



# SKILLS TALK

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## Editorial



This year stands as a milestone in the history of UCEP Bangladesh—a period of unprecedented success and growth. As we expanded our programs, the lives of our students, trainees, and their families have been transformed. Millions across the nation have been reached. These accomplishments have been made possible through unwavering support from the Government and our valued development partners, alongside UCEP's enduring commitment to human welfare and innovative approaches. Guidance and support from the UCEP Board and

Association have been invaluable. Despite UCEP Bangladesh's 50-year journey of relentless dedication, many still remain unaware of the incredible story of our evolution and growth. This year UCEP has proudly celebrated its Golden Jubilee, marking more than five decades of commitment to changing lives through technical education and skills training. The Golden Jubilee celebration was graced by esteemed dignitaries from the Government, Embassies, members of the UCEP Board of Governors, and Association, as well as representatives from our development partners. Their presence highlighted the significance of our work and the collaborative spirit that has driven us forward.

UCEP Bangladesh now serves over 35,000 children, adolescents, and youth annually across eight Regions. One of our most notable achievements this year has been the successful establishment of six new Polytechnics known as UCEP Institutes of Science and Technology (UIST) at various UCEP locations. These UISTs have been launched in partnership with Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) and the Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED) of the Ministry of Education. UCEP Polytechnics will play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals in Bangladesh.

As we look toward it, UCEP Bangladesh remains committed to creating a sustainable and prosperous society through green initiatives, technological advancement, and skills development training programs.

**Md. Abdul Karim, PhD**  
Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh

## UCEP Bangladesh Celebrated 50 years of Glorious Journey



Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh



UCEP Bangladesh proudly marked its Golden Jubilee, celebrating 50 years of transformative impact through education, skill development, and community empowerment. Since its inception, UCEP has remained steadfast in its mission to uplift underprivileged children and vulnerable youth, helping them build brighter futures through hands-on vocational training and education. Over the past five decades, UCEP Bangladesh has grown into a model institution, fostering opportunities for those often left behind. With nearly 2 million individuals joining Bangladesh's labor force every year, UCEP's work has become more vital than ever in ensuring that youth are equipped with the skills needed for a dynamic workforce.

As Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, aptly echoed Lindsay Allan Cheyne's guiding philosophy: **"UCEP is the youth power. Strive for life change."** This powerful mantra reflects UCEP's unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for the underprivileged, ensuring that youth are empowered to shape their futures and contribute to the nation's development. The Golden Jubilee celebration was not just a reflection on the past, but a reaffirmation of UCEP's promise to continue its life-changing work for many years to come.



On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UCEP Bangladesh, the Honorable High Commissioner of Canada, Ms. Lilly Nicholls, expressed her admiration and pride in Canada's long-standing partnership with the organization. In a heartfelt address, Ms. Nicholls highlighted the significant role UCEP has played in empowering underprivileged children and vulnerable youth through skill development, crediting the organization's founder, Mr. Lindsay Allan Cheyne, for his vision. "The way UCEP works, bringing together training institutes, government, businesses, and communities, is the key to its success," said Ms. Nicholls. She commended UCEP's multi-faceted approach to inclusion, transparency, and policy influence, noting how its collaborative model has transformed the lives of many across Bangladesh.

Ms. Nicholls also acknowledged Bangladesh's remarkable progress on its journey to becoming a developed and smart country, with nearly 2 million individuals joining the workforce annually. She drew parallels to Canada's success in fostering a strong educational system and upholding the values of inclusion and diversity.

Lilly Nicholls, High Commissioner for Canada in Bangladesh



In celebration of UCEP Bangladesh's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Ms. Parveen Mahmud FCA, member, UCEP Association, paid tribute to the visionary founder, Mr. Lindsay Allan Cheyne. UCEP Bangladesh, guided by its motto "Help to Learn and Skills to Earn!", has made a profound impact on the country's socio-economic development by providing quality education and vocational training to over 35,000 people each year. This includes a focus on women, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. As



**Parveen Mahmud, FCA, Member, UCEP Association**

Mrs. Zeba Rasheed Chowdhury, member, UCEP Association, underscored the collective responsibility of transforming Bangladesh into a productive and prosperous nation. She paid tribute to the foundational contributions of Lindsay Allan Cheyne, whose leadership laid the groundwork for UCEP's development. Mrs. Chowdhury also expressed heartfelt gratitude to international friends, particularly Mr. Cheyne, for their early support in shaping UCEP's mission and impact.



