

# UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2025

## UCBD CELEBRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD CEREMONY

On March 20, 2025, Universal College Bangladesh hosted a Certificate of Merit Award Ceremony at the UCBD Library & Resource Centre. The event recognized the outstanding academic achievements of students from the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) and Monash College Diploma (MCD) programs in the December and January assessment cycles, in which UCBD students achieved higher marks than students at Monash College in Australia.

The ceremony kicked off with a warm and humorous speech by Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, who instantly set a relaxed tone for the event. Noticing a few empty seats at the front, he joked, "Are you afraid to sit in front because you have something to hide, or is it because you want to avoid sitting too close to me?" The remark earned some embarrassed smiles and chuckles, and just like that, the ice was broken.

This year's Merit Awards were presented to a group of students who showed exceptional performance in their respective streams. In the MUFY program, top subject scorers included Lubaid Abdullah Anan (English), Muhammad Ukasha Aamir (Mathematics), Noshin Ramisa (Business), Md. Sayeed Ahmed (Engineering), and Rafsan Rahman Christy (IT). Tuan Mohamed Rakshan Jayah was awarded Overall MUFY Highest Scorer.



Lubaid Abdullah Anan



Muhammad Ukasha Amir



Noshin Ramisa



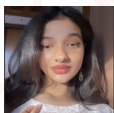
Tuan Mohamed Rakshan Jayah



Md. Sayeed Ahmed



Rafsan Rahman Chisty



Nishat Tasnim Noshin



Nishat Tamanna Islam



Bhuvan Das



Basratul Rafid

From the MCD program, Nishat Tasnim Noshin received the award for the highest overall score across Business units, while Nishat Tamanna Islam secured the highest unit score in Business. In Engineering, Bhuvan Das and Basratul Rafid were recognized for overall and individual unit scores, respectively.

The ceremony was not only about recognising excellence, but also a chance to remind all the students present that showing up, staying consistent, and putting in the effort really does pay off. More than anything, it encouraged students to take pride in their work and not to be afraid of a little spotlight.

Prof Hew reminded the MUFY 2A and 2B students that in the May assessment cycle there will also be an award for the Most Improved Student, with the Merit Awards presented at the Graduation Convocation on 28th June. Many students left the event feeling inspired and also thinking, *'That could be me next time.'*

## PROF ISMAIL WRITES FOR *THE DAILY STAR*

Prof. Ismail shared some perspectives on the necessity and feasibility of establishing Bangladesh's own global apparel brand in the editorial section of the Daily Star. He pointed out that after forty-five years of excellence in ready-made garment (RMG) manufacturing, Bangladesh still has not launched a major apparel brand for the global market! According to Prof. Ismail, Bangladesh has everything needed to start branding initiatives, yet it has not committed to building its own global apparel brand.

Prof. Ismail urged RMG owners and stakeholders to step up and make this long-cherished dream of Bangladeshis- 'Bangladesh will have its own brand competing head-to-head internationally'- a reality. In addition to highlighting the need to build an apparel brand, Prof. Ismail also noted that it takes years to build a brand; thus, building a Bangladeshi global brand will take time, but certainly, any branding initiative of Bangladesh will take less time than in most countries due to the comparative advantage Bangladesh has developed in RMG over the years.

### It's time Bangladesh built its own global apparel brand



File photo: Star

## A PI FOR THOUGHT: HOW MANY NUMBERS CAN TELL THE TRUTH?



UCBD Science Club (USC) organized an event to celebrate the significance of this unique number in our daily lives. Students from different disciplines attended the event to participate in a quiz based on the history and application of the number Pi in our daily lives. Starting from the fields of science and technology the number has also shown its value even in the field of business, which was briefly explored before the quiz competition. Although winners were chosen based on the score all participants won the benefit of knowledge through this event and learned how to embrace maths in our everyday life.

The event ended by leaving a question for all the curious minds assembled "Is it not surprising how an irrational number defines the apparent rational world with its constant nature encompassing infinity?"

In an ever-changing world where truth is constantly shaped by fabricated 'facts', perhaps the solution to the origin lies in a beautifully mysterious irrational number called 'Pi' written as the Greek letter symbol  $\pi$  in mathematics. Every year, the world celebrates a special day for the unique number Pi, which is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

The number Pi is independent of the size of the circle, it is constant, and it may be infinite, starting from the value 3.14 supercomputers have calculated Pi to trillions of decimal places.



## DHAKA RESIDENTIAL MODEL COLLEGE STUDENTS PUBLISH PROF HEW'S INTERVIEW

On 10th March 2025, Students from Dhaka Residential Model College's Business and Career Club visited UCBD campus to interview of Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD. After a few weeks of transcription and editing, the students published the final interview article in BIZLIGHT 2.0, the DRMC Business and Career Club magazine.

The interview was very wide ranging and Prof Hew answered many different questions from the student journalists. Starting at the beginning of UCBD's history, Prof Hew explained that UCBD is the premier transnational education provider in Bangladesh, with all the relevant permissions from the Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission. He went on to talk about how all UCBD programmes are taught and assessed to international standards, and how the academic team ensure that quality standards are maintained. Prof Hew was pleased to point out that 99% of UCBD students pass, and that UCBD has higher scores than students at international partners.

When asked about the skills students need to succeed in the current and future job market, Prof Hew described how UCBD's partners and programmes are carefully chosen to equip students with transferrable skills. He continued by giving some examples of exactly how UCBD supports its students to develop their leadership, entrepreneurship, and other key skills. If you would like to interview Prof Hew for your publication please contact: [president@ucbd.edu.bd](mailto:president@ucbd.edu.bd)



## UCBD STUDENTS SHARE RAMADAN BLESSINGS WITH IFTAR DISTRIBUTION

On March 23, 2025, a wave of compassion swept through the streets surrounding the Universal College Bangladesh (UCBD) campus as students organized a heartfelt iftar meal distribution to make a meaningful impact in their community. This initiative, part of the institution's ongoing commitment to social responsibility, aimed to support families in need during the holy month. In the spirit of Ramadan, students of UCBD distributed over 200 iftar packages to underprivileged individuals and daily laborers in the local community ensuring that individuals and families could break their fast together.

The initiative, organized by Mr. Dewan Md. Nur -A Yazdani, senior faculty and University of London-London School of Economics Programme Leader at Universal College Bangladesh (UCBD), aimed to provide sustenance and spread the joy of Ramadan. Under the watchful eye of Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost, and other members of the academic faculty, students worked tirelessly to distribute nutritious meals consisting of traditional iftar items. The distribution, which began in the late afternoon, saw students engaging with recipients, sharing smiles and warm wishes.

The event highlighted the students' commitment to social responsibility and their dedication to making a positive impact on their community. The distribution was met with gratitude and appreciation, reinforcing the power of collective kindness during Ramadan.





## UCBD IFTAR FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



On 21st March 2025, Universal College Bangladesh organized an Iftar event at the UCBD campus in Gulshan for principals and representatives from various well-reputed schools across Dhaka. Prof Hew Gill, President of UCBD, welcomed the guests to UCBD and spoke about how studying for an international degree in Dhaka has many benefits for students and for the whole nation of Bangladesh.

Mr. Manas Singh, CEO of STS Capital Limited, explained how schools could benefit from partnering with UCBD. Mr. Kingshuk Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, welcomed everybody to the Iftar dinner served in the UCBD Student Lounge and Café on the top floor of the UCBD Gulshan campus.

## 54TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF BANGLADESH OBSERVED AT UCBD

On March 24, 2025, Universal College Bangladesh came together to commemorate the 54th Independence Day of Bangladesh with a short but meaningful programme at the UCBD Library & Resource Centre. Although the national holiday falls on March 26, the event was held earlier to allow the community to take part before everyone went into Eid holidays. Students, faculty members, academic and administrative staff, and the enrolment team attended the program. Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, was also present.

The programme opened with a speech by MUFY student Nivan Nur Yamin, who reflected on the significance of the Liberation War and the enduring impact of Bangladesh's fight for freedom. His words highlighted both the historical context and the emotional weight of this national milestone. Following the speech, the audience watched Stop Genocide, Zahir Raihan's powerful short film that documents the atrocities of 1971.

At the end of the event, everyone stood together for the national anthem. It was a quiet and respectful moment that brought a sense of unity to the room. The event offered a chance for the UCBD community to pause, remember, and reflect on the journey of our nation. It served as a reminder of the importance of honouring our history as we continue working toward a better future.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT UCBD



➤ **UCBD STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

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➤ **DHAKA FLOW FEST**

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➤ **MONASH FOUNDATION GRADUATION**

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➤ **WORLD TEA DAY**

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➤ **EXTRA CURRICULAR AWARDING CEREMONY**

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➤ **MUFY STUDENTS' EXAM WEEK**

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➤ **INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY**

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➤ **CELEBRATING RABINDRA JAYANTI**

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