especially bringing a renowned institution like Monash University here, literally at our doorstep.

Studying at UCB has been a great experience for me. The highly skilled and experienced faculties had been such a supporting element in my first year of university education. They were there for us at every step, and I have certainly learned a lot from them. I was amazed at how they took time out of their personal lives to help us whenever we needed them. They were always available and willing to help us, even out of office hours.

I believe UCB has been a training ground regarding what to expect when we transition to universities abroad. I have learned how the curriculum works and how to deal with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

I have met some wonderful people during my time at UCB, having many positive and meaningful interactions with them. I enjoyed being a part of Monash's extraordinary efforts to ensure a high-quality education. I enjoyed group discussions with my peers and making plans to go out. I also enjoyed my time in between classes mostly playing Foosball and Billiards with them as well.

UCB has provided us with more than only academic excellence. It has tried to give its students learning experience from outside the classroom. It has organized field trips to the Head Office of Grameenphone, one of the largest entities in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh. Furthermore, it has also arranged field trips to visit museums and other significant places to broaden our horizons and give us ideas regarding professional establishments.

I am proud to have been part of this impressive effort by UCB and Monash to provide a comprehensive education, following an internationally recognized curriculum.

In addition, I am immensely proud of all of us graduating today, we have worked hard for quite some time to reach this stage. We had to adapt to a new learning management system like Moodle for the first time in most of our lives. We had sleepless nights for the assignments, and we also spent considerable energy in preparation for the assessments. Standing here today, I believe it was all worth it and I hope all of us continue our efforts and focus our energies to create better versions of ourselves, the versions where we realize our full potential. I also hope that all of us direct our efforts to create a better tomorrow for our country.

I would like to conclude my speech with a small note to the current and potential students of the UCB – Enjoy your time here. Put your head down and try to take in as much as you can from the valuable advice of your faculty. Try to make the most of the wonderful, internationally recognized curriculum at your disposal. Have big ambitions and let UCB be your stepping stone to hopefully realizing them in the future.