

UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

Monash Information and Progression Day

UCB was delighted to welcome Ms Jo Mithen, CEO Monash College, to our Dhaka campus for an information and progression day.

Ms Mithen spent the morning reviewing the UCB student performance data for 2023. Prof Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, was happy to report that across the year pass rates had risen in MUFY to 97% and in MCD to 94%.

Parents and students were invited to join Ms Mithen and the UCB senior team for an event about progression from MUFY to MCD. Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCB moderated a lively panel discussion about Monash programs with Ms Mithen, Prof. Ismail and four former UCB students now studying their degrees at Monash University; Faiaz Maksudul Haque, Rafiad Ruhi Jewel, Afrida Nusaiba Masir, and Maliha Nashita Rahman.

The student panellists explained how studying at UCB enabled them to fast-track their international higher education journey through Monash pathway programs leading direct into the first or second year of their chosen degrees.

Prof. Hew said, "Offering students different pathways is really important because it means Bangladeshi students have time to develop the transferrable skills which will be essential for their future global success. UCB programs offer cost-efficient pathways and guaranteed entry to Monash University for Bangladeshi students from international or National Curriculum schools. Our internationally qualified faculty and personalized teaching prepares Bangladeshi students for a global education before they go overseas, and makes the UCB-Monash approach unique."

"Monash University is ranked 42nd in the 2024 QS World University Rankings", said Ms Jo Mithen. "Students globally compete to get into such a prestigious university, but successfully completing a Monash pathway program at UCB guarantees a place at Monash University. I encourage more Bangladeshi students to get informed about UCB pathway programs, and to improve their international academic and career prospects, right here in Bangladesh."

In the open Q&A session the UCB students now at Monash University explained how the teaching they received at UCB prepared them for admission to their degrees. After the panel discussion certificates were presented to UCB students who performed at the top of their cohorts in the most recent Monash assessments.

The event closed with students and parents meeting with the Monash College CEO and other experts for personal advice and academic counseling, exploration of the many generous Monash scholarships, and to discuss future careers in Bangladesh and overseas.

If you would like to find out more about our Monash University pathway programs please contact admission@ucbbd.org





International Women's Day

The UCB community convened on International Women's Day to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions and accomplishments of women globally. Both students and staff acknowledged the invaluable contributions that women make to the advancement of knowledge, the formation of society, and the promotion of progress.

On this day, through various activities, we celebrated the fortitude, intelligence, and tenacity of women in UCB. The program started with a speech from our MUFY program coordinator, Ms Aura Rahman, highlighting the origins and significance of Women's Day. Our esteemed President, Dean of Academic Affairs, Chief Operating Officer, Head of Enrollment, and HR Manager all expressed their appreciation for the important role women have played in our institution. They underscored how women have overcome obstacles, challenged norms, and paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable future through their determination and unwavering resolve.

Women students showcased their skills with a powerful dance performance expressing the joy of celebrating independence. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women through this collective expression of solidarity, ensuring that every woman has the opportunity to flourish and achieve her utmost capabilities.

Commonwealth Day

Students at UCB gathered together for an enlightening and engaging event to celebrate Commonwealth Day, and the diversity and unity of the Commonwealth nations planned by Shaikh Rafi Zulfiqer and anchored by Noushin Sharmile Khan.

The event featured short presentations about several Commonwealth nations, by students Jeba Fariha and SM Elmuz Zaman about Bangladesh, Noushin Sharmile Khan and Nafiul Hassan about Australia, Md. Samim Ibona Sattar and Afifa Faiza Hasan about Canada, Fariha Karim and Ahmed Anisuzzaman Khan about the United Kingdom, and Abtahi Anan and Ayesha Sarraf Khan about Sri Lanka. The vibrant presentations written by UCB students showcased the unique characteristics and contributions of each nation to the Commonwealth community, and their very close links with Bangladesh, the land of many rivers. The students described the United Kingdom with its rich history and cultural heritage, the stunning landscapes of Canada and its hardy people, and the unique wildlife of Australia and the 'can-do' attitude of its citizens, and the beauties of Sri Lanka, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The audience learned much about the traditions, customs, and achievements that make all these countries integral parts of the Commonwealth family.

Attendees took part in an interactive quiz written by Nafiul Hassan which tested participants' knowledge about the Commonwealth and its 56 member countries, with a combined population of 2.4 billion people. Individual questions covered the long history of the Commonwealth, member countries, and shared values. The quiz sparked lively discussions about the shared inheritance of democracy, common law, respect for human rights, and fostered a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness and diversity within the Commonwealth. Many of these themes were covered in the beautiful posters and artwork prepared and exhibited by Sharika Jannat Raitha, Muammar Shahriar and SM Elmuz Zama.



Prof Hew, President of UCB, made a short speech thanking the students for all the work that went into the presentations, quiz and exhibition about the Commonwealth, saying, "Commonwealth Day provides a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions within the Commonwealth. Today's exhibition, presentations and quiz have shown us the remarkable diversity of member nations and also underlined the importance of global citizenship and cross-cultural understanding that is fostered by the Commonwealth."

