

# The Daily Star

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## **Future of Bangladesh depends on youth leadership**

### ***British HC says at BYLC Programme***

*Metro Desk*

The future of Bangladesh does not just belong to English medium or Bangla medium or Madrasa students, it belongs to the youth leadership, said Stephen Evans, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, at the graduation ceremony of a youth leadership training programme held at Lake Shore Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) organised the month-long training programme 'Building bridges through leadership training'.

Dr Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, was the special guest at the programme. Businessmen, academics, civil society members as well as media men also attended the programme.

A total of 42 students were competitively selected from applicants from over 150 schools, madrasas and universities for the programme. The training programme included workshops on leadership, public speaking, teamwork, problem-solving and community service.

After two weeks in intensive training at Biam Foundation in Dhaka, the participants spent more than 1200 hours in community service in a slum in the city.

The British High Commissioner said, "Not only did you serve, but you came together to serve. Though you attend different types of schools -- madrasas, Bangla medium schools, and English medium schools -- you worked together. This is crucial. The future of Bangladesh does not just belong to English medium students or Bangla medium students or Madrasa students. It belongs to all of you. All of you together will decide what you want the future to hold."

Dr Atiur said, "I think that in the context of Bangladesh, this unique initiative by BYLC is highly commendable. Their focus in generating an inclusive, tolerant and just society is the perfect approach."

Niaz Rahim, managing director of Rahimafrooz Superstores, said, "Even in the corporate sector, we find a dearth of leadership among the employees. But to see such youth exercising real leadership programme is a fabulous feat."

BYLC's concept and teaching methodology was originally developed at Harvard Kennedy School's Centre for Public Leadership and the programme as supported by British High Commission in Dhaka

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