



BUILDING A LEGACY: 50 YEARS OF UCEP JOURNEY



SKILLS TALK Vol. 11, Golden Jubilee Edition, May, 2024

EDITORIAL



Md. Abdul Karim, PhD
Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh

Fifty Years of Empowering the Future: UCEP Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee

As we mark the golden jubilee of UCEP Bangladesh, it is a time of reflection and celebration. For half a century, UCEP has stood as a beacon of hope and opportunity, nurturing the potential of underprivileged children and youth in Bangladesh. Our journey, driven by the vision of empowerment through education and skill development, has transformed countless lives and communities.

From its humble beginnings, UCEP Bangladesh has grown to become one of the country's best technical education institutions. The organization's commitment to providing skills training programs that culminate in substantial job opportunities is not just a mission statement but a tangible reality for thousands of graduates who have successfully transitioned from training to meaningful employment.

This journey, however, was not without its challenges. Each step forward was met with obstacles—from financial constraints to societal hurdles—that tested our resolve and dedication. Despite these difficulties, UCEP's unwavering commitment to its mission was bolstered by the generous support from the Government of Bangladesh as well as international partners such as the FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office), GAC (Global Affairs Canada), and numerous other organizations. Their collaboration has been instrumental in broadening our impact and enhancing our capabilities.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is crucial to acknowledge the role of our dynamic team. From educators and administrators to support staff, it is their perseverance and passion that fuel our ongoing success. Their dedication has not only fostered an environment of learning and growth but has also driven innovation within our educational models and outreach strategies.

Looking ahead, UCEP Bangladesh is poised for an even greater impact. Our strategic plans include expanding our reach to more regions, enhancing our curriculum to align with evolving market demands, and continuing to advocate for policy changes that support vocational training and education reform.

On this auspicious occasion of our 50th anniversary, I invite all stakeholders, including our alumni, partners, and friends, to join us in celebrating our past achievements and supporting our future endeavors. Together, we can continue to change lives and build a brighter future for all.



LINDSAY ALLAN CHEYNE

Founder of UCEP Bangladesh



1972: UCEP BANGLADESH JOURNEY BEGINS FROM LINDSAY ALAN CHEYNE'S DREAM

The origin of Unprivileged Children's Education Programs (UCEP) is connected with a philanthropic New Zealander, Lindsay Alan Cheyne. He came over to Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan) as a rescue worker for a British humanitarian organization in 1970, when this land suffered from a colossal natural disaster in the form of tornado which hit the south-eastern coast claiming millions of lives and causing limitless loss to the homes and properties of people. Bangladesh had hardly come round from the horrible wreckages of the tornado, then started our war of liberation which brought with it great loss of lives, devastation in every part of the country. Cheyne made his existence again felt in the service of humanity. The British organization again sought the services of Cheyne to which he earnestly responded. Along with his relief operation duties, Cheyne worked for an education programme for the unprivileged, homeless, poor children in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare. L. A. Cheyne was warned by his employer in clear terms that his involvement in such a work was not compatible with their objectives since they wanted to provide health care and not education. But Cheyne was true to his cause with an indomitable determination. He left his job and volunteered to bring in some rays of hope in the life of the poor and underprivileged children of Bangladesh. He frantically looked for some financial sponsors. The Danish government came forward with a grant of three years. The government of Bangladesh donated a building. In 1972, Cheyne established UCEP (Under Privileged Children's Educational Programs), and registered it as an international non-government organization.

DREAM TO REALITY: CHEYNE'S VISION COMES ALIVE

The implementation of an education program aimed at amalgamating traditional schooling with skill enhancement initiatives stands as a pivotal strategy to uplift the socio-economic status of child laborers. By integrating conventional education with specialized skill training, this program not only fosters academic growth but also equips children with practical skills essential for improving their quality of life. Central to this initiative is the creation of educational opportunities tailored specifically for child laborers, aiming to reduce illiteracy rates and cultivate a skilled workforce. Particularly focused on urban areas, where underprivileged children from impoverished families are most vulnerable, this program offers free learning opportunities, thereby ensuring accessibility while keeping administrative costs minimal. Through these concerted efforts, the program endeavors to break the cycle of poverty and empower marginalized communities by providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary for a brighter future.

FROM VISION TO ACTION: UCEP BANGLADESH'S ENDEAVOR FOR EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The programme was initiated in 1973 in the lawn of the Department of Social Welfare of Dhaka University. That created substantial enthusiasm. By 1980, ten schools were established at different parts of Dhaka, consisting of 3086 students. In view of the demands of the society and rising pressures of working children in the urban areas, the programme was extended to other divisional cities. In 1980, two schools were established in Chittagong with 350 students; the number of schools in Chittagong has now risen to eight. Khulna and Rajshahi came under the extension programmes in 1981 and 1994 respectively. Now, 20323 students are having education in 30 general schools (Dhaka 14, Chittagong 8, Khulna 6, Rajshahi 2). From 1982, UCEP has started its programme in Nepal. The experience of running the general schools led UCEP to think about the development of working skills of the children.

In 1983, UCEP established the vocational schools the first of which was started in Dhaka. In 1988, UCEP was registered as a national non-government organisation. The training cell of UCEP was established in 1989 and two years later, in 1991, employment programme for the students was introduced. Vocational schools were started at Chittagong and Khulna in 1992 and 1993 respectively. In 1995, par- trade programme was simultaneously introduced at Dhaka and Chittagong. Similar programme was started at Rajshahi with the financial assistance of ILO. In 1997, the 'Hard-to Reach' programme was introduced in joint collaboration with UNICEF and the Department of Non-Formal Education of the Government. Para-trade programme specially designed for the physically disabled was introduced in 1998 with assistance from Radda Barnen.

