

UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Victory Day Celebration with Mr. Julian Francis – A Friend of Bangladesh

On 15th December 2023 a special event was held to celebrate the 53rd Victory Day of Bangladesh. The occasion brought together students and staff to honour the sacrifices made to bring about the triumph of the Liberation War. The programme was opened by Izharul Hoque, Vice President of the Student Council and Master of Ceremonies. Mr Dewan Yazdani, organizer of the event, gave a speech of welcome to all those present. Then Professor Hew Gill, President of UCB, introduced the distinguished special guest for the occasion, Mr Julian Francis. Mr Francis was the coordinator of the Oxfam relief effort in 1971, overseeing the relief work for more than 600,000 people during the Liberation War. In early 1972 he personally met with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and advised on the reconstruction of transport links destroyed during the war. For his many contributions to Bangladesh Mr Francis was recognized by the government of Bangladesh as a Friend of the Liberation War and granted Bangladesh citizenship, he was also the first recipient of the Bangabandhu-Edward Heath Friendship Award, and was honoured with the OBE by Queen Elizabeth II.



Abdullah Bin Habib Choudhury, President of the Student Council, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Francis. The closing speech of this remarkable event was given by Professor Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, who reminded the audience that the sacrifices of the past should motivate all of us to strive for a better tomorrow.



Victory Day Art and Essay Competitions

As part of the celebrations for Victory Day students were invited to enter art and essay competitions by submitting works about the Liberation War and its impact on the people of the new nation. Certificates were presented by Professor Hew and Mr Francis to the winners and participants. The art competition winners were: Muammar Shahriyar Adib (1st prize, pictured), Syeda Taufia Amreen (2nd prize)

and Tasmin Chowdhury Rubi (3rd prize). The essay competition winners were: Raihana Rahman (1st prize, pictured), Shaikh Rafi Zulfiquer (2nd prize), and Jeba Fariha Raisha (3rd prize).



Bijoy Ullash Concert

Universal College Bangladesh participated as a Gold Sponsor for the "বিজয় উল্লাস '১৩" pop concert held on 15th and 16th December 2023 at Jamuna Future Park to Celebrate the 53rd Victory Day of Bangladesh and pay tribute to all the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.

The event was organized by the TAAN-RAAT Institute of Bangladesh under the guidance of the Chief Advisor & Chief Patron, Professor Dr Md Sazzad Hossain, Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) who is pictured with Professor Shamim Ara Hassan, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Sonargaon University, and Professor Hew Gill, President of UCB. There were over 5,000 people at the concert and the Enrolment team from UCB were kept very busy with enquiries about Monash and University of London programmes. Professor Hew gave a rousing speech to the crowd and was asked to speak a second time to the audience.

Some UCB students went backstage with Prof Hew to meet the performers at the concert, who included some of Bangladesh's top music bands and musicians such as Artcell, Warfaze, AvoidRafa, Ashes, and Pritom Hasan.

If you would like news about upcoming UCB events, please contact us now: marketing@ucbbd.org.

Student Council Installation

A lively campaign and hustings for the UCB Student Council elections took place during November. The whole student body voted online for their preferred candidates from among the many dedicated and enthusiastic students who had been nominated by their peers. After the votes had been counted and the results declared, new UCB Student Council for 2023-24 was formally installed into office by Prof Hew on Tuesday 5th December. As part of the installation process each new member of the Student Council received an UCB pin from Prof Hew.

The newly elected Student Council members bring a wide range of talents and ideas to their positions and are already taking on leadership of the student body. In their term of office the Student Council will be work closely with the UCB academic and support team to collaboratively address student concerns, organise events, and take the lead on initiatives to enhance student life.

The members of the Student Council are pictured after their official installation L to R: Sharika Jannat Raiha, Publicity & Promotions Director; Muammar Shahriyar Adib, Student Welfare Director; Ishmum Muhammed Sajeed, Clubs & Societies Director; Abdullah Bin Habib Choudhury, President; Prof Hew; Izharul Hoque, Vice President; Ruhan Min Amreen, General Secretary; Md. Safwan Hossain Khan, Social & Events Director; Afia Kabir Purnota, Academic Director; Md Riduwan Khan, Treasurer.





Higher Secondary School Certificate High Achievers Day

Outstanding HSC students who achieved GPA 5.0 were honoured by UCB at a special event. An amazing 150 students from top schools and colleges across Dhaka were recognised and celebrated for their exceptional academic achievements as top-performing students in their cohort.



Each student was awarded a prestigious medal by Mr Amit Prasad COO of UCB and presented with a certificate signed by Professor Hew Gill, President of UCB, in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, exemplary dedication, and scholarly excellence. Prof Hew congratulated the students on their fantastic results and the high standards they have established for their peers, and explained how they could play their part in building the nation.

As well as honouring academic excellence, the event also featured an insightful presentation by Mr Soureen Dutta, Head of Enrolment, on the many international education options available at UCB. Mr Soureen highlighted the benefits of completing a qualification from Monash or the University of London at UCB, and the many advantages of staying local and studying global.

All of the students who attended were also invited to participate in one of the free courses from Harvard and other leading universities that are offered by UCB as part of its outreach program.