**Zeba Rasheed Chowdhury, Member, UCEP Association**

Bangladesh aims to reach upper-middle-income status by 2031 and high-income status by 2041, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the need to develop a skilled workforce remains critical. To address this, UCEP transitioned 36 general schools into technical schools since 2022, offering vocational and life skills education from grades 6 to 10. As a leading Skills Training Provider (STP) and Registered Training Organization (RTO), UCEP plays a crucial role in advancing national skill development policies. Ms. Mahmud emphasized the importance of collective efforts to further uplift the socio-economic conditions of disadvantaged communities across Bangladesh.

Mrs. Chowdhury emphasized the critical need for skill training, especially in a country with such a large and growing population. She called for continued efforts from all sectors to support initiatives like UCEP, which play a vital role in improving the socio-economic status of underprivileged youth. Her message was clear: by investing in skill development, we not only enhance the lives of young people but also contribute to the broader goal of national progress.

## Panel Discussion: Impact of government-supported projects on skills development in Bangladesh



The panel discussions on skills development in Bangladesh featured prominent figures, including Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, DG (Grade-1) of NGO-AB, and Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Secretary, MoFA, as the chief guest. Keynote speakers included Mr. Abu Ashrif Mahmud, Director of the Department of Labor, and Mohammad Golam Kibria, Deputy Team Leader and Education Advisor at the British High Commission. The discussions highlighted the urgent need for a shift towards technical education to meet the demands of a rapidly changing job market. Speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration between Government and NGOs, as well as the integration of religious donations to enhance technical education infrastructure. The discussions underscored the significance of addressing the shortage of qualified vocational

teachers and aligning educational curricula with job market needs. Advocacy for gender equality and support for marginalized groups emerged as critical action points, alongside the establishment of a multistakeholder monitoring framework to enhance the effectiveness of skill development initiatives. Collectively, these efforts aim to harness the demographic dividend and ensure sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh.

## Inauguration of Training on CBT&A Methodology Level-4



Inaugural ceremony for 'Training on Competency Based Training & Assessment (CBT&A) Methodology Level-4' held on 29 May 2024 at UCEP Bangladesh's head office. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Md. Khairul Alam Shiekh, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, presided over the event. Honorable Chief Guest praised UCEP Bangladesh's efforts towards building a skilled nation. He remarked that such endeavors should be aligned with the government's continuous efforts towards building a poverty-free, smart Bangladesh.

## DG, NGO Affairs Bureau Visited UCEP Bangladesh

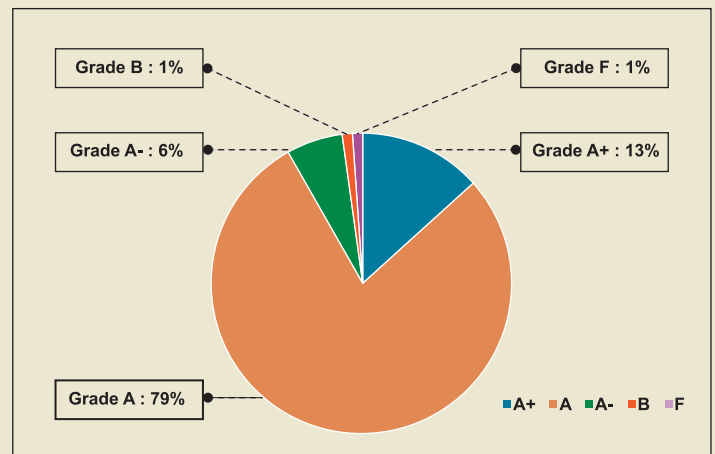


UCEP Bangladesh was honored to host Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh, during a recent visit. The Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, along with the Senior Management Team, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guest. During his visit, Mr. Rahman emphasized the critical importance of vocational training and trade courses in equipping the nation's youth with valuable skills. He commended UCEP Bangladesh's relentless efforts in providing quality education and technical training, which are vital to uplifting the country's workforce and contributing to Bangladesh's economic development.

## Celebrating Excellence: UCEP Schools Achieve Remarkable 98.7% Pass Rate in 2024 SSC Vocational Examination

In the SSC Vocational Examination 2024, a total number of 741 students from 31 UCEP schools participated. Of these, an impressive 731 students successfully passed, resulting in an outstanding pass rate of 98.7%. This remarkable achievement significantly surpasses the national pass rate of 81.38%. Notably, 25 out of the 31 UCEP schools achieved a perfect pass rate of 100%.