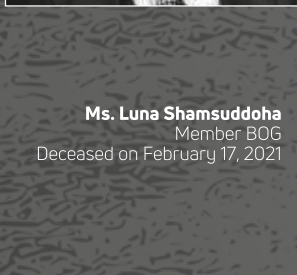
REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEPARTED SOULS



Mr. Hossain Toufique Imam
Association Member
Deceased on March 4, 2021



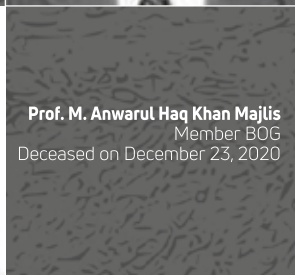
Prof. Dr. K. M. Mohsin
Chairperson BOG, 92
Deceased on February 22, 2021



Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha
Member BOG
Deceased on February 17, 2021



Prof. M. Anwarul Haq Khan Majlis
Member BOG
Deceased on December 23, 2020



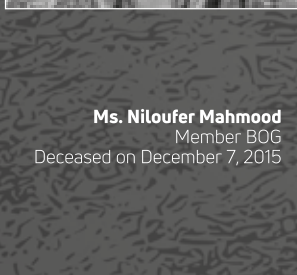
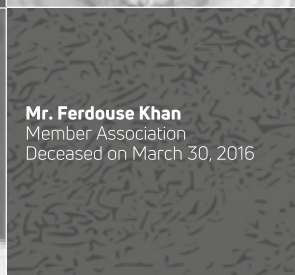
Mr. Ferdouse Khan
Member Association
Deceased on March 30, 2016



Mrs. Husniara Huq
Member BOG
Deceased on June 2, 2019



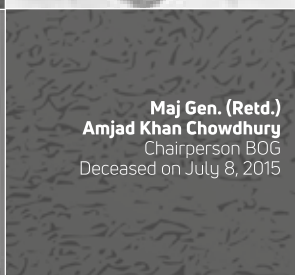
**Maj Gen. (Retd.)
Amjad Khan Chowdhury**
Chairperson BOG
Deceased on July 8, 2015



Ms. Niloufer Mahmood
Member BOG
Deceased on December 7, 2015



Mr. Chowdhury Manzur Murshed
VICE Chairperson BOG
Deceased on September 16, 2013



Mr. M. Sirajul Islam
Chairperson, BOG
Deceased on January 27, 2013

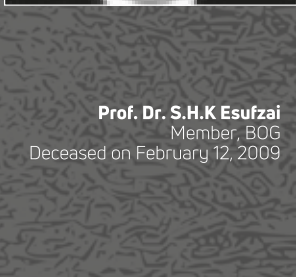




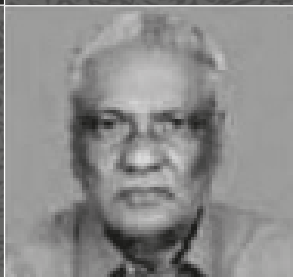
**Lt. Col.
Hesamuddin Ahmed, Psc (Retd.)**
Vice-Chairperson, BOG
Deceased on February 14, 2012



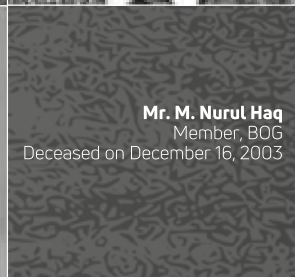
Mr. Sulaiman Chaudhury
Vice Chairperson ,BOG
Deceased on July 23, 2009



Prof. Dr. S.H.K Esufzai
Member, BOG
Deceased on February 12, 2009



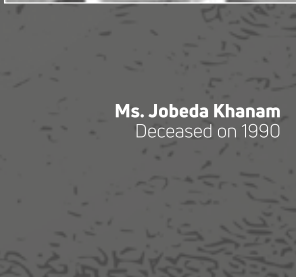
Mr. M. Nurul Haq
Member, BOG
Deceased on December 16, 2003



Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad (Retd.)
Chairperson, BOG
Deceased on December 15, 2001



Mr. M. R. Siddiqi
Chairperson
Deceased on February 6, 1992



Ms. Jobeda Khanam
Deceased on 1990



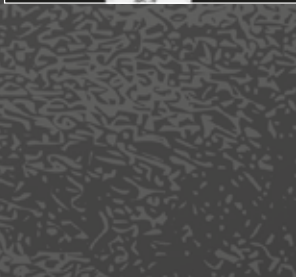
Mr. R.M.H. Hirji
Member, BOG



**Brig. General (Retd.)
Aftab Uddin Ahmed**
UCEP Executive Director/Chief
Executive Officer
Deceased on May 14, 2020



Arc. Mubasshar Hussain
Member, UCEP Association
Deceased on January 02, 2023



Professor Md. Hafizul Islam
Member, UCEP Association
Deceased on January 23, 2023

FORMER CHAIRPERSONS OF UCEP BANGLADESH



Mr. M. R. Siddiqi

Chairperson
(May 1988-October 1990)



**Maj. Gen. (Retd.)
Amjad Khan Chowdhury**

Chairperson
(October 1990-May 1993)



Prof. Dr. K. M. Mohsin

Chairperson
(May 1993-March 1994)



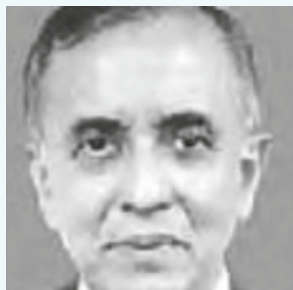
**Mr. Salahuddin Kasem
Khan**

Chairperson
(Apr 1994-Dec 1995, Jan 1996-Jan 1997)



**Col. Mujib Ur Rahman
Khan (Retd.)**

Chairperson
(March 1997-April 1999)



**Rear Admiral Sultan
Ahmed (Retd.)**

Chairperson
(May 1999-December 2001)



**Mrs. Zeba Rasheed
Chowdhury**

Chairperson
(Dec 2001-Dec 2002)



Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury

Chairperson
(Jan 2003-Dec 2004, Jan 2013-Dec 2014,
Jan 2015-Dec 2016)



Mr. M. Mokammel Haque

Chairperson
(Jan 2005-July 2005)



Mr. M. Sirajul Islam

Chairperson
(Aug 2005-Dec 2006)



**Mr. A. G. M. Shamsul
Kamal**

Chairperson
(Jan 2007-Dec 2008)



Dr. Ubaidur Rob

Chairperson
(Jan 2009-Dec 2010, Jan 2011-Dec 2012)



Mr. A. Q. Siddiqui

Chairperson
(Jan 2017-Dec 2018)

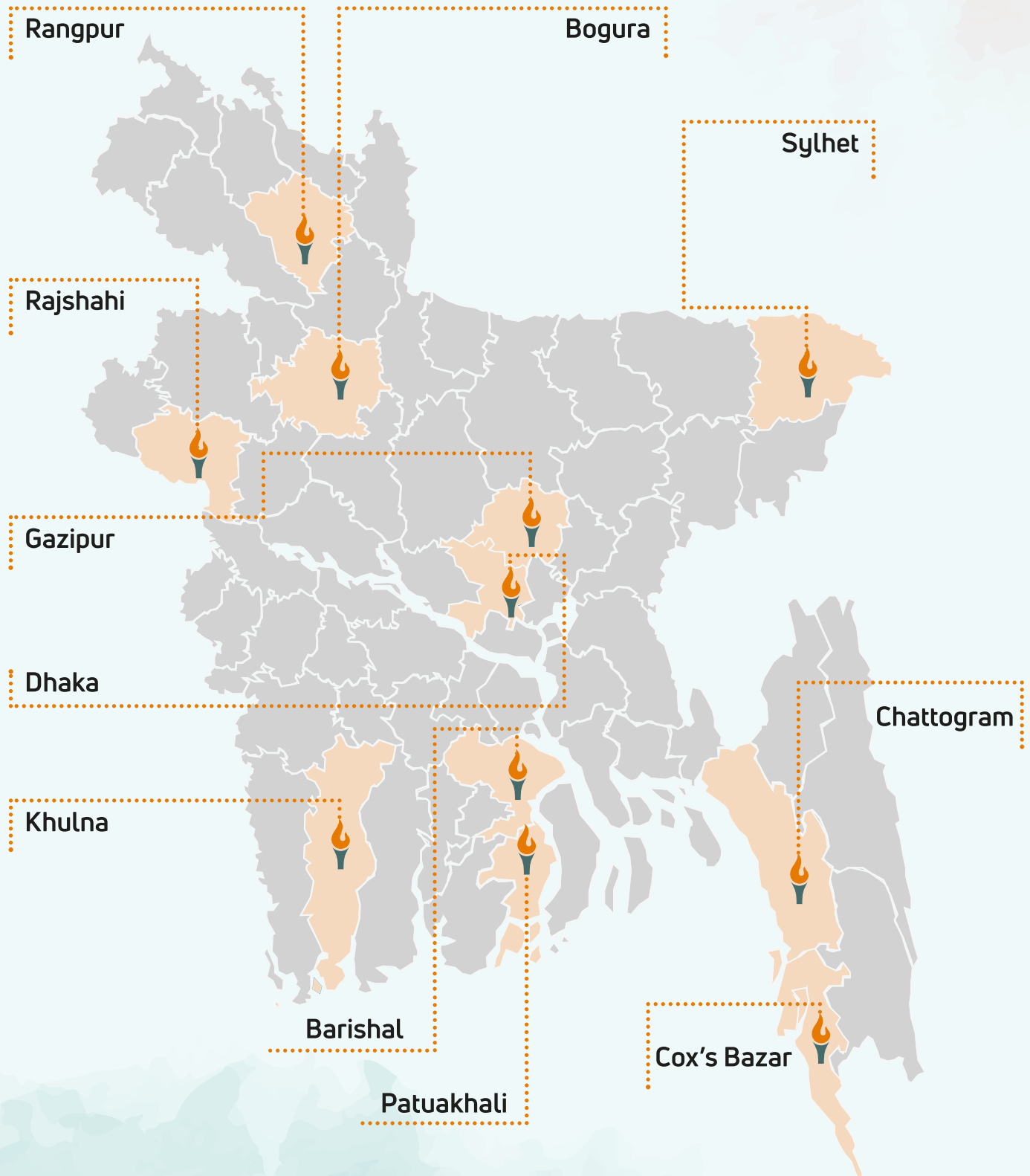


**Ms. Parveen Mahmud
FCA**

Chairperson
(Jan 2019-Dec 2022)

LOCATIONS

WE WORK IN



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



ICMAB BEST CORPORATE AWARD 2023



ICMAB has started awarding best corporate Awards to corporate institutions in Bangladesh from the year 2007 for their good performances and to promote transparency, accountability, good governance ensuring commitment to the society and enhancing the level of performance for the stakeholders. ICMAB believes that this process of giving awards shall definitely create healthy competition among corporate houses to maintain continuous sustainable improvement which shall ensure providing better quality of products and services to the people.

UCEP Bangladesh participated in the 13th ICMAB Best Corporate Award organized by the institute of Cost and Management Accounts of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and awarded the Silver Prize for outstanding performance in the designated areas.

Honorable Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi MP handed over the 13th ICMAB Best Corporate Award to 53 corporate entities in 17 different sectors at an event at the Panpacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director of Finance and Compliance, and Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director of Programme & Innovations, received the award on behalf of UCEP Bangladesh (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 10*).

UCEP Bangladesh awarded first prize for 4IR Skills Award

UCEP Bangladesh clinched the top spot, securing the first prize in the non-governmental category for the 4IR Skills Award, recognizing its significant contribution to the development of skilled manpower. Mr. Joy Prakash Barua, Regional Manager, Chattogram Region received the award from the Hon'ble State Minister of ICT Division, Mr. Md. Junaid Ahmed Palok, MP during the ceremony held on March 16, 2023. The event was organized by North South University in collaboration with a2i and Thriving Skills (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9*).

ICAB NATIONAL AWARD 2023



UCEP Bangladesh participated in the 23rd ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures 2022 competition organized by the Institute of Chartered Accounts of Bangladesh (ICAB) and awarded the "CERTIFICATE OF MERIT" under the category Best Presented Annual Reports NGOs/NPOs as a mark of excellence in corporate reporting. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi handed over the "23rd ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2022" to the winners at an event at the Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. Dr. Samsul Alam, state minister for the planning ministry was also present as the special guest.

The Institute of Chartered Accounts of Bangladesh (ICAB) awarded 59 listed and non-listed entities in 17 different sectors for best presented annual reports for 2022 to promote transparency and accountability through financial and non-financial disclosures.

A 13-member jury board chaired by Dr. Atiur Rahman, former governor at Bangladesh Bank reviewed the recommended list of the winners for their best presented annual reports, integrated reporting and corporate governance disclosures for the year 2022. Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director of Finance & Compliance, Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director of Programme & Innovations, and Mr. Subinoy Dutta, Deputy Director of Resource Mobilization & Communications received the award on behalf of UCEP Bangladesh (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 10*).