If you would like more information about international education opportunities or to take part in a free course, please contact us now: marketing@ucbbd.org



Research on E-Waste by Prof Muhammad Ismail Hossain

Professor Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Professor of Marketing in the Faculty of Business Studies, Dhaka University has been conducting extensive research into electronic or e-waste with his colleague Professor Nasrin Akter, also from Dhaka University. Together they published a series of articles in The Business Standard about the e-waste value chain of Bangladesh, covering how e-waste is handled formally and informally, who deals with e-waste, and how dealing with e-waste correctly can be good for national income and the environment.

Prof Ismail has warned that "Bangladesh is expected to encounter a huge problem of e-waste due to the enormous drive of the nation to be digitally ready.

Most of the e-waste is managed by informal channels which means the country faces significant health and environmental hazards, and is also losing substantial economic benefits". Prof Akter added "Integration of formal and informal processing channel is key to saving Bangladesh from the disastrous effects of pollution.". Profs Ismail and Akter have proposed a model for policy makers to ensure effective e-waste management.



Step Towards a Warmer Winter

The coldness of the winter season can be especially hard for the poorer people in our community. The students of UCB took the initiative to spread warmth amongst these less fortunate people by conducting a winter clothing collection drive at the campus.

Students decorated a big collection box and placed it on Level 03 at the main campus reception for donated clothes to be easily collected. Members of the Student Council and Student Club ran an active campaign to encourage all students and staff of UCB to donate whatever unwanted clothes they could. It was a fun and engaging activity, where everyone's participation and enthusiasm showed their kindness towards those who are less prosperous. All the clothes collected will be distributed via a local charity organization which works directly with people who are in need of help and support.

Free Accounting Workshop for Students and Friends

Students and friends from outside UCB were invited to attend a free accounting workshop entitled "Navigating the Nuances: Understanding the Bangladesh Accounting System" hosted by SBE Fintech Services. The session led by Mr Suman Chakraborty provided many valuable insights into the intricacies of accounting in the Bangladesh context by providing a deeper understanding of the regulatory framework, financial reporting standards, and practical aspects of accounting specific to Bangladesh. Many students study accounting as part of their Monash and University of London programmes so the question-and-answer session was particularly valuable.

If you would like to attend free workshops at UCB or if you would like a workshop at your organisation or institution, please contact us now: marketing@ucbbd.org



Winter Party

Students ended the year with a heart-warming festive glow and fun-packed evening of games and entertainment. All UCB students and staff were invited to join the party in the Student Lounge and Cafeteria. Members of Student Council decorated the venue beautifully with a Christmas tree and twinkling lights, and a range of decorations, many of which had been made by the students themselves. The sparkling tinsel and snowflakes created a

captivating winter ambiance. The Student Council also made arrangements for a live music performance, and organized lots of different games activities, such as word puzzles, musical chairs, and working in teams to solve a murder mystery. A great time was had by all, and it was a wonderful end to the term and beginning of the winter recess.



Admission to Monash University Foundation Program (MUFY)

Admissions are now open for the Monash University Foundation Program (MUFY) semester which begins with orientation on Sunday 21st January.

Students with HSC, IGCSE, IB, AS, O-level, IB and many other qualifications can join the program for a guaranteed route to Monash University Australia, Monash University Malaysia, and the MCD Pathway at UCB. Seats are filling up fast so if you or someone you know would like to join this amazing program, contact us now admission@ucbbd.org

UCB also offers Monash MCD Pathway programmes in Business & Commerce, Information Technology & Computing, and Engineering. The MCD Pathway programme is the same as the first year of a full Monash degree and students are guaranteed direct entry into the second year of degree study at Monash University Australia or Monash University Malaysia. Students from the HSC Science stream, AS, IBD, A2 and other qualifications can join the MCD Pathway program.

Contact us admission@ucbbd.org for more information about how you can study local and go global with UCB.

Events in January

As usual, the UCB Student Club and campus will be very busy with lots of events in January.

Parents' Day

We'll be holding our usual Parents' Day feedback and counselling session on Saturday 13th January before the beginning of the new semester. This is an opportunity for students and their families to review academic progress and plan the next steps of transitioning to another UCB programme or an overseas university.

Monash University Foundation Year Orientation Day

The new intake for MUFY will hold its orientation day on Sunday 21st of January. Parents and students are welcome to attend and learn all about the program. If you know anyone who would like to join the next MUFY intake contact us now admission@ucbbd.org.

International Education Podcasts

Specially for HSC students, UCB will be hosting a series of live-streamed podcasts about international education and how to choose the course that is best for you. Check out our Facebook page for more details and to join the chat:

facebook.com/ucb.edu

International Day of Education

The Student Council is organising an event to mark the UNESCO International Day of Education with the theme of learning for lasting peace.

Australia Day

UCB will be celebrating our strong partnership with Monash by commemorating Australia Day which marks the anniversary of the landing at Sydney Cove of the First Fleet from Britain in 1788.

Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day

Students will be introduced to morse code by learning how to sound out their name in dots and dashes. As well as being a great deal of fun, this is also an opportunity to learn about the first digital system of communication which enabled messages to be transmitted globally.

International Hat Day

Across the world there are many different styles and types of hats. International Hat Day is an opportunity to learn about other cultures through their distinctive head gear and to make a personal fashion statement.

If you would like to take part in any UCB event or for the UCB team to visit your organisation or institutions, please contact us now: marketing@ucbbd.org