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# SKILLS TALK

## UCEP Bangladesh Achieves Outstanding SSC (Vocational) Results 2025



UCEP Bangladesh has demonstrated excellence in technical education, with 1,685 students from its Technical Schools appearing in the SSC (Vocational) Examination 2025 and achieving an outstanding 95.55 percent pass rate. This performance stands significantly higher than the national average of 73.63 percent.

Celebrations took place across UCEP Chattogram, Rangpur, and Khulna regions, where teachers, staff, and students gathered to celebrate the remarkable success.

Speaking about her achievement, student Samia Akter said, "UCEP Bangladesh not only helped me prepare for exams but also inspired me growing confidence to dream big. Today my result is not just a grade, it's a step forward." UCEP Bangladesh, which primarily serves students from underprivileged backgrounds, attributes this success to its unique education model that combines rigorous academics with continuous mentoring and personal guidance. Teachers play a vital role through regular class tests, feedback, and motivation, ensuring that learners remain confident and examination-ready.

Guided by its motto, "Help to Learn, Skills to Earn," UCEP Bangladesh reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, high-quality education and skill development, ensuring no learner is left behind.

## UCEP Rajshahi Technical School wins "Green City Project"

UCEP Rajshahi Technical School's "Green City Project" wins 1<sup>st</sup> prize at district-level "46<sup>th</sup> National Science and Technology Week and Science Fair 2025".

UCEP Rajshahi Technical School's innovative "Green City Project" has proudly won First Prize in the Special Category at the 46<sup>th</sup> National Science and Technology Week and Science Fair 2025 (District Level), held at Riverview Collectorate School and College, Rajshahi, from 21–23 May 2025.

The project began its journey at the Paba Upazila level competition, where it secured First Place, qualifying for the district round. At the district-level fair, which featured 83 science and technology-based projects from across Rajshahi, UCEP students showcased innovative solutions for sustainable urban living, demonstrating strong problem-solving skills and environmental awareness.



Following its district-level success, the "Green City Project" qualified for the National-Level Competition held 18-20 June 2025 at the National Science and Technology Complex in Agargaon, Dhaka. UCEP students joined over 700 participants from all 64 districts, proudly showcasing their vision for sustainable cities on a national platform-highlighting the power of vocational education to address real-world environmental challenges.

## UCEP Bangladesh has Launched a Comprehensive Skills Development Program



UCEP Bangladesh has launched a Comprehensive Skills Development Program to empower the gender-diverse community and youths affected during the July-August 2024 mass movement. The initiative aims to create employment opportunities, restore dignity, and promote social inclusion through quality technical and vocational education.

The inauguration was graced by Ms. Sharmin S. Murshid, Honorable Adviser of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, as Chief Guest. Dr. Mohammad Abu Yusuf, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, and Md. Saidur Rahman Khan, Director General of the Department of Social Services, attended as Special Guests. The event was chaired by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors.



Guests visited training initiatives including Caregiving, Japanese Language, and Graphic Design courses, and inaugurated UCEP Bangladesh's Women's Corner. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also highlighted between the Ministry of Social Welfare and UCEP Bangladesh, signed on 30 June 2025, to provide skills training and job placements for 200 youths affected by the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Quota Movement.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Guest praised the initiative as "a step toward ensuring dignity, inclusion, and equal participation in the nation's progress." Dr. Abu Yusuf termed it "highly commendable" and called for further expansion, while Dr. Ubaidur Rob reiterated UCEP's commitment to inclusive development. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, emphasized that the program is about "restoring dignity and ensuring no group is left behind."

The event brought together government officials, development partners, civil society representatives, trainees, and media, marking a strong commitment to inclusive growth and empowerment.

## UCEP Bangladesh Proudly Received the Non-Formal Education Recognition Award 2025

On International Literacy Day 2025, UCEP Bangladesh proudly received the Non-Formal Education Recognition Award 2025 (Institutional Category) from the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) on 08 September 2025. The award was presented by Professor Dr. Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder, Adviser to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, who commended UCEP's remarkable contributions to literacy and skills training.

Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Member of UCEP Board of Governors and Former Chairperson, along with Abu Saleh Mohammed Ferdous Khan, Director of Public Partnership Management, Md. Anowerul Islam, Regional Manager (Dhaka North Region), teachers, and students, received the award on behalf of UCEP Bangladesh.



Since 1972, UCEP has been committed to ensuring that no child is left behind and every youth is empowered to rise.

## Renewing Commitment to Child Protection and Safeguarding at UCEP Bangladesh



UCEP Bangladesh continues to lead with purpose and integrity by reinforcing its deep-rooted commitment to child protection and safeguarding for all. On 26 June 2025, the organization hosted a dynamic Refresher Training on Child Protection and Safeguarding, with a special focus on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH), at Cheyne Hall, UCEP Head Office.