ICMAB BEST CORPORATE AWARD 2021



UCEP Bangladesh continued its streak of success by clinching the ICMAB Best Corporate Award 2021 in the NGO category. This accolade further underscores UCEP's commitment to transparency and structured governance. At the subsequent event on December 01, 2022, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Mr. Tipu Munshi, distributed awards, with esteemed guests such as ICMAB President Md. Mamunur Rashid emphasizing the importance of credible information disclosure in fostering corporate excellence. Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director of Finance and Compliance, and Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Mamun, Deputy Director of Programme & Innovations, received the award on behalf of UCEP Bangladesh (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 07*).

ICMAB BEST CORPORATE AWARD 2020



The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) celebrated exemplary corporate governance on December 30, 2021, by honoring 61 organizations at a prestigious event held in a city hotel. Among the distinguished recipients was UCEP Bangladesh, which received the Silver Award in the NGO category for its outstanding performance in the Institute's Best Corporate Award-2020. Notable figures, including Hon'ble Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi, BSEC Chairman Prof. Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam, and SAFA President AKM Delwer Hussain, lauded the accomplishments of the awardees. Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director Finance and Compliance at UCEP Bangladesh, accepted the award on behalf of the organization from Hon'ble Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi MP. The ICMAB's annual 'Best Corporate Award' is a testament to organizations' adherence to international standards of corporate governance, focusing on economic, effective, and efficient practices (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 03*).

NAMI Award 2021 awarded to Late Mr. Lindsay Allan Cheyne, Founder, UCEP Bangladesh

Nirafat Anam Memorial Inclusion (NAMI) Award has been named in memory of Late Dr. Nirafat Anam who was the Assistant Professor at the Institute of Education & Research (IER) of University of Dhaka until she passed away in August 2001. Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE) conferred the award on Lindsay Allan Cheyne for his great contributions in taking the movement of inclusion of the underprivileged children, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities forward.

Md. Abdul Karim, PhD, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, received the honor on behalf of Lindsay Allan Cheyne on 21 May 2022 at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Dhaka. Special guest hon'ble Deputy Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, M.P, Ministry of Education handed over the award to him. Hon'ble Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, M.P, Ministry of Education was virtually present as the chief guest of the programme (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 05*).



UCEP CELEBRATES MUJIB BORSHO, 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND ITS LEGACY



UCEP Bangladesh organized a special event titled 'Mujib Shoto Borsho and 50 Years of Bangladesh: Celebrating UCEP Legacy' on 05 September 2021 at its Head Office in Mirpur. The Honorable Planning Minister Mr. M. A. Mannan MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Chief Coordinator, National Implementation Committee for the celebration of Mujib Borsho and Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. K. M. Tarikul Islam, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau were present as Special Guests. The event was presided over by Ms. Parveen Mahmud FCA, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh presented UCEP activities and programmes. Members of UCEP Board of Governors and UCEP Association were also present during the event.

Hon'ble Minister Mr. Mannan acknowledged the activities of UCEP Bangladesh for the past 49 years, serving children and youths from poor and disadvantaged community especially focusing on women, persons with disabilities and minorities. He expressed satisfaction that besides offering occupational skills training courses, UCEP Bangladesh has stepped up to promote ICT-based entrepreneurship embracing the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) aligned with the implementation of government's various agendas. He assured that UCEP Bangladesh will receive continuous support from the government.

On the occasion of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a special 'Mujib Corner' was inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Guest at UCEP Bangladesh Head Office in Dhaka. The inauguration took place at the presence of UCEP Bangladesh's Chairperson Ms. Parveen Mahmud FCA, Vice Chairperson Ms. Uzma Chowdhury CPA and the Executive Director of UCEP Mr. Md. Abdul Karim were present among others.

The Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, Ms. Parveen Mahmud FCA said that UCEP has been working tirelessly for the last 49 years towards improving the lives of disadvantaged children and youth in Bangladesh. The organization will continue to work harder to achieve the dream of the Father of the Nation's vision of a glorious Bangladesh (Source-Skills Talk Vol. 2).



Celebration of Mujib Borsho, 50 Years of Independence and its Legacy



'Mujib Corner' Inaugurated at UCEP Bangladesh

COUNTRYWIDE CELEBRATION OF CHEYNE DAY

UCEP Bangladesh celebrated the 92nd birth anniversary of its founder, Lindsay Allan Cheyne, with a grand celebration at its head office in Dhaka on November 25, 2023. Lindsay Allan Cheyne, born in New Zealand in 1931, established UCEP Bangladesh in 1972 with a vision to enhance the quality of life for underprivileged children in the country through technical and vocational education. The event, named "Cheyne Day," was graced by esteemed guests, including Mr. Abdul Baki, Member, Industry and Energy, Planning Commission, as the Chief Guest, Ms. Farida Pervin, Director General of the Department of Women Affairs, Mr. Ali Akbar Khan, Chairman, Bangladesh Technical Education Board, and Mr. Neaz Ahmed, Honorary Consul of the New Zealand Consulate in Bangladesh, as Special Guests.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Baki, expressed heartfelt appreciation for Lindsay Allan Cheyne's remarkable contributions. Other distinguished guests reiterated their profound appreciation for Lindsay Allan Cheyne's contributions and praised UCEP Bangladesh's unwavering dedication to empowering underprivileged children and youth with technical education and life skills. Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, the Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh's Board of Governors, conveyed deep appreciation for the invaluable support received from the government and donors. Dr. Md Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh and former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, welcomed the participants, emphasizing Lindsay Allan Cheyne's impactful legacy and UCEP Bangladesh's commitment to his vision (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 10*).



Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023

On 9th December, 2023, UCEP Bangladesh, a non-governmental organization held its 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its head office. The meeting was chaired by Dr Mohammad Alauddin, the Chairman of UCEP Board of Governors. The meeting was attended by the members of the Board of Governors and the Association, the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh and the senior management team and other officials of the organization.

The Executive Director welcomed the participants and thanked them for their presence and support. He presented the operational and financial report of the organization for the year 2023, and the approved annual plan and budget for the year 2024. He also addressed the organization's ongoing activities and operations to the Board and Association members. The esteemed members of the Board and Association provided suggestions and guidance for the further prospects of the organization.

the organization's achievements and financial position in 2023. They appreciated the guidance of the Chairman, the leadership of the Executive Director, and the efforts of the Directors and officials. The organization's progress and potential were discussed in a meeting with the esteemed members of the Board and Associations. They offered some valuable suggestions and guidance on how to enhance the organization's development and prospects. They also conveyed their full confidence in the organization's future growth and impact. The meeting was productive and cordial, and the organization appreciated the input and support from the Board and Association.

The meeting ended with a gratitude from the Chairman to all the participants. He also conveyed his thanks to the donors, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders of UCEP Bangladesh for their continued cooperation and trust (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 10*).



Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the UCEP Association was held on December 14, 2022, at its head office in Dhaka. The AGM was chaired by Ms. Parveen Mahmud FCA, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, while the AGM report was presented by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim. The AGM was conducted in a hybrid mode. Members of the UCEP Association and its Board of Governors were present at the meeting.

All proposals submitted for the UCEP Board of Governors' approval were approved. At the meeting, some decisions were taken, including the increase of polytechnic institutes, the intensification of 4IR courses, and the strengthening of affiliations with the Government of Bangladesh.

As part of the valedictory ceremony, Ms. Parveen Mahmud, FCA, received a token of respect from the newly elected Chairperson, Dr. Mohammad Alauddin. UCEP Bangladesh recognized all the contributions she made to organizational development. A new board has been elected in the presence of the association. Dr. Mohammad Alauddin was elected chairperson, and Ms. Zahida Ispahani was elected vice chairperson for the period of 2023-2025.



GOB SUPPORTS UCEP BANGLADESH TO ESTABLISH DIGITAL LABS UNDER THE "SHEIKH RUSSEL DIGITAL LAB" PROJECT

The Sheikh Russel Digital Lab, a flagship project of the Government, is playing a vital role in expanding the ICT education for building a large technologically skilled workforce to run Digital Bangladesh activities, keeping pace with the changing world. By establishing specialized computer labs in the educational institutions across the country under the project, the Government is speeding up the expansion of computer literacy and quality education, job opportunity, employment skills and language competency. Through this project 5,500 Sheikh Russel Digital Labs will be set up at school level to promote ICT-based education in the country. UCEP Bangladesh has got the privilege of being a part of this flagship project. The Information and Communication Technology Division of the Ministry of



Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology agrees to establish Sheikh Russel Digital Lab in UCEP's all Technical Schools in Bangladesh. Primarily, the labs will cover UCEP Technical Schools in Dhaka and Chattogram divisions and to this effect, a letter from Sheikh Russel Digital Lab project (second phase) office confirms the Government decision for UCEP Bangladesh. Setting up the Digital Labs in technical schools will open the door to learning about different IT courses for students from underprivileged backgrounds. The labs will also help to build up the students as ICT skilled workforce and equip them with adequate skills so that they can access the global market for decent work.

Government approved a new project of UCEP Bangladesh in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE)

The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Department of Labor (DoL) and UCEP Bangladesh, has approved a transformative project named "Transform backward youth into industrial workers in order to increase industrial productivity project". Its aim is to empower disadvantaged youth, turning them into skilled industrial workers, thereby enhancing overall industrial productivity. This project is supported by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) and spans a three-year period from July 2023 to June 2026.



Implementation of this project will be undertaken by Labor Welfare Center in Rangamati District and 12 UCEP TVET Institutes located across various

districts including Dhaka, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Chattogram, Patuakhali, and Cox's Bazar. Responding to local and global labor market needs, an initiative aims to provide dignified jobs, especially for those hit hardest by the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific goals encompass crafting a skilled workforce, acknowledging prior experience, promoting entrepreneurship, and aligning training with the National Employment Policy. MoLE has set targets through this project i.e., skill training 15,000 youths, 80% gain secure decent employment, RPL 5,000 workers, train 1,000 workers in entrepreneurship, certifying 100 trainers, and linking with 500 industries (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9*).

Munshi Arfan Ali-UCEP Labor and Employment Institute at Shantigonj, Sunamgonj

On 5th November 2023, Honorable Planning Minister Mr. M. A. Mannan inaugurated the foundation plaque of Munshi Arfan Ali-UCEP Labor and Employment Institute at Shantigonj, Sunamgonj.

During this time, Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, MP and member of UCEP Association; Ms. Zahida Ispahani, Vice-chair of UCEP Board of Governors; Dr. Ubaidur Rob, former Chairperson of UCEP Board of Governors; Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP; Mr. Khaled Mamun Chowdhury ndc, Director General of Department of Labor; Mr. Didar-e-Alam Mohammad Maksud Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Sunamgonj; Mr. Lokman Hossain, Upazilla Chairman of Jakigonj; and Mr. Sukanto Saha, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer of Shantigonj Upazilla were present.



FORGING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS: UCEP BANGLADESH'S RESOURCE MOBILIZATION JOURNEY

UCEP Bangladesh's Resource Mobilization and Communications (RM&C) wing has been instrumental in forging strategic alliances and partnerships to drive sustainable development initiatives. By actively engaging with esteemed organizations such as USAID, UNICEF, Save the Children International, BPRM-US State Department, CARE, Swiss Contact, Child Aid Network Foundation, and Metlife Foundation, the RM&C team has conducted a series of productive meetings to identify potential project opportunities and cultivate meaningful collaborations. Moreover, the team has proactively sought Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from national and international donors, further expanding the organization's resource base.

During this period, significant milestones were achieved, including the completion of a thorough Due Diligence Assessment (DDA) for the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) Project funded by UNICEF, Girls' Education and Skills Programme (GESP) project by Save the Children, and a Partnership Contract signing ceremony for Swisscontact's "Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS)" project. Additionally, a pre-teaming agreement was successfully signed with Save the Children for the World Bank-funded Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) project. These efforts underscore the commitment of the Resource Mobilization wing to identify impactful partnerships, secure funding, and advance UCEP Bangladesh's mission of skills development and sustainable progress.

