





FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.

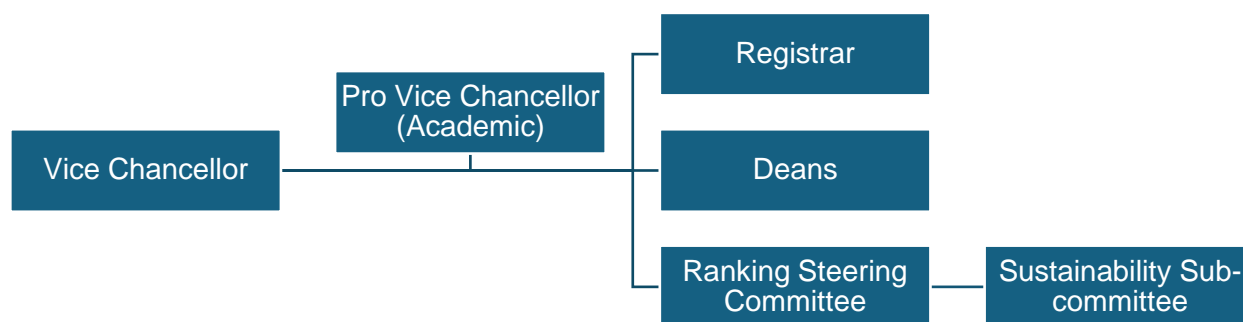
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.



Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of History	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of “learning to learn with others”—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU’s Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, “Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future.” [<https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission>]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation’s knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh’s flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES (SDGs) of DU: AT A GLANCE

- SDG 1 – No Poverty → Financial Aid | DU Fund | Workforce Mobility
- SDG 2 – Zero Hunger → Food Science | Nutrition | Community Outreach
- SDG 3 – Health & Well-Being → DU Medical | NPU | Public Health | MoHFW
- SDG 4 – Quality Education → IER | IML | TESL | Lifelong Learning
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality → WGS Dept | Childcare | Anti-Harassment
- SDG 6 – Clean Water → Water Labs | Hygiene Programs | Safe Water Units
- SDG 7 – Affordable Energy → Solar Panels | Energy Audits | Green Transitions
- SDG 8 – Decent Work → Career Center | Internships | Startups | AI Skills
- SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation → DU Innovation Hub | Research Output | Patents
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality → Quotas | Accessibility | First-Gen Students
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities → DU Campus Public Space | Heritage | Mobility
- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption → Recycling | Waste mgmt | Paperless Systems
- SDG 13 – Climate Action → DSCR | CCHPU | Climate Courses | AI Modelling
- SDG 14 – Life Below Water → Marine Biology | River Research | Pollution Index
- SDG 15 – Life on Land → Biodiversity Labs | Botany | Campus Ecology
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice → Governance | Transparency | Policy Research
- SDG 17 – Partnerships → UN agencies | Ministries | Global MoUs | AI Research

| **DU's Vision:** Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future. |



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DU SDG 2024: At A Glance



SDG 1 – 206+ financially supported students; 1,000+ first-gen beneficiaries across faculties

SDG 2 – 11+ subsidised food points; 3,500+ low-cost daily meals served on campus

SDG 3 – 52,000+ patient visits to DU Medical Centre; 4,300+ mental-health counselling sessions

SDG 4 – 10+ DU faculty listed in global Top 2% Scientists; 1,500+ trained teachers produced annually

SDG 5 – 1,200+ cases handled by Anti-Harassment Cell; 3 major gender-policy dialogues (2024)

SDG 6 – 600+ water-quality tests conducted; 7 hygiene/sanitation campaigns in dormitories

SDG 7 – 3 solar-power pilot rooftops; 15% reduction in electricity load during conservation hours

SDG 8 – 3,000+ internships facilitated; 50+ startups incubated across DU faculties

SDG 9 – 40+ research partnerships with industries; 12 technology-transfer projects underway

SDG 10 – 22% students admitted through equity quotas; 300+ disability-access services delivered

SDG 11 – 3-month Sustainable Shuttle Bus Pilot; 64 student workers in campus cleaning drive

SDG 12 – 120+ tonnes sorted waste annually; campus-wide paperless office transition underway

SDG 13 – 20+ climate-action research projects; 5 national training programs with CCHPU/MoHFW

SDG 14 – 18 aquatic-ecology studies; 30+ river-pollution assessments by DU labs

SDG 15 – Multiple tree-plantation drives; 90+ campus biodiversity species documented

SDG 16 – 12+ faculty advising national commissions; 3 governance policies updated (2023–24)

SDG 17 – 8+ new MoUs signed; 30+ partnerships with UN agencies, ministries & NGOs

SDG 1 — No Poverty

Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka (DU), constituted under the **Dhaka University Order 1973**, plays a national role in poverty alleviation through financial assistance, educational access, targeted scholarships, and community development initiatives. With thousands of students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds, DU's financial-aid ecosystem—including the **DU Fund for Financially Challenged Students**, hall-based stipends, faculty-level emergency grants, and alumni-supported scholarships—ensures equitable access to higher education. DU's research centres and social-science departments also conduct policy-relevant poverty research, while student-led outreach programs support vulnerable communities during floods, droughts, and economic shocks.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is one of Bangladesh's largest engines of upward mobility, lifting thousands out of poverty through higher education, financial support, and community outreach.*

SDG 1: No Poverty

Dhaka University (DU) continues to play a decisive national role in reducing poverty by ensuring that financial hardship never restricts access to higher education. In 2024, DU strengthened this mandate through targeted scholarships, trust-fund disbursements, and the revival of key alumni-supported programs.

Despite large student demand and limited resources, the University delivered substantial, quantifiable support.

DU introduced special stipends for financially disadvantaged first-year students from the 2023–2024 session. This initiative particularly strengthens DU’s support for new entrants, who often face the steepest financial pressure when beginning university life.

Equally important is the revival of the Dhaka University Alumni Association’s “Scholarship for Educational and Social Initiatives.” After a three-year suspension, the Association plans to relaunch the program and call for applications for three backlogged sessions, offering a monthly stipend of BDT 4,000 to students—especially those from middle- and lower-middle-class rural families. This revival signals renewed alumni engagement and long-term sustainability in DU’s financial aid ecosystem.

Overall, 2024 demonstrated DU’s continued prioritization of financial support as its primary mechanism for advancing SDG 1. By awarding scholarships, expanding application opportunities, and restoring key programs, the University strengthened its role as a vehicle for social mobility. While challenges persist, the year’s progress shows a resilient and evolving commitment to ensuring that economic hardship does not limit educational opportunity at the University of Dhaka.

Dhaka University's Financial Support at a Glance

Total Students Supported: 206+

Scholarship Breakdown

🎓 Arts Faculty Centenary Trust Fund

→ 41 students (9 departments)

🎓 Mathematics & English Trust Funds

→ 15 students

(Prof. Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman Trust • Mazeda Khatun Memorial Scholarship)



Figure 1: Students receiving scholarship

Full News Link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/15-du-students-awarded-trust-fund-scholarships-1002366>

🎓 Akij-Monowara Educational Support Trust

→ 150 first-year students

→ BDT 5,000/month stipend

🎓 DU Alumni Association Scholarship (Revived)

→ Applications reopening after 3 years

- 3 pending sessions to be awarded
- BDT 4,000/month stipend
- Prioritizing rural middle- and lower-middle-income students

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU remains one of Bangladesh's largest public-sector providