

# Lighting the path: How two World University of Bangladesh alumni are shaping global industries

A CORRESPONDENT

The World University of Bangladesh (WUB) was founded with a mission to produce skilled professionals equipped to meet the evolving demands of the modern world. Guided by values such as innovation, industry relevance, integrity, and social responsibility, the university has built a reputation for blending academic rigour with practical application. Its programmes are designed not just to convey knowledge, but to inspire leadership, foster resilience, and prepare graduates for meaningful contributions in their chosen fields.



Jimmy Majumder

WUB's vision is deeply rooted in bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world problem-solving. Through specialised faculties, dedicated mentorship, and opportunities for experiential learning, the university aims to nurture graduates who can adapt to diverse challenges, think critically, and create positive change, whether locally or globally.

Two of its alumni, Jimmy Majumder and Syed Ansar Ullah, carry these principles in strikingly different yet equally inspiring ways. Jimmy, a robotics engineer working in Japan's high-tech sector, and Ansar, a textile industry leader managing production for a global fashion brand, both demonstrate how WUB's foundation can launch graduates into careers that influence industries across continents.

### From mechatronics classes to Japan's robotics frontier

When Jimmy Majumder entered WUB, he already had a hunger for innovation. But it was here that his vision sharpened into action. During his first year, he founded the Bangladesh Advance Robotics Research Center (BARRC), a platform through which he would lead over 30 robotics projects, train more than 10,000 students in person, and reach over one million learners online.

His academic achievements at WUB were matched by his resilience. Having left a public university's CSE programme, Jimmy juggled rigorous coursework with overnight shifts at a UK-based call centre for two years. These challenges, he recalls, "shaped me into a resilient, self-driven individual." It was in WUB's environment that he discovered his *ikigai* — his purpose — and developed his *kigen*, the spirit and motivation to persevere.

In 2018, Jimmy graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics and the Best Thesis Award. That same determination carried him to Japan on the prestigious MEXT Scholarship, where he earned a Master's degree in Robotics at the Kyushu Institute of Technology, receiving both the Excellent Thesis

Presentation Award and the honour of being the departmental representative for academic excellence.

Today, he is a Mid-Level Senior Robotics Engineer at QibiTech in Tokyo, working alongside the Japanese government and leading corporations such as Sony, Kawasaki, and RIKEN. He is also a Venture and Innovation Strategist at Google for Startups Japan, integrating his entrepreneurial insights from BARRC with advanced engineering expertise to drive cross-sector innovation.

"Japan's robotics industry offers a glimpse into the future," Jimmy says. "In a country facing a labour shortage, robotics is not optional; it's a national imperative." His work spans factory automation, healthcare robotics, space robotics, and agriculture, areas where he draws daily on the interdisciplinary skills he built at WUB. The university, he reflects, was the torchbearer that lit his way through challenges: "What truly matters is that you follow the light with dedication, no matter how winding the path."

### Engineering the future of fashion

Elsewhere, Syed Ansar Ullah's professional journey takes place on the bustling production floors of the textile industry. Graduating in 2013 with a degree in Textile Engineering, Ansar entered one of Bangladesh's most vital and competitive economic sectors.

Today, he is the Managing Director of Brannerson Apparel Ltd, the Bangladesh production facility for Oh Polly, a global women's high-fashion brand. His role requires him to oversee operations from yarn procurement to finished garments, ensuring that every stage meets the brand's exacting quality standards.

"The knowledge I gained at university helps me ensure product quality, streamline production, and make informed

decisions," Ansar says. The textile engineering curriculum at WUB equipped him with both the technical expertise and the industry perspective necessary for leadership in such a demanding field.



Syed Ansar Ullah

with daily challenges," he admits. His approach to these challenges is rooted in innovation — diversifying products, creating value-added offerings, and exploring efficiency-enhancing tools that keep his business competitive. This adaptability echoes WUB's emphasis on problem-solving and forward-thinking.

Ansar's time at WUB also included industrial tours to manufacturing plants, giving him early exposure to real-world production processes. These experiences proved invaluable once he entered the industry professionally, providing him with both technical insight and the confidence to lead.

### Lessons carried beyond graduation

Though their careers are worlds apart, one navigating Japan's robotics revolution, the other steering Bangladesh's textile exports, Jimmy and Ansar share a common thread: the enduring influence of their alma mater.

For Jimmy, WUB's role was foundational, not only in developing his technical proficiency in mechatronics, control systems, and embedded electronics but also in fostering his entrepreneurial drive. Founding BARRC during his first year allowed him to blend theory with application, a skill that continues to define his professional success.

For Ansar, the direct connection between his coursework and his current responsibilities is clear. "My studies in Textile Engineering gave me a complete understanding of the process," he says. "The technical foundation I developed while at WUB is something I use every day." Both also emphasise the role of extracurricular engagement in shaping their capabilities. Jimmy's leadership in WUB's Mechatronics Club and Debate Club sharpened his communication and strategic thinking, while Ansar's industrial tours helped him bridge academic knowledge with practical insight.

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## Lessons in personal and professional growth from IUB alumnus Syed Moinuddin Ahmed

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Because of his introversion, he didn't participate in extracurricular activities during his time at IUB, something he now regrets. He believes that engaging in such activities would have added valuable skills and tools to face the challenges encountered later in life.

Today, Ahmed strongly encourages students to get involved beyond academics. "GPA is not everything," he emphasises. "It's how you prepare yourself, how you grow beyond the GPA. We are a product for the job market, and extracurricular activities help package yourself in a more attractive way." He urges students to find a passion in extracurricular pursuits and continue them even after their studies, believing this not only fosters maturity but also creates lasting positive impacts for their future.

Ahmed also reflects on the many valuable lessons he learned at IUB that went far beyond academics. He admits that, during his university days, he didn't fully grasp the meaning of the saying, "Life is not a bed of roses." With time, however, he came to understand its true significance. The curriculum, structure, and environment at IUB helped him learn two important principles early on: that there are no shortcuts in life and that hard work always pays off.

He explains, "You cannot expect great results if you only study before the exam. You may pass, but you won't achieve excellence. You must study in a disciplined and consistent manner to truly learn and succeed." He adds, "Hard work and sincerity are irreplaceable. If you focus on these, it leads to a disciplined life, and discipline is key to becoming a successful professional, no matter where you are in the world."

Ahmed urges aspiring professionals to adopt a long-term perspective, avoiding shortcuts in favour of sustainable efforts that yield meaningful outcomes.

For Ahmed, success has always been rooted in simplicity. "I have always tried to have a simple approach to my life, be it personal or professional," he says. One skill he particularly values is common sense. "Nowadays, it is often seen that people are not using their common sense, but rather pursuing a different

route or different kinds of issue management. So, for me, I always try to stick to common sense and utilise that in my day-to-day role as a professional."

In recent years, Ahmed's work has become increasingly data-driven, a shift he sees as necessary in an era where change happens "at lightning speed." He reflects on how the skills once considered essential—analytical thinking, number crunching, and effective communication—are now complemented, and in some cases redefined, by technology. "While those are important, in today's world, it is technology that is making a whole lot of difference, and lately, AI is turning things really upside down. We need to align ourselves with evolving technology... so that we understand the situation more on a realistic front and also try to find a simpler solution to a complex task."

This philosophy ties back to a guiding principle he adopted during his university years—the motto of IUB: Teacheth man that which he knew not. "This motto has really been a passionate driver for me in my professional life, which has made me more inquisitive. I have started asking more 'why' on different topics, to get into the details and maintain focus in my day-to-day life."

Ahmed acknowledges that today's generation is undoubtedly smarter and more fortunate than his own. He often reflects that if he were born today, he might have had even greater opportunities. Rather than offering advice, he prefers to share his experiences, limitations, and mistakes—lessons that have guided him while pursuing his dreams.

Though his dreams were modest, they fueled his journey. "Without dreams, one cannot move ahead," he says.

says, crediting his achievements to the Almighty and the support of his parents.

Central to his approach has been a commitment to challenging himself and continuous self-development. "I always try to get out of my comfort zone whenever I get the opportunity," Ahmed explains. Even now, he makes a conscious effort every year to push beyond familiar boundaries and try something new. He stresses that stepping outside one's comfort zone is crucial for growth.

Ahmed also highlights the importance of staying current in a rapidly changing world, where technology plays a vital role. "Developing oneself and keeping up with global issues and market trends is essential," he notes. He encourages the younger generation to embrace their role as global citizens, confident and ready to explore opportunities beyond geographic borders.

Syed Moinuddin Ahmed's journey highlights the power of persistence, continuous learning, and simplicity. His story underscores that success is not defined by shortcuts but by discipline, hard work, and the courage to step beyond comfort zones. As technology reshapes the world, his commitment to continuous growth serves as an inspiring guide for aspiring professionals navigating an ever-changing landscape.



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