The event concluded with students reflecting on the significance of the Commonwealth in promoting peace, democracy, and prosperity across its member countries, and on the bonds that unite the peoples and nations of the Commonwealth across all the continents of the globe.

UCB National Online Quiz

The monthly UCB National Online Quiz for higher secondary current O/A/HSC level students was held on 1st of March 2024 and just like previous months, responses from students were overwhelming.

Over 500 students registered for the quiz competition, representing 128 schools and colleges from across Bangladesh. The contest gave the participants the opportunity to showcase their broad range of general and specialist knowledge, and their passion and dedication. The enthusiastic participation and exceptional performance of all the contestants reflected their deep engagement and commitment to academic excellence and their strong drive for continued success in their scholarly pursuits.

As in previous UCB National Online Quizzes an amazing number of cash prizes were distributed among the winners from the generous prize fund worth over BDT 40,000/-. The very top quizzers from across Bangladesh were presented with their money at the prize distribution ceremony which took place at the UCB campus, attended by winning students and parents on 9th March.

The winners securing the top cash prizes were:

RANK	NAME	INSTITUTION
1 st	Ahnaf Buksh Zaheen	Sir John Wilson School
2 nd	H M Kabir Hasan	South Herald English School & College
3 rd	Gazi Abdullah Umar Ferdous	Adamjee Cantonment College
4 th	Mushfiq Kamal	Australian International School (AUSIS)
5 th	Abid Hasan Fahim	Adamjee Cantonment College

The UCB National Online Quiz is open to all current O/A/HSC level students. If you would like to take part in the UCB National Online Quiz please register here: <https://ucbbd.org/ucb-quiz/>



Prof Hew visits American Standard International School

Prof. Hew Gill, President of Universal College Bangladesh, visited American Standard International School (ASIS) in Gulshan-2 to meet with students and staff. Prof Hew was welcomed to the campus by American Standard International School's Managing Director, Mr. Zia Imran, along with Ms. Rubayat Bari & Ms. Noreen Rene Al-Mansur.

The highlight of his visit was an amazing Interactive session with the students in which Prof Hew showed them how

their eyes and brains can often play tricks.

All present enjoyed the fun and learned a lot about how to use their memories more effectively, especially for exams.



World Happiness Day

On the International Day of Happiness, Ms Rahnuma, UCB Psychosocial Counsellor, posed a thought-provoking question to UCB students and staff: "What does happiness mean to you?"

As one student responded to this question, they proudly shared their achievement of achieving High Distinction. Meanwhile, another student reflected on the joy they feel when their parents express pride in their accomplishments. In the Library & Resource Centre, several students were collaborating on a group presentation and their response resonated, highlighting the importance of finding the right teammate. Students resting in the Student Lounge & Cafeteria mentioned taking breaks with friends, playing pool and football, chatting, and enjoying snacks together as their definition of happiness. For UCB staff highlights included the importance of a restful night's sleep for increased productivity, meeting deadlines for assigned tasks, enjoying lunchtime socialising, savouring a morning coffee, celebrating a successful student enrollment, witnessing students' success, and organising successful events.

The theme for this year's World Happiness Day was "Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities." During many conversations, students and staff shared their personal experiences of finding instant happiness, the importance of healthy relationships in maintaining happiness, and the positive impact of practicing gratitude on overall well-being.

UCB Students Provide Iftar Meals

In a heartwarming display of compassion, the students at Universal College Bangladesh took the initiative to distribute Iftar meals to the underprivileged in the local community. With the spirit of Ramadan in their hearts, the students organized a drive to collect funds, working tirelessly to distribute nourishing meals to those in need. This thoughtful endeavor not only exemplified the altruism and empathy of the students, but also highlighted the values of kindness and community service instilled within the College's ethos.

The act of providing Iftar to the less fortunate not only addressed the immediate need for sustenance, but also fostered a sense of unity and support across the community. The students' dedication to serving others during this auspicious month set a commendable example for their peers and serves as a testament to the positive impact of selfless acts of kindness in society.

This initiative embodied the true essence of Ramadan and also reflected the College's commitment to nurturing socially responsible and empathetic individuals. The initiative showcases the potential for positive change that can be achieved through collective efforts and serves as an inspiration for others to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of the community.

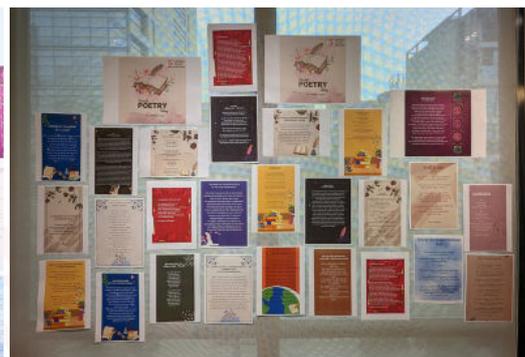




Prof Hew visits Ebenezer International School

Prof. Hew Gill, President of UCB, visited Ebenezer International School (EIS) in Bashundhara for a session with students and a discussion with academic teaching staff. Ebenezer International School teachers Mr. Seong Kim, Mr. Francis Mondol and Mr. Satyabrata Saha welcomed Prof Hew to the EIS campus.

Prof Hew led an interactive seminar exploring various aspects of human memory and showing students how the amount of information and how it is put into memory is very important for being able to recall that information in the future. The enjoyable session also revealed to students how they might be able to use their memories more effectively, especially for exams.



World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day was declared by UNESCO in 1999, "to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increase the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard". Its purpose is to promote the reading, writing, publishing, and teaching of poetry worldwide and, as the original UNESCO declaration says, to "give fresh recognition and impetus to national, regional, and international poetry movements".

Universal College Bangladesh celebrated this day with students performing various activities including recitations of famous poems from different languages and cultures, and poetry readings by students, faculty, and support team staff.

Mr Mohiuddin, UCB Librarian, Ms Zebunessa Zeba, Student Services Executive, and a team of students created a display of their favourite poems in the Library & Resource Centre. To help students improve their spoken word performances they were encouraged to practise pronunciation drills focusing on specific challenging word combinations found in poems, and to use tongue twisters to reinforce pronunciation skills in a fun way. Students also learned about many elements of Bangladeshi culture through traditional and famous Bangla poems.



Independence Day

Universal College Bangladesh celebrated the spirit of independence with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at an event, held on March 25, 2024. There was a vibrant display of national pride and unity, as students and faculty came together to commemorate the historic occasion. The celebration featured a variety of engaging activities, including cultural performances, a very moving Bangal poem recitation by Mr Yazdani, University of London Programme Co-ordinator, and inspirational speeches, highlighting the significance of Bangladesh's independence.

The event also provided a platform for students to express their creativity and showcase their talents through music, dance, and drama fostering a strong sense of national identity and community spirit. The Independence Day celebration at UCB served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation's heroes and the enduring values of freedom and unity. The event encapsulated the College's commitment to nurturing a deep appreciation for national heritage and promoting a strong sense of patriotism among its student body.

Havard ManageMentor Sessions

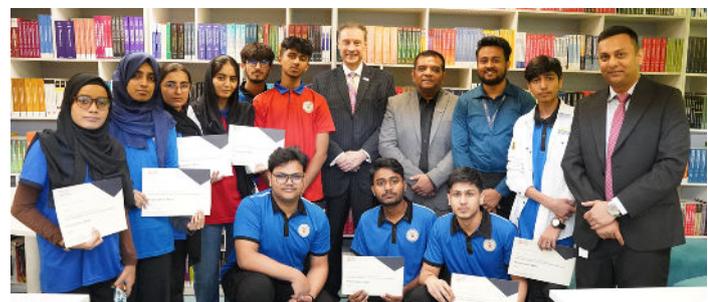
During the month of March UCB organised free Harvard ManageMentor (HMM) sessions for students for several schools, including BAF Shaheen College Dhaka (BAFSCD), Baridhara Scholars' International School and College (BSISC), and American Standard International School (ASIS).

The students were treated to an amazing HMM certified course session on Presentation Skills Development delivered by Mr Dewan Md. Nur A Yazdani, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Management & Marketing, using materials curated by Harvard Business Publishing Education.

BSISC students were accompanied Vice Principal Ms Aziza Taher, Md Abdus Salam and M. Mahfujar Rahman, and ASIS students by Md. Jakaria Zahid Islam

At the close of the HMM sessions all the students were very happy to receive their Certificate from Prof Hew Gill, President & Provost of Universal College Bangladesh.

If your school or college would like to attend a free Harvard ManageMentor session, please contact marketing@ucbbd.org



Events in April

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

UCB National Online Quiz

The monthly UCB National Online Quiz will be running. The Quiz is open to all current O/A/HSC level students, please visit here: <https://ucbbd.org/ucb-quiz/> or scan the QR code:



World Health Day

Students will be taking part in a range of activities to learn about how to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Pohela Baishakh

A celebration of Bengali New Year with traditional food and an exciting cultural programme.

MUFY Predicted Grades Release

Monash University Foundation Year students in their second and final semester will receive their predicted grades and personalised feedback on the next steps on their academic journey.

MUFY Progression Parents' Briefing

Parents and students in the second and final semester of their Monash University Foundation Year will come to campus for briefing and counseling sessions about enrolling in the Monash Continuing Degree program at UCB, progression to the University of London degrees at UCB, or transferring to Monash University Australia or Monash University Malaysia. Eduko Pathways representatives will be present to give advice on transferring overseas.

World Creativity and Innovation Day

A celebration of invention and innovation with the UCB Science Club.

International Dance Day

An opportunity for the many talented dancers and musicians among the UCB student body to display their skills.

Harvard ManageMentor Sessions

There will be free Harvard ManageMentor sessions for students from schools and colleges. If your school or college would like to participate, please contact marketing@ucbbd.org