The training brought together all head office staff, creating a vibrant space for collective learning, critical reflection, and renewed commitment to UCEP's safeguarding values. The session wasn't just about revisiting policies, it was about reigniting a shared sense of responsibility to protect every child and individual UCEP serves.

The training was facilitated by Ms. Sheepa Hafiza, Chairperson of the UCEP Safeguarding Committee, whose insights helped deepen understanding of both practical and ethical dimensions of safeguarding. The event was presided over by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, who reiterated that "Safeguarding is not an option, it's our obligation and UCEP Bangladesh follows Zero Tolerance Policy regarding the issue." Also present at the event were Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director, Finance & Compliance and a member of the UCEP Safeguarding Committee, and Engineer Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director, Programme and Innovations, both of whom expressed their strong support for strengthening the safeguarding culture across all levels of the organization.

One of the most inspiring moments of the day was the official launch of the updated UCEP Safeguarding Booklet. This enhanced resource outlines UCEP's zero-tolerance approach to abuse, exploitation, and harassment, while providing clear guidance on reporting channels, preventive strategies, and the organization's code of conduct.

## Safeguarding Milestone at UCEP Bangladesh

UCEP Bangladesh has launched a new Safeguarding Incident Reporting Portal, a secure and confidential platform for reporting safeguarding concerns. To introduce this important tool, a training session was held on 21 May 2025 at Cheyne Hall with active participation of Head Office staff. The session helped build confidence in using the portal and encouraged a safer, more accountable workplace.

Executive Director Dr. Md. Abdul Karim shared inspiring remarks, reaffirming UCEP's commitment to a transparent and protective environment. The portal brings several key benefits, it ensures confidentiality for all reporters, encourages timely and transparent action on concerns, and strengthens trust, accountability, and workplace safety. By aligning with international safeguarding best practices, this initiative marks an important step forward in creating a culture of safety and trust across UCEP Bangladesh.



## UCEP Bangladesh and BIHS General Hospital Launch Caregiving Course

UCEP Bangladesh, in collaboration with BIHS General Hospital, has officially launched a Caregiving Course aimed at building the capacity of skilled and compassionate caregivers. This initiative responds to the growing demand for trained caregivers in Bangladesh and abroad, particularly to support elderly populations and individuals requiring long-term care.

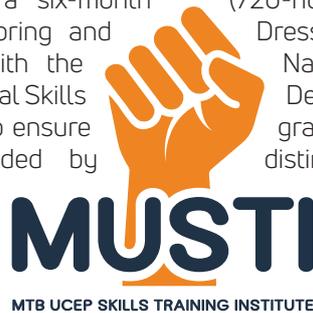


Beyond meeting urgent healthcare needs, the course is designed to reduce unemployment by creating new job opportunities, especially for women and youth, while also enhancing Bangladesh's capacity to export skilled human resources to international markets. By aligning with global caregiving standards, this initiative not only strengthens the country's healthcare workforce but also contributes to sustainable livelihoods and national economic growth.

## MTB Foundation and UCEP Bangladesh Launch 'MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute (MUSTI)'



MTB Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), and UCEP Bangladesh have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to establish the MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute (MUSTI) in Mymensingh on 09 July 2025 at Dhaka. This three-year initiative, running from July 2025 to June 2028, will provide market-relevant skills training to 1,200 disadvantaged youth aged 17–35 through a six-month (720-hour) program in five high-demand trades: Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Tailoring and Dress Making, Beautification, Bakery and Pastry Production, and Graphic Design. Aligned with the National Technical & Vocational Qualification Framework (NTVQF) and certified by the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), the program will also offer a dedicated job placement service to ensure graduates transition successfully into the workforce. The launch event was attended by distinguished leaders from both organizations, including Mr. Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman, MTB Board of Directors; Ms. Khwaja Nargis Hossain, Director, MTB Board & Chairman, MTB Foundation; Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director & CEO, MTB; Ms. Samia Chowdhury, CPA, Vice-Chairperson, MTB Foundation; Ms. Uzma Chowdhury, CPA, Vice-Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors; Dr. Mohammad Alauddin and Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury, Former Chairpersons, UCEP Board of Governors; and Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh. Speakers highlighted the importance of equipping youth with industry-standard skills to meet both local and international labor market demands, with particular focus on opportunities in Eurasian countries. By addressing critical skill gaps and promoting sustainable livelihoods, the MTB Foundation–UCEP MUSTI initiative is set to empower disadvantaged youth and women, enhance income opportunities, and create lasting socio-economic impact in the Mymensingh region.



### Empowering Youth for Inclusive Growth

On 30 June 2025, the Ministry of Social Welfare signed an MoU with UCEP Bangladesh to implement a skills development program for 200 youth (100 male and 100 female) affected during the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Quota Movement of July–August 2024.