At the local level, UCEP Bangladesh has prioritized efforts to mobilize resources and foster partnerships to ensure program continuity and sustainability. Through collaborative agreements with organizations such as Friendship, SEEP, Bandhu Social Welfare Society, and others, UCEP has expanded its reach in providing skills training and employment opportunities to underprivileged individuals. Additionally, the organization has solidified partnerships with private sector companies like ACI Formulation Limited and Pro Search Recruitment Consultants, further enhancing its impact in uplifting marginalized communities. These partnerships, facilitated through MoUs and agreements, reflect UCEP's commitment to promoting sustainable livelihoods and empowering individuals for a brighter future.

Standard Chartered Bank and UCEP Bangladesh to empower 2000 vulnerable youths with employable skills and entrepreneurship training

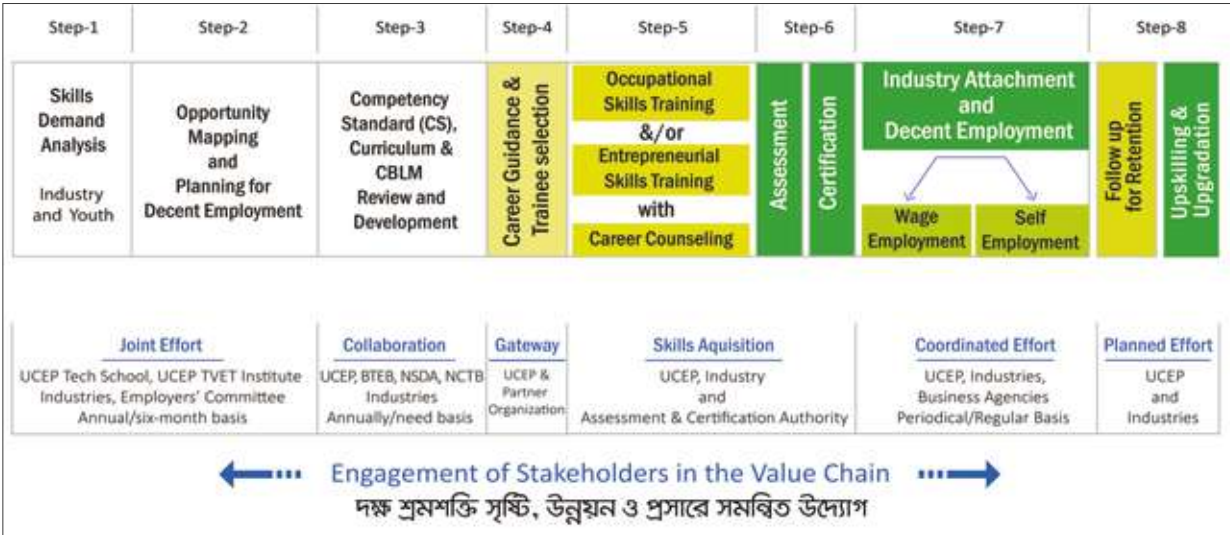
UCEP Bangladesh in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank has launched "Giving Wings to Dreams for Youth Empower Programme under Futuremakers" by Standard Chartered, the Bank's flagship global community initiative.

The project inauguration ceremony took place on June 18, 2023, at the UCEP TVET Institute in Gazipur. Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Naser Ezaz Bijoy, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bangladesh was the special guest of the event.



The project will provide skills training, mid-level management, and entrepreneurship development opportunities to 2,000 beneficiaries through various training programs. The project prioritizes inclusiveness with a target of 50% female representation and 2% representation of persons with disabilities among the beneficiaries. (Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9)

UCEP Promotes Skill Eco-system through an Inclusive Value Chain Approach



PSEA Guiding Principles: UCEP's Safeguarding Training for a Safer Workplace

In a proactive move towards ensuring a safe and secure workplace, UCEP Bangladesh conducted a series of Safeguarding Training sessions at various locations. On August 2, 2023, the UCEP Bangladesh headquarters hosted this training session facilitated by Ms. Nazia Kabir, a distinguished Bar-at-Law and Advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The event was graced by Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh Board of Governors, and Dr. Ubaidur Rob, who held a special guest role. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, presided over the session, emphasizing the significance of safeguarding at workplace.



Following this, the Dhaka North region (DNR) organized a similar training session on August 8, also facilitated by Ms. Nazia Kabir. The session was honored by the presence of Ms. Zahida Ispahani, Vice Chairperson of UCEP Board of Governors, who served as the Chief Guest. The Dhaka South region (DSR) also held a training session, with Professor Tahmina Akhter, a devoted member of UCEP Board of Governors, underscoring the importance and implications of safeguarding for the staff. In the UCEP Khulna Region, Dr. Md. Abdul Mazid, as Chief Guest, presided over a comprehensive Safeguarding Training session. Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director of Finance and Compliance, offered crucial insights into the application of safeguarding policies within the workplace of UCEP Bangladesh.

These training sessions mark a significant step forward in UCEP Bangladesh's commitment to the well-being and safety and security of its staff members (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9*).

Empowering Financial Integrity: UCEP's Audit Compliance Training Initiative

The Internal Audit Department (IAD) of UCEP Bangladesh successfully completed all scheduled audits this quarter, adhering to the Annual Audit Calendar. Notably, the IAD conducted a training on Audit Compliance, as directed by the 344th Board of Governors meeting.

This training aimed to elevate the professional competence and awareness of the Finance & Accounts team, strengthening the internal control system. It covered topics such as audit standards, roles and ethical guidelines, past audit findings, prevention strategies, and efficiency grading.



Held on August 22 & 23, 2023, in UTI, Sylhet, the sessions were led by the Deputy Director of IAD and inaugurated by the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. Attendees included Finance & Accounts staff from all regions, along with IAD personnel. This training not only cultivated a culture of audit compliance and ethics but also offered valuable insights to enhance financial efficiency and reduce audit findings (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9*).

UTI Dhaka Launches CBT&A Level-4 Training Program for Trainers and Assessors

UTI Dhaka, under the auspices of UCEP Bangladesh, commenced its CBT&A Level-4 (Trainer & Assessor) training program on August 28, 2023. Dr. MD. Abdul Karim, the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Senior Management Team, Advisor SKUTTI, Deputy Directors of UCEP Bangladesh, and the dedicated trainees, graced the inaugural ceremony. The training sessions was facilitated under the guidance of Ms. Munmun Akter, the designated trainer of this course.