The summary of the SSC Exam 2024 results is presented in the accompanying chart, which illustrates the outstanding performance of UCEP students and the significant strides being made in vocational education. This accomplishment not only paves the way for future opportunities for the students but also reinforces UCEP's mission to empower underprivileged youth through education and skill development.



Grade-distribution of UCEP students in SSC Voc 2024

## Launching Paid Caregiving Course for Overseas Job Market

To meet the growing demand for skilled caregivers in countries like Japan, the USA, and Europe, UCEP Bangladesh has introduced a 'Paid Caregiving Course', targeting the Japanese job market. Approved by UCEP's Board of Governors and management, the course was launched in Dhaka North Region (DNR) in June 2024, with the first batch of eight students already enrolled. The 9-month program provides specialized training in Japanese & English language, caregiving, basic nursing, Japanese cooking and driving, equipping participants with the skills needed for overseas employment in caregiving roles.



## UCEP Bangladesh Donates for Flood Affected People

UCEP Bangladesh has stepped forward to support flood-affected communities by contributing 10 lakh Taka to the Hon'ble Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund. This significant donation aims to support the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the government for those impacted by the recent devastating floods across the country.

The organization remains committed to playing an active role in national emergencies, focusing on the welfare of vulnerable communities. The contribution is a testament to UCEP Bangladesh's dedication to social responsibility and community support.



"We believe in standing by our fellow citizens during times of crisis," said Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. "This contribution is part of our ongoing efforts to assist in the recovery and rehabilitation of affected persons."

### Job Fair Arranged on World Youth Skills Day

UCEP Bangladesh successfully organized a job fair at the UCEP Mirpur TVET Institute, attracting over 500 job seekers and representatives from six leading companies, including RFL Group, Honda Bangladesh Ltd, and Navana Group, etc. The event aimed to connect UCEP graduates and trainees with employers, offering CV submission, spot interviews, and



direct employment opportunities. The event was attended by Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Government of Bangladesh, as the chief guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, PhD, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, presided over the event, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in empowering youth through skill development and employment opportunities. Key highlights included 400 CV submissions and 180 on-the-spot interviews. The fair continues to play a vital role in empowering youth with decent employment prospects through direct industry engagement.

### Sharing Meeting; Social Inclusion

UCEP Bangladesh's Social Inclusion team has been actively organizing sharing meetings with various stakeholders to promote the participation of children and youth in inclusive technical and life skills education, with a special focus on female participants, persons with disabilities (PWD), ethnic minorities, and hard-to-reach communities. In



line with UCEP's "No One Behind" campaign, the Barishal Region has been working to improve the livelihoods of underprivileged and disadvantaged individuals, alongside their families, by collaborating with diverse stakeholders. UCEP also seeks to engage religious institutions and leaders to encourage female and marginalized youth participation, ensuring their empowerment. Through these sharing meetings, UCEP Bangladesh has developed referral services, improved livelihood options, and increased access to finance and safety net services, creating pathways for sustainable development and inclusion.

### Promoting the Art of Handwriting

UCEP Bangladesh introduced its first-ever **Handwriting Competition** in August 2024, aimed at enhancing the handwriting skills of students and teachers. Open to students from Grades 6 to 10, as well as teachers and instructors, the competition promotes the value of clear and aesthetically pleasing handwriting in a digital age. Held in



three stages-School, Regions and Central-the contest encourages participants to improve their handwriting, emphasizing discipline, fine motor skills, and legibility. This annual event provides a platform for both students and educators to showcase and be recognized for their handwriting proficiency.

## UCEP Bangladesh Identifies Key Trades to Empower Disadvantaged Youth and Women

In June 2024, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) Department conducted a Market Scan Study for the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) project, aimed at identifying sustainable livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged adolescents and youth in Dhaka North, Dhaka South, and Gazipur. Utilizing qualitative methods such as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), the study assessed the local economic context, revealing significant barriers, particularly for women, including limited access to quality training, financial constraints, and socio-cultural norms. Key trades identified as viable for economic empowerment included sewing machine operation, beautification, caregiving and digital marketing, among others. Despite the challenges, the study emphasizes that with targeted interventions addressing the specific needs of women, it is possible to foster a more inclusive skills development environment, enabling greater workforce participation and contributing to regional economic growth. The findings underscore the urgent need for tailored skills development programs to promote a more equitable labor market in the region. The study identified several trades that hold potential for economic empowerment, particularly for women. These trades include:

Sewing Machine Operation	Beautification	Caregiving	Mobile Phone Servicing	Consumer Electronics	Retail Sales Operations
Computer Operation	Housekeeping	Cooking/Baking	Block Batik & Screen Printing	Digital Marketing	Driving

## UCEP Bangladesh Strengthens Child Protection and Safeguarding Initiatives

UCEP Bangladesh remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring Child Protection and Safeguarding within its organization. By fostering a safe learning and working environment, UCEP has established a comprehensive safeguarding mechanism that includes 36 Child Protection Committees (CPC) at UCEP Technical Schools, 10 regional safeguarding teams, and a Central Safeguarding Committee at the Head Office. Additionally, there are 96 gender-focal persons actively engaged in promoting a culture of safety.

To build awareness and prevent safeguarding issues, UCEP Bangladesh has conducted its first round of training on Child Protection and Safeguarding for 935 staff members across all regions, including the Head Office. In August 2024, a workshop titled "Safeguarding Journey" was organized for senior staffs to identify areas for further strengthening of Child Protection and Safeguarding, with the presence of UCEP's Executive Director, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim.



## World Youth Skills Day 2024 Celebrated at UCEP

UCEP Bangladesh celebrated World Youth Skills Day on July 15<sup>th</sup> at its head office, highlighting the theme "Youth Skills for Peace and Development." The event, presided over by the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, and was graced by Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Skills, as the chief guest. Other distinguished attendees included Professor Tahmina Akhtar and Mr. Jitendra Lal Bhowmik. The celebration underscored UCEP's commitment to equipping youth with the skills needed to foster peace, inclusion, and sustainable development amidst global challenges.





## UIST Dhaka Participates in 'Reflecting Forward: Insights on TVET Initiative'



On June 29, 2024, at the closing ceremony of the 'Reflecting Forward: Insights on TVET Initiative' organized by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), Instructor Rumana Rashid, along with two 5<sup>th</sup>-semester students from the Textile Department, represented UCEP Institute of Science & Technology (UIST), Dhaka. The event witnessed the Chairman of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board and GIZ representative Christine presenting books to participating textile institutes from both the public and private sectors. Industry experts were also in attendance. UIST, as a key private polytechnic institution, has been a dedicated partner in supporting the HELD program, which is poised to bring transformative change to Bangladesh's textile sector. UIST remains committed to the success of this initiative and its continued contribution to the program's objectives.

## iDEA Conducts Micro-course at UCEP Bangladesh



On June 4, 2024, a micro-course session was conducted by 'Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Development (iDEA)' at UCEP Bangladesh's head office. The session, held under the direct supervision of the esteemed principal with the active participation of the students of the UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), Dhaka. Upon completion of the course, certificates were awarded to the students by the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Computer Council, who graced the event as the chief guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, welcomed the distinguished guests and toured various student projects aimed at addressing the needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Following the project exhibition, the guests assured their full support to help the students refine and prepare their projects for market readiness.

## Resource Mobilization Highlights (May-August 2024 ) Strengthening Partnerships, Donor Engagement, and Project Development

From May to August 2024, the Resource Mobilization department made substantial progress toward advancing the organization's strategic goals. The team developed project proposals and concept notes, strengthened donor relations, and secured key partnerships with global donors such as UNICEF, Save the Children, CARE, MetLife USA, and GoodWeave USA.

In May, the wing participated in UNICEF's ALP inception meeting, contributing to project planning and strategy. A major achievement was forming consortiums with Save the Children, CARE, and World Vision for the World Bank's EARN project, resulting in the submission of eight EOIs. Additionally, the team facilitated a visit from Child Aid Network to UCEP's Sylhet region, DNR, and Head Office, paving the way for a potential partnership. The Deputy Director of Resource Mobilization & Communications also conducted a fundraising session for BBA/MBA students at the Army Institute of Business Administration (AIBA) at UCEP HO. Under the direct supervision of the DD, RM & C, the Resource Mobilization Wing actively supported and participated in UCEP's 50-year celebration program. In June, the team supported workshops for Save the Children's GESP Power and UNICEF's ALP projects, participated in a joint workshop with CARE Asia Foundation, and initiated discussions for a skills development project with CARE Bangladesh. Coordination with the GoodWeave Foundation also progressed, with concept notes and meetings held to explore collaboration opportunities.

In July, the Executive Director, alongside the Deputy Director (RM & C), paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports to explore collaborative efforts between the Ministry and UCEP. The team further supported Schneider Electric new project proposal development and continued communication with CAF America to finalize the MetLife-UCEP Caregiving Youth Project. Throughout this period, discussions with Save the Children, BMZ, and IRC were ongoing for future project opportunities.

This quarter emphasized building strong partnerships, fostering donor engagement, and driving innovative project development, positioning UCEP for future growth and impact.



## **Story of Change** Under Schneider Project

### **Learning to Lead: Nasreen Sultana's Path to Success**

Ms. Nasreen Sultana, a 22 year old resident of Birulia, Akraail, Savar, Dhaka district has become a key earning member for her family after completing a 90-day Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM) training at UCEP Mirpur region (DNR) in December 2023. Leveraging the skills along with the support and guidance of UCEP, she secured a position as a Quality Controller at Maris PD Limited in Savar on December 10, 2023. In this role, Ms. Nasreen is responsible for ensuring the quality of electric switches and circuit breakers (MCBs) produced by the factory. She earns a monthly salary of BDT 16,000, along with two festival bonuses, free lunch, and overtime benefits. As the eldest daughter and the main earning member of her family, Nasreen's accomplishments are particularly significant. She has also completed a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Dhaka Mohila (Women) College in Agargaon. Grateful to UCEP's teachers and management for helping her secure a stable job and a brighter future, Nasreen is determined to continue her career while pursuing further studies, with the ambition of earning a BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE).



### **Promit Barua's Journey to Success through UCEP Training**

Mr. Promit Barua, from Pagla, Narayanganj district, currently employed at AL EERAH Contracting Company in Jerda, Saudi Arabia, has successfully leveraged the skills he acquired through UCEP's training programs to enhance his career. In 2023, recognizing the importance of technical expertise for securing employment abroad, Promit completed a 90-day TVET training in Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM) and Solar Energy under the UCEP-Schneider project, along with computer training, both of which are part of UCEP's Level-1 certification. The practical, hands-on approach of UCEP's training, coupled with the dedication of the instructors, enabled him to gain valuable skills that were crucial for his job abroad. Mr. Promit is confident that obtaining it will allow him to secure a higher-paying position, further benefiting his family and contributing to Bangladesh's economy. Promit plans to return to Bangladesh to explore Level-2 or higher training opportunities at UCEP, as he firmly believes in the value of technical skills for career advancement. He also actively encourages his colleagues to pursue similar training, recognizing the significant role it plays in transforming the lives of those working abroad. Promit's story highlights the impact of UCEP's training programs in empowering individuals to succeed in the global workforce and underscores the need for expanded technical training initiatives to enhance the skills of Bangladeshi workers.





## UCEP Bangladesh Launches Three Empowering Projects: Fostering Skills, Gender Equality, and Economic Opportunities for Underprivileged Youth

UCEP Bangladesh has launched three key projects aimed at empowering underprivileged youth, particularly girls and women, with skills and opportunities for decent employment. Details of the project are given below:

- The GRIVET Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), is a five-year initiative by UCEP Bangladesh aimed at equipping underprivileged youth, especially girls and women, with market-relevant vocational skills. Focused on 10 districts, the project promotes gender-responsive, inclusive education, reducing barriers faced by women and girls, including those with disabilities. GRIVET enhances UCEP's capacity to deliver these programs, while also addressing social norms through community and school-based initiatives. The ultimate goal is to create a more inclusive TVET system that supports decent employment and promotes gender equality for disadvantaged youth.
- The Alternative Learning Pathways (ALP) Project, funded by UNICEF, targets vulnerable adolescent girls and young women in Dhaka and Gazipur. Over two years, the program will provide informal apprenticeships, entrepreneurship training, and center-based learning for 2,500 participants. It addresses systemic gender disparities, promotes economic inclusion, and tackles challenges like child marriage and low female literacy.
- The POWER Project, in partnership with Save the Children and funded by UNICEF, seeks to empower 22,150 adolescent girls and young women in Kishoreganj through skills training, education, and socio-economic empowerment. Running for 2.5 years, the project also aims to reduce gender bias by working with families, communities, and institutions to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment. Together, these initiatives enhance skills, promote gender equality, and support sustainable economic participation for women and girls across Bangladesh.

## UCEP Bangladesh Launches Six New Polytechnic Institutes

UCEP Bangladesh is set to enhance technical education with the establishment of six new polytechnic institutes across various regions, following the success of its first two institutes. The initiative aims to cater to the growing demand for skilled engineering professionals in the country.

The first polytechnic institute, UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), was established in Dhaka in 2015 and has achieved financial self-reliance. Building on this success, UCEP opened its second institute, A K Khan UCEP Polytechnic Institute (AKKUPI), in Chattogram in 2020, which is also on the path to self-sufficiency.

In May 2023, UCEP applied to the Ministry of Education to establish eight new polytechnic institutes. In May-June 2024, they received approval for six of these institutes, with the admission process for diploma engineering courses already underway. The new institutes include:

- UCEP Institute of Science & Technology, Jatrabari, Dhaka
- UCEP Institute of Science & Technology, Gazipur
- UCEP Institute of Science & Technology, Ambagan, Chattogram
- UCEP Institute of Science & Technology, Rangpur
- UCEP Mohsin Institute of Science & Technology, Khulna
- UCEP Hafiz Mazumdar Institute of Science & Technology, Sylhet

These new institutions are expected to be operational in the current academic year, contributing to UCEP's mission of providing quality technical education and fostering the development of skilled professionals in Bangladesh.

## UCEP Programme Highlighted on Bangladesh Betar Rangpur's "Life Target"

On August 21, 2024, at 2:10 PM, the "Life Target" was broadcast live from Bangladesh Betar Rangpur, featuring Mr. Md. Rafiquel Islam, the Regional Manager of UCEP Rangpur Region. The program provided an engaging platform for listeners to learn more about the impactful initiatives of UCEP and allowed the audience to directly interact with Mr. Rafiquel Islam, who spoke eloquently about the organization's programs and answered questions from callers.

During the live broadcast, Mr. Rafiquel Islam shared insightful details about UCEP's various initiatives to empower youth through education, skills training, and employment opportunities. He addressed numerous questions from callers, discussing the organization's mission, the benefits of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs, and the success stories of beneficiaries who have transformed their lives through UCEP's support.

"Life Target" continues to be a valuable platform for sharing inspirational stories and useful information, connecting the audience with impactful organizations like UCEP. The broadcast was a remarkable success, reinforcing the importance of UCEP's role in transforming lives and building a brighter future for the youth of Rangpur and beyond.

## Bridging Cultures Through English: The English4U Program

On August 25, 2024, Voice of America and RTV conducted the English4U joint venture program at KiK UCEP Hesamuddin Technical School and UCEP Tytte Boffeldt Technical school. This initiative engaged UCEP students in an interactive learning experience that enhanced their understanding of different modes of English, including British and American varieties. Through dynamic activities and discussions, students explored language nuances, fostering greater cultural awareness and communication skills essential for their future endeavors.



## Opening Ceremony of the First Cycle of ASSET Project's Short Course

The opening ceremony of the first cycle of the ASSET (Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation) Project's Short Course (Four Months/360 hours) was held on July 16, 2024, via Zoom. Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Technical and Madrasha Education Division (TMED), Ministry of Education, attended as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Additional Secretary (Development) of TMED, and Mr. Abu Momtaz Saaduddin Ahmed, Project Director (Additional Secretary) of the ASSET Project, were present as special guests. The event was chaired by Mr. Md. Aziz Taher Khan, Director General (Additional Secretary) of the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE).



Mr. Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Regional Manager of UCEP Khulna and Barishal, along with students and staff of the UCEP Barishal TVET Institute, attended the ceremony. The event was organized by the UCEP Barishal TVET Institute. During the ceremony, project officials outlined the project's activities, objectives, and implementation process. They encouraged trainees to utilize skills training facilities at authorized training centers.

## UCEP Khulna Region Drives Change for Youth through USAID Bijoyee Activity

The USAID Bijoyee Activity is making significant strides in empowering Bangladeshi youth who face challenges such as poverty, climate vulnerabilities, and being NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). With a commitment to transforming lives through soft skills training, the Bijoyee Team at UCEP Khulna Region has successfully launched several initiatives aimed at enhancing the employability of local youth.

Recently, the team organized a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to assist in the baseline assessment of the USAID Bijoyee Activity. This discussion aimed to gather valuable insights into the needs and challenges faced by the youth in the region.



In addition, a workshop on Green Skills Development was conducted in collaboration with the Matrix Business Development firm. This workshop equipped participants with crucial knowledge and skills related to sustainable practices, preparing them for eco-friendly job opportunities in the growing green economy.

The initiative has seen remarkable success, with two batches of trainees completing the program and achieving a 60% job confirmation rate. This achievement underscores the program's effectiveness in bridging the gap between skills training and employment, providing hope and opportunities for the youth of Khulna.

The USAID Bijoyee Activity continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for Bangladeshi youth, helping them overcome socio-economic challenges and build sustainable careers.





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