The ceremony was graced by Ms. Sharmeen S. Murshid, Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare, alongside senior officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare: Dr. Md. Mohiuddin, Secretary; Md. Saidur Rahman Khan, Director General, Department of Social Services; Ms. Nargis Khanam, Additional Secretary (Planning & Development); and Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Ahsan, Joint Secretary (Planning & Development).

From UCEP Bangladesh, attendees included Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors; Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director; Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director – Program & Innovations and other high officials.



Under this partnership, UCEP Bangladesh will deliver free three-month trade courses at its eight regional TVET institutes, ensuring equal participation of male and female youth, and providing industry-recognized training, mentorship, and job placement support.

## UCEP Bangladesh Marks World Youth Skills Day 2025 with Roundtable Discussion



UCEP Bangladesh organized a Roundtable Discussion at the National Press Club on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day 2025 on 14 July 2025, focusing on “Empowering Youth through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Skills.” The event gathered government officials, educators, industry leaders, youth representatives, and development partners.

The discussion was chaired by Dr. Obaidur Rab, Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors, with Mr. Md. Rezaul Maqsood Jahedi, Secretary, Local Government Division, as Chief Guest, and Ms. Fatema Jahan, Joint Secretary, Technical & Madrasa Education Division, Ministry of Education, as Special Guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, delivered the opening remarks.

Speakers stressed the need for preparing youth with future-ready skills in artificial intelligence, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship, alongside ensuring inclusive opportunities for disadvantaged groups and promoting gender equality in technical education. The Chief Guest commended UCEP’s contributions in advancing inclusive technical education and creating decent employment pathways. The event concluded with participants calling for stronger collaboration among the government, private sector, and civil society to make skills development more inclusive, adaptable, and future-focused.

## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Delegation Visited UCEP Bangladesh



A high-level delegation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh visited UCEP Bangladesh’s Head Office and Dhaka North Region to review the progress of the Quality Education and Skills for Transformation (QUEST) project and explore future collaboration in the TVET sector.

The delegation was led by Mr. Clinton Pobke, Deputy High Commissioner, and included Mr. Reuben Gray, Counsellor, Department of Home Affairs, along with Mr. Shahriar Islam and Mr. Sabeth Ahmed, Senior Program Managers. They were warmly received by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh, and senior officials who shared updates on TVET initiatives and project achievements.

Since 2019, the QUEST project has been implemented across 8 regions, engaging 10 TVET institutes and 35 technical schools. During the visit, the delegation visited training centers, observed hands-on sessions in Caregiving, Electrical Installation & Maintenance, Cooking & Baking, Plumbing, and Beautification, and interacted with students and instructors. The visit concluded with both parties reaffirming their commitment to scale up quality skills training and employment pathways for underprivileged youth, particularly women and marginalized groups, supporting Bangladesh’s drive towards inclusive economic and social empowerment.

## UIST Dhaka Earns 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up at 5<sup>th</sup> International Robo Tech Olympiad 2025

UCEP Institute of Science and technology (UIST), Dhaka’s Computer Science & Technology Department continues to demonstrate its commitment to excellence in robotics and innovation, as its student team “Sumo Byte Bash” secured the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up position in the Sumo War (University Level) category at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Robo Tech Olympiad 2025, hosted by Uttara University on June 21, 2025.

The Olympiad, a two-day national and international event, brought together more than 150 teams from over 70 institutions, showcasing groundbreaking student innovations in robotics, artificial intelligence, and engineering design. Competing against top-tier university teams, the UIST Dhaka team stood out for their technical precision, strategy, and teamwork, positioning the university among the country’s leading institutions in tech-driven education.

This achievement reflects UIST Dhaka’s growing focus on practical, project-based learning and its strategic investment in preparing students for the evolving landscape of 4IR and beyond. UIST Dhaka’s success at this prestigious event highlights the university’s commitment to fostering technological excellence and nurturing future innovators.

## Hon'ble Adviser of the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Labour and Employment Visits UCEP Rajshahi TVET Institute



On 2 August 2025, Brigadier General (Retd.) Dr. M. Sakhawat Hossain, Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Labour and Employment, visited UCEP Rajshahi TVET Institute to review the project "Transforming Underprivileged Youth into Industrial Workers to Enhance Industrial Productivity", implemented by UCEP Bangladesh.

The session was attended by Mr. A.H.M. Shafiquzzaman, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, and other officials. The Adviser praised UCEP's work in youth skill development and the expansion of technical and vocational education.

He also handed over appointment letters to UCEP graduates employed at Barendra Rajshahi Textile Limited, highlighting the project's success in skills-based employment.