This program is strategically designed to enhance the skills and proficient of the trainers and assessors. Under the esteemed oversight of BTEB & NSDA, UTI Dhaka embarked on the first batch of CBT&A Level-IV training. This initial batch comprised 24 participants, including 8 females and 16 males, all of whom received comprehensive training (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 9*).



MoU signed between Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) and UCEP Bangladesh

UCEP Bangladesh signed an MOU on 5th January 2022 with Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) for introducing JSC Vocational Programme in 32 UCEP Schools from this year. This is the First time that Government is introducing such a course in the country with any private organization.

The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Education in the presence of UCEP Executive Director Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Senior officials of the Ministry and UCEP, where the Secretary of the Technical and Madrasa Education Division Mr. Aminul Islam Khan appreciated UCEP's continuous success in TVET and Skills Development (*Source-Skills Talk Vol. 5*).

UCEP SCHOOLS ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING RESULT IN SSC EXAMINATIONS FROM 2015 TO 2024



UCEP students consistently achieve remarkable success in their SSC examinations, reflecting the dedication and quality of education provided by UCEP Schools. With an impressive pass rate, often averaging around 91% over the years, these results underscore the commitment of both students and educators to academic excellence. The achievement is a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and support systems within UCEP, empowering students to excel and paving the way for their future endeavors.

In the following tables, SSC General and vocational results cover the period from 2015 to 2024, sum up data spanning over five years.

SSC(VOCATIONAL) SUMMARY RESULT OF THE LAST 10-YEAR

Year	No. of School attended	Appeared			Passed			UCEP Pass rate%	National Pass Rate%
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total		
2015	5	164	146	310	164	146	310	100%	83.00%
2016	5	150	157	307	150	157	307	100%	88.29%
2017	5	167	152	319	166	152	318	99.69%	78.69%
2018	5	179	151	330	178	148	326	98.79%	71.96%
2019	5	184	143	327	180	141	321	98.17%	72.24%
2020	5	258	84	342	240	81	321	93.86%	71.70%
2021	5	290	59	349	287	59	346	99.14%	88.49%
2022	13	491	164	655	485	163	648	98.93%	89.55%
2023	22	659	349	1008	652	342	994	98.61%	86.35%
2024	31	548	193	741	533	193	726	98.00%	81.38%
Total		3090	1598	4688	3035	1582	4617	98.58%	81.17%

SSC(GENERAL) SUMMARY RESULT OF THE LAST 5-YEAR

(SSC- general start on 2019 and close on 2023):

Year	No. of School attended	Appeared			Passed			UCEP Pass rate%	National Pass Rate%
		Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total		
2019	4	71	52	123	50	44	94	76.42%	82.80%
2020	9	133	123	256	104	87	191	74.61%	83.75%
2021	24	328	385	713	317	360	677	94.95%	93.58%
2022	10	189	171	360	146	143	289	80.28%	88.10%
2023	6	119	139	258	102	121	223	86.43%	80.39%
Total		840	870	1710	719	755	1474	82.54%	85.72%

FOREIGN DELEGATES VISIT TO UCEP BANGLADESH

The delegation consisted of Ms. France-Carole Duchesneau, First Secretary - Development (Education & Skills), Ms. Isabelle Jetté, Environmental Specialist, HQ, Global Affairs Canada, and Mr. AHM Mohiuddin, Education and Technical Skill Specialist, FSSP, Global Affairs Canada visited UCEP Bangladesh. The delegates met UCEP Bangladesh's Executive Director, Md. Abdul Karim, PhD, along with the Senior Management Team and other senior officials. The meeting provided in-depth insights into UCEP Bangladesh's various programs and initiatives aimed at promoting education and vocational training among underprivileged youth in the country.



Mr. Syed Haider, First Secretary (Head of Development Cooperation), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian High Commission, Bangladesh, visited UCEP Bangladesh and UCEP Dhaka North Region's school and training facilities. The Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, along with the senior management team, greeted the esteemed guest at the head office.



Ms. Anne Alexandra Hudson and Mr. Leslie Gordon Campbell, Treasurer of Oxfam GB, visited UCEP Bangladesh on October 12, 2023. During the visit, the Oxfam GB Trustees observed a training session and engaged in discussions with domestic workers. The visit concluded with a courtesy introduction and discussion with the high officials of UCEP Bangladesh.



On January 28, 2024, UCEP Bangladesh welcomed a delegation from the European Union led by Ms. Jurate Smalskyte Merville. The team, including Ms. Nadia Rashid and Ms. Jui Chakma, discussed education and skill development collaboration. UCEP looks forward to enhancing its partnership with the EU for improved educational opportunities nationwide.



UCEP Bangladesh launched the QuEST-II project in Dhaka on March 20, 2023. Financial support was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). His Excellency Mr. Jeremy Bruer, Australian High Commissioner, graced the event as Chief Guest, alongside Mr. Khaled Mamun Chowdhury ndc, Director General of the Department of Labor, as a special guest.



Groundbreaking Ceremony A K Khan-UCEP TVET Complex

The Groundbreaking Ceremony of a new school building inside the A K Khan-UCEP TVET Complex was held at Kalulghat, Chattogram on 16th February, 2024. It was attended by Mr. Salahuddin Kasem Khan (AKKF Trustee Secretary and former Chairperson of UCEP), Dr. Mohammad Alauddin (Chairperson, UCEP BoG), Dr. Ubaidur Rob (BoG member and Former Chairperson), Mr. Ziauddin Khan (AKKF Trustee member), Dr. Md. Abdul Karim (ED, UCEP Bangladesh), Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan (Director, Program & Innovations, UCEP) and other important guests.

An Agreement was signed among UCEP Bangladesh, A K Khan Foundation and A K Khan & Company. ED of UCEP Bangladesh and Mr. Salahuddin Kasem Khan signed the Agreement on behalf of UCEP and A K Khan Foundation while CEO of A K Khan & Company signed it on behalf of his company. As per the signed Agreement, AKKF will donate Taka 10 crore for construction of two school buildings inside the Complex.



UCEP Bangladesh organized an orientation session on 'Smart Agriculture and Food Processing' at its Head Office. The purpose of such an important session was to instill an understanding of innovative and smart agricultural practices and food processing techniques among the officials of UCEP Bangladesh.



