



# SKILLS TALK

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**“Our mission is to empower young people with competencies that lead to dignity, employability, and sustainable livelihoods.”**



## Vision 2026: A Year of Growth Excellence, and Purposeful Impact

As we step into 2026, UCEP Bangladesh stands at a defining moment in its journey, one shaped by resilience, strengthened by experience, and guided by an unwavering commitment to transforming lives through skills, education, and decent employment. This year, we envision 2026 as a year of growth and perfection, not perfection as an endpoint, but as a continuous pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

For decades, UCEP Bangladesh has worked relentlessly to ensure that quality education and market-relevant skills reach those who need them most. Our mission has always been clear: to empower young people with competencies that lead to dignity, employability, and sustainable livelihoods. In 2026, this mission evolves into a broader vision, one that aligns skills development with national priorities, global trends, and the future of work.

A key focus of the year ahead will be enhancing UCEP’s visibility and branding at the highest level. Visibility is not merely about recognition; it is about influence, credibility, and leadership in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem. We aim to position UCEP Bangladesh as a trusted thought leader, one that shapes dialogue, drives innovation, and sets benchmarks for quality and impact. Partnership will remain at the heart of our growth strategy. In 2026, UCEP Bangladesh will further strengthen and expand its collaboration with strategic national institutions, including the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), the Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and ITCON. These partnerships are not symbolic, they are catalytic. Together, we will align skills training with industry demand, support economic zones with a skilled workforce, and contribute meaningfully to Bangladesh’s industrial and economic transformation.

Equally important is our inward focus. Growth without strong foundations is unsustainable. Therefore, UCEP will continue to enhance its internal efficiency, institutional excellence, and productivity. From strengthening governance and systems to investing in our people and processes, we are committed to becoming a more agile, data-driven, and performance-oriented organization.

Vision 2026 is ultimately about people, our learners, trainers, partners, employers, and dedicated colleagues. It is about preparing young minds and hands for the future, while ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey toward prosperity.

As we move forward, let us embrace 2026 with confidence, clarity, and collective purpose. Together, we will transform skills into opportunities, challenges into innovations, and vision into lasting impact.

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting : UCEP Association



UCEP Bangladesh, held its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 6 December 2025 at its Head Office in Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ubaidur Rob, PhD, Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors. The AGM was attended by members of the Board of Governors and the UCEP Association, along with the Executive Director and senior management team of UCEP Bangladesh.

The Executive Director started the session by welcoming all participants and presenting a comprehensive report on the organization's activities, achievements, and ongoing operations for the year 2025. The presentation highlighted the organization's continued commitment to quality technical education, inclusive skills training, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized youth across Bangladesh. Members of the Board and Association provided constructive guidance on strengthening the future prospects of the organization and subsequently approved the annual budget and operational plans for the upcoming year. During the meeting, Association members expressed their satisfaction with the organization's overall performance and financial stability for the fiscal year 2024–2025.

They acknowledged the strategic direction provided by the Chairperson and commended the effective leadership of the Executive Director and the management team. Members reiterated their full support for UCEP Bangladesh's growth strategy and its mission of "help to learn, skills to earn." The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to UCEP Bangladesh's donors, development partners, beneficiaries, and all stakeholders for their continued trust, collaboration, and support.

## Honoring the 39<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Lindsay Allan Cheyne

UCEP Bangladesh solemnly observed the 39<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of its visionary founder, Lindsay Allan Cheyne, remembering his lifelong dedication to empowering underprivileged communities through education and vocational training. The program began with a wreath-laying ceremony and a moment of silence in his honor. Chaired by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors, the event was attended by Senior Management Team, UCEP officials, and members of the UCEP Ex-Student Association, who all paid their respects. Former UCEP students, who had the privilege of working closely with Cheyne, shared heartfelt memories, reflecting on his commitment and the transformative impact he had on their lives. In his tribute, Dr. Ubaidur Rob highlighted Cheyne's unwavering dedication to social justice and the empowerment of marginalized communities. At the opening of the program, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, expressed gratitude to Cheyne and reaffirmed UCEP's commitment to his vision of transforming lives through inclusive education and skills training. UCEP Bangladesh remains steadfast in carrying forward the mission of its founder under the guiding motto: "Help to Learn, Skills to Earn."



## UCEP Bangladesh Celebrated Cheyne Day

On November 5, 2025 UCEP Bangladesh celebrated the 94<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of its founder, New Zealand philanthropist Lindsay Allan Cheyne, with a commemorative event held in Dhaka. The ceremony honored his lifelong dedication to empowering the underprivileged youth of Bangladesh.

The event, held at the UCEP Bangladesh Head Office in Mirpur, was graced by Ms. Uzma Chowdhury, CPA, Vice Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors, as the Chief Guest and was chaired by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh.



Members of the Senior Management Team, distinguished guests, and UCEP alumni attended the ceremony. Several former students shared inspiring life journeys, expressing heartfelt gratitude for the education and skills training that transformed their lives. Guests paid deep tribute to Lindsay Allan Cheyne, acknowledging his unwavering commitment to compassion, equality, and empowerment. Speakers emphasized that his vision remains the guiding principle for UCEP Bangladesh today. UCEP Bangladesh continues to fulfill its founder's vision by being a leader in developing skilled human resources. Through modern, industry-relevant training in ICT, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, caregiving, and entrepreneurship, UCEP is making a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of our nation.

## MTB Foundation and UCEP Bangladesh Jointly Inaugurated 'MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute'



To mark the anniversary of Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), the MTB Foundation, in partnership with UCEP Bangladesh, has recently inaugurated the "MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute", a flagship initiative of MTB Foundation in the education sector. The institute aims to provide skills training to 1,200 underprivileged youth over the next three years across five specialized trades.

The core objective of the initiative is to enhance employability through skills development, empower young people to become self-reliant, and accelerate inclusive growth. Through this initiative, MTB further strengthens its role not only as a financial institution but also as a committed partner in social development.

The inauguration ceremony was held on 25 October 2025 at the 'Spandan Training Facilitation Centre' in Maskanda, Mymensingh, in the presence of distinguished board members, senior officials of MTB and UCEP Bangladesh, members of the local community, and trainees. The institute was officially inaugurated by Mr. Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC. Also present at the event were Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury, Former Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh; Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh; and Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director, Programme and Innovations, UCEP Bangladesh.

From MTB, the event was attended by Mr. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director and CEO; Additional Managing Directors Mr. Chowdhury Akhtar Asif and Mr. Md. Khaled Mahmud Khan; Deputy Managing Directors Mr. Rais Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Md. Bakhtiar Hossain, Mr. Md. Shamsul Islam, and Mr. Md. Shafkat Hossain. Ms. Samia Chowdhury, CEO of MTB Foundation, along with senior officials from both organizations, was also present. The launch of the MTB UCEP Skills Training Institute marks a significant step toward strengthening technical and vocational education and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Bangladesh.

## Australian Minister Dr Anne Aly Visits UCEP Bangladesh to Review TVET Programs

The Australian Minister for International Development, Small Business and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, paid an official visit to UCEP Bangladesh at its Head Office in Dhaka On October 15, 2025. She was warmly received by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, and Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director, Programme and Innovation. The Minister was accompanied by Ms. Sarah Storey, First Assistant Secretary of the South and Central Asia Division at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and Ms. Susan Ryle, the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh.



During her visit, Minister Aly observed the progress of the training courses funded by the Australian Government, engaging with both students and trainers. The Minister's visit highlighted the strong and ongoing collaboration between UCEP Bangladesh and the Australian Government, aimed at expanding access to quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET) opportunities for young people across the country.

## Driving Inclusive Skills Development: GAC Delegation Visits UCEP Bangladesh

UCEP Bangladesh had the honor of hosting a high-level delegation from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to strengthen collaboration in skills development and explore future opportunities for empowering underprivileged youth. The delegation, led by Mr. Ajit Singh, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, also included Mr. Jean-Christian Brilliant, Director General of the South Asia Bureau under the Indo-Pacific Branch, Mr. Stephen Weaver, Head of Cooperation at the High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh; Mr. Joe McIntosh, First Secretary-Development (Edu and Skills); and Ms. Riful Jannat, Sr. Development Advisor, High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh. They were warmly received by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, along with senior officials including Engr. Mohd. Abdul Mannan, Director of Programme and Innovations, Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Director of Finance and Compliance, and Engr. Joy Prokash Barua, Deputy Director of Programme and Innovations. During the visit, the delegation visited different trades at UCEP's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institute and engaged in discussions on expanding skills training, fostering innovation, and enhancing employment opportunities. The visit underscored the shared commitment of Canada and UCEP Bangladesh to advancing inclusive education, technical skills development, and sustainable livelihoods for underprivileged youth in Bangladesh.



## UCEP Bangladesh had the honor of hosting a high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

On 09 September 2025 (Tuesday), UCEP Bangladesh hosted a high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) at its Head Office in Dhaka as part of the DG HOME mission to Bangladesh. The visit marked an important milestone in strengthening collaboration on skills development and safe migration, with a particular focus on the implementation of the Talent Partnership Project. The delegation was warmly received by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, along with members of the senior management team.



The visiting delegation included representatives from the EU's DG Migration and Home Affairs and the ILO's Skills and Talent Partnership initiatives. During the meeting, UCEP Bangladesh presented its institutional journey and shared progress on the Talent Partnership Project, which was launched in August 2025 with financial support from the European Union and technical assistance from the ILO. The project aims to promote safe, regular, and skilled migration through demand-driven training aligned with international labour market needs.

Current and upcoming training areas under the project include Electrical Installation & Maintenance, Food & Beverage Services, Food & Beverage Production, General Caregiving, and Automotive Mechanics. In addition to technical training, the

programme integrates Italian and English language instruction, soft skills development, and pre-departure orientation to better prepare learners for overseas employment opportunities.

As part of the visit, the delegation toured UCEP's training facilities and interacted directly with trainees enrolled in different trades, expressing appreciation for the modern facilities and the learners' strong motivation to pursue decent work abroad. A roundtable discussion with employers and recruiting agencies, including EduQuest, NU Global Limited, Agora Limited, CP Dhaka, and BIHS General Hospital, focused on the growing global demand for skilled Bangladeshi workers, particularly in hospitality and healthcare sectors. The visit concluded with a shared commitment by UCEP, the EU, and the ILO to further strengthen collaboration under the Talent Partnership Project and expand pathways to decent employment for Bangladeshi youth in global labour markets.

## UCEP Bangladesh Celebrates Best Performance Award 2025

UCEP Bangladesh proudly celebrated the Best Performance Award 2025 today, 25 November, a distinguished occasion dedicated to honoring the exceptional contributions of our teachers, instructors, and institutions who continue to inspire excellence in the lives of our learners. The event was presided over by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh. We were honored to have Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors (BoG) as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Member, UCEP BoG, as the Special Guest. This year, UCEP Bangladesh recognized outstanding performers and the best handwritings from across the country, including Subject-wise Best Teachers from each Region, whose dedication, teaching excellence, and commitment to student development have set remarkable standards.



## Inauguration of A K Khan-UCEP TVET Complex



UCEP Bangladesh and A.K. Khan & Co. Ltd. inaugurated the A.K. Khan-UCEP TVET Complex at the UCEP Kalurghat Campus, marking an important step in strengthening technical and vocational education in Bangladesh.

The ceremony was attended by Janab Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Trustee Secretary of A.K. Khan Foundation, as Chief Guest, along with Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors, and Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. Speakers highlighted the growing need for market-relevant technical skills to meet changing employment demands, with particular emphasis on emerging sectors such as caregiving and elderly support. The event concluded with the unveiling of the foundation plaque, reflecting a shared commitment to empowering disadvantaged youth through skills development and public-private collaboration.

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

## UCEP Bangladesh Observed 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

UCEP Bangladesh observed the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2025 across its Head Office, Regional Offices, Technical Schools, and TVET institutions, reaffirming its commitment to gender equality, disability inclusion, human rights, and safe learning and working environments.

The nationwide campaign aligned four international observances, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Begum Rokeya Day, and Human Rights Day, with UCEP's mission of skills development and decent employment. The observance began on 25 November with a discussion session presided over by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh, with a keynote address by Mr. Md. Sahil, Country Representative, NIMD, emphasizing inclusive governance and collective action against gender-based violence.

Throughout the campaign, UCEP organized rallies, community events, art and debate competitions, employer meetings, and staff orientations on safeguarding and online safety. The initiative reached 18,524 participants, ensuring inclusive engagement of women, men, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minority communities.



## UCEP Bangladesh Organizes Nationwide Job Fairs 2025 to Promote Youth Employment

In 2025, UCEP Bangladesh organized Job Fairs across its regions with the objective of connecting skilled youth to decent employment opportunities and strengthening engagement with the private sector. Held on 27 December 2025, the nationwide initiative created a shared platform where employers and job seekers could interact directly, exchange information, and explore a wide range of career opportunities. The Job Fairs also played a vital role in aligning skills development with labour market demand, promoting inclusive employment, and enhancing the employability of trained youth.

In the Gazipur region, the Job Fair was held at the UCEP Gazipur TVET Institute and chaired by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, with Mr. Supradip Chakma, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, attending as Chief Guest. The event witnessed strong participation from employers and job seekers and achieved notable outcomes, including the collection of 2,520 job applications, shortlisting of 715 candidates, and immediate employment for 430 job seekers. The fair also helped strengthen relationships between UCEP and local industries. In the South Region, the Social Inclusion and Employment Team organized Job Fair 2025 alongside a Trade Fair at the UCEP Jatrabari TVET Institute. These combined events supported both employment and entrepreneurship, providing learners and young entrepreneurs with opportunities to showcase products, gain market exposure, and generate sales.

In the Dhaka North Region, Job Fair 2025 was chaired by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, and coordinated by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director. Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministries of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Road Transport and Bridges, and Railways, attended as Chief Guest, virtually, while Mr. Md. Mehedi Hasan Bin Gani, Head of HR, Transcom Electronics Limited, was present as Special Guest. Twenty leading companies participated in the fair, conducting walk-in interviews and offering immediate employment opportunities to qualified candidates. Overall, the nationwide Job Fairs 2025 reaffirmed UCEP Bangladesh's continued role in linking skills training with employment, strengthening public-private collaboration, and advancing sustainable livelihoods for youth across Bangladesh.



# Story of Change

## Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Sumi Akter's Journey with UCEP Bangladesh

Every morning, while most students walk into school without a second thought, Sumi Akter begins her day from a wheelchair, ready not only to learn, but to challenge a world that often overlooks children like her. A Class 9 student at UCEP Cotobono Gram Technical School, her journey has been shaped by poverty, physical disability, and deep-rooted social stigma. Born into a low-income family, she was often made to feel that education was not meant for her, as inaccessible spaces, financial hardship, and silent discrimination stood in her way.



Her life began to change when she joined UCEP Bangladesh under the GRIVET Project, supported by Global Affairs of Canada. For the first time, education embraced her with dignity and belief. At UCEP, she found ramps instead of barriers, trained teachers instead of judgment, and an inclusive environment that focused on her abilities, not her limitations. Through skills-based learning, digital literacy, and life skills education, Sumi gained confidence, independence, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Today, Sumi dreams of a career in the technical sector and of advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Her transformation has reshaped not only her own future, but also the perceptions of her family and community. Her journey is a reminder that when inclusive education is prioritized, barriers fall, futures rise, and one determined student can inspire change far beyond herself.

## From Poverty to Profession: Rubel Mia's Journey Through Skills and Opportunity

Md. Rubel Mia's journey is a powerful reminder that when opportunity meets determination, lives can change forever. Born into a family facing extreme poverty, Rubel grew up watching his father, Md. Amjad Hossain, struggle as a marginal farmer and day labourer, often uncertain how the family of four would manage their next meal. With limited choices and constant hardship, the future felt deeply uncertain.



Hope arrived when a well-wisher introduced the family to UCEP Bangladesh and its employment-oriented skills training. With courage and faith, Rubel enrolled in the Electrical Installation and Maintenance trade at UCEP Rangpur TVET Institute, a decision that changed the course of his life. After completing his training in 2015, he entered the workforce through UCEP's Decent Employment Component, securing his first job as an Assistant Technician at RFL and steadily building his skills, confidence, and professional discipline.

Rubel's career continued to advance as he joined Tasty Treat as a Technician and later Bir Group's Bir Engineering in Dhaka, where he now works as a Senior Technician earning a monthly salary of BDT 50,000. His success has transformed his family's life, freeing his father from daily labour and bringing dignity, stability, and hope to their household. Rubel's journey shows that investing in skills training and decent employment does more than create jobs; it breaks the cycle of poverty and builds sustainable futures.

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