## UCEP Bangladesh Hosted Workshop on Sustainability of UCEP Technical Schools



UCEP Bangladesh hosted an event for a 'Strategic Discussion with Teachers' and conducted a 'Workshop on Sustainability of UCEP Schools' for educators from UCEP Dhaka South Region and UCEP Gazipur Region, held at the Dhaka South Region conference room. The event brought together esteemed members of the UCEP Board of Governors, senior management, and teachers from various schools within the two regions. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Former Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors, and chaired by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. Their participation highlighted UCEP's commitment to inclusive, future-oriented education in alignment with national development priorities.

Discussions centered on strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of UCEP technical schools, with emphasis on local resource mobilization, quality assurance, strategic branding, infrastructure enhancement, and academic excellence.

## UCEP Bangladesh Holds Job Fairs in Rajshahi and Rangpur

UCEP Bangladesh organized Job Fair 2025 in Rajshahi on 28 June and in Rangpur on 12 July, connecting youth with employment opportunities. In Rajshahi, over 250 participants secured jobs on the spot, while leading companies including Pran Group, RFL, Rahimafrooz, and Meghna Group attended. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Khondkar Azim Ahmed, NDC, Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi, with Ms. Afia Akter, Deputy Commissioner, as Special Guest.

In Rangpur, 2,878 job seekers participated, with 25 top companies collecting 4,505 CVs and provisionally selecting 1,052 candidates. Seven candidates received appointment letters directly from the distinguished guests, including Mr. Md. Daud Mia, NDC, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau, and Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, UCEP Bangladesh.

Both events highlighted the importance of technical and vocational skills for youth employment. UCEP Bangladesh continues to play a leading role in empowering young people, creating skilled workforce opportunities, and shaping the future of Bangladesh.



## Rising Beyond Barriers: The Story of Adori Khatun

When Adori Khatun walks into the bustling factory floor of Esquire Apparels Company in Rajshahi, she carries more than just her sewing skills. She carries the scars of her past, the resilience of her struggles, and the pride of overcoming them. For her, every stitch is a story of courage and survival.

Born on 25 March 1999 into a poor farming family in Madhyahina village of Bagmara upazila, Adori entered the world already facing hardships. She was born without her right hand from the elbow. In her rural community, where poverty was already a heavy weight, her disability brought stigma and social doubt. Many whispered she would never finish school, never find work, and never live independently.

Her world collapsed further when tragedy struck during her SSC exams, her father, the family's sole breadwinner, suddenly passed away. With his death, the fragile stability of the family crumbled. Her younger sister was married off, her brother left school to work as a carpenter, and her mother struggled to feed the household. At just 16, Adori faced the risk of abandoning her education and living a life defined by loss and limitations.

But she refused to surrender. Against the odds, Adori completed her Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC). The road ahead, however, was still uncertain. Job opportunities were scarce, and prejudice against her disability meant rejections became routine. Social barriers made marriage nearly impossible as well, leaving her in a painful period of uncertainty.

A turning point came in 2021. Through UCEP Bangladesh's Social Inclusion program, Adori discovered the Sewing Machine Operation training at UCEP Rajshahi TVET Institute. She chose this trade thoughtfully. With one hand missing, heavy labor was not an option, but sewing relied more on skill and patience than physical strength. It was her chance for dignity and independence. Everything began to change in 2021. Through a community outreach program led by UCEP Bangladesh, Adori discovered the Sewing Machine Operation training at UCEP Rajshahi TVET Institute. Adori chose the Sewing Machine Operation trade very thoughtfully. Growing up in poverty, she had seen many women in her community earn small incomes through tailoring and garment work. With one hand missing, heavy labor or physically demanding jobs were not possible for her. Sewing, however, was a trade where she believed skill and patience mattered more than physical strength. When she learned about UCEP Bangladesh's training opportunities, she

realized sewing could give her a path to independence. She wanted a career where she could earn steadily, support her family, and eventually build something of her own.

"I chose sewing because I knew I could do it with dedication. It's a skill that doesn't depend on having two hands, it depends on how hard you work. I wanted to prove that even with my disability, I could stand on my own feet."

The experience transformed her. She not only learned technical sewing skills but also received psychosocial counseling and training on disability rights. For the first time, she felt seen and valued. The training gave her confidence, reminding her that her disability did not define her potential.

Her persistence paid off. With support from UCEP's decent job placement services, Adori secured employment at Esquire Apparels Company as a machine operator. On the factory floor, she is respected for her dedication and efficiency. At home, she now provides for her mother, easing the burden that once felt impossible to carry.

Looking to the future, Adori dreams of starting her own tailoring business, where she can employ other women and persons with disabilities.

"One day, I want to create opportunities for others like me. If society once doubted me, then let society now see me as proof that disability does not mean inability," she says with quiet determination.



**Adori Khatun**

**Executive Editor**  
Dr. Md. Abdul Karim  
Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh

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