AK Khan UCEP Polytechnic Institute emerged as the winner of the championship and secured the third position in the Robo Soccer Competition held at the Bangabandhu Innovation Fair 2024. The event was organized by Premier University, and it took place on March 6th and 7th, 2024. The achievement of the AK Khan UCEP Polytechnic Institute in the competition is a testament to their technical prowess and innovative abilities.

ACTIVITIES IN REGIONS (JANUARY 2024–APRIL 2024)

Activities of UCEP Dhaka North Region

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1. UCEP Dhaka North Region arranged a Training Workshop on Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 4 February 2024.

4. Representatives from the European Union paid a visit to the training facilities of Dhaka North Region on 12 February 2024.

2. International Mother Language Day was observed by UCEP Dhaka North Region on 10 March 2024.

5. UCEP Dhaka North Region hosted representatives from GAC to visit its training establishments on 19 March 2024.

3. UCEP Dhaka North Region observed National Independence Day on 26 March 2024 with colourful cultural events.

6. Visitors from giz learned about methods and approaches of trainings provided by UCEP Dhaka North Region on 05 May 2024.

Activities of UCEP Rajshahi Region

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1. On 29th January 2024, UCEP Rajshahi Region arranged a psychosocial counselling class at Baya Safe Home.

4. On 6th March 2024, Social Inclusion Component organized a community meeting at Damkura community under TBIP Project.

2. UCEP Rajshahi Region organized a sharing meeting with Shakti Foundation on 2 February 2024.

5. A "Safeguarding Induction Training" at UCEP Rajshahi Region on 10 March 2024.

3. UCEP Rajshahi Region observed International Mother Language Day on 21st February 2024.

6. On 17 April 2024 UCEP Rajshahi Regional Safeguarding Committee Meeting was held at Momena Bokhs Technical School.

Activities of UCEP Gazipur Region

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1. UCEP Gazipur Region observed International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2024.

4. BTEB representative visited UCEP Institute of Science & Technology, Gazipur on 6 April 2024 for teaching (Pathdan) approval.

2. Advisory Council Meeting was held on 25 February 2024 at the Conference room of UCEP Gazipur Region Office.

5. A community meeting has been organized on 23 April 2024 to increase the ethnic minority trainees in TVET program.

3. UCEP Gazipur Region arranged drawing competition as part of celebrating National Independence Day.

6. UCEP Gazipur Region arranged a sharing meeting with the Hijra Community of Gazipur on 29 April 2024 to educate them about TVET.

Activities of UCEP Sylhet Region

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1. UCEP Sylhet Region organized Book Festival programs at each of its Technical Schools on 1 January 2024.

4. UCEP Sylhet Region observed International Women's Day on 8 March 2024.

2. On 31 January 2024, UCEP Sylhet Region arranged 'Pitha Utsav' to promote bengali culture among new generation.

5. National Independence Day was observed across Sylhet Region including different activities on 26 March 2024.

3. 17th Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army has donated school uniform, school bag students of UCEP student on 5 March 2024.

6. Students of three technical schools have arranged Child Council Election 2024 with the purpose to ensure a child-friendly environment in campuses.

Activities of UCEP Khulna and Barishal Region

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1. On 1 January 2024, UCEP Khulna Region arranged 'Boi Utshab' in all its schools.

2. Mr. Md. Abu Ashrif Mahmud, Director, Directorate of Labour visited Khulna Region to learn about the progress of TBIP Project.

3. Students from 6 technical schools participated in a Science Fair arranged by UCEP Khulna Region.

4. UCEP Khulna Region arranged a 'Job Fair' where at least 31 individual got hired on the spot by renowned companies.

5. A 'Team Building' workshop was conducted by Khulna Region on 24 February 2024 to strengthen bonding among employees.

6. UCEP Khulna Region celebrated National Independence Day on 26 March 2024 engaging students, teachers and employees.

Activities of UCEP Rangpur Region

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1. 'Boi Utshab' was organized to hand over new books to students by UCEP Rangpur Region on 1 January 2024.

2. Students of UCEP Rangpur City Corporation Technical School participated in '2nd National Child Drawing Competition'.

3. UCEP Rangpur Region observed International Mother Language Day with solemn dignity.

4. Different activities were taken into action to celebrate International Women's Day engaging female employees specially.

5. UCEP Rangpur Region celebrated National Independence Day arranging participatory competitions for students.

6. A Regional Safeguarding Committee meeting was held on 6 March 2024.

Activities of UCEP Chattogram Region

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1. Pre-Employment Capacity Development Workshop held at UCEP Ambagan TVET Institute on 19 February 2024.

2. A regional safeguarding meeting was held at UCEP Chattogram Region on 07 February 2024.

3. Free blood grouping campaign was organized in UCEP Chattogram Region with the support from Nishtha Foundation.

4. An entrepreneurship development training, funded by DFAT, was held at UCEP Chattogram Region 31 January 2024.

5. RMG Sector Skills Planning Committee Meeting took place at UCEP Chattogram Region on 11 March 2024.

6. UCEP Chattogram Region organizes career counseling sessions on a regular basis through its Decent Employment Team.

Activities of UCEP Dhaka South Region

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1. UCEP Dhaka South Region arranged rallies along with other activities to observed International Mother Language Day.

2. UCEP Dhaka South Region observed International Women's Day on 8 March 2024.

3. Quiz, Rally, Discussion Sessions, etc. were the parts of the observation of the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

4. National Independence Day was observed with solemn dignity engaging the students, teachers and employees of DSR.

5. On the occasion of Pahela Boishakh, UCEP Dhaka South Region arranged cultural program and discussion session.

6. UCEP Dhaka South Region organized an employment committee meeting to explore decent employment opportunities.

Train yourself today for tomorrow's opportunities

help to **learn**
skills to **earn!**



~~UNDER~~ **WE'RE COMMITTED TO MAKE THEM PRIVILEGED**



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SCHOOLS



10 TVET
INSTITUTES



02 POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTES



03 PROFESSIONAL
INSTITUTES



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Empowering Disadvantaged Children & Youth
through Technical Education Since 1972

DESIGNED BY

Communications Department,
UCEP Bangladesh.

Published on May 2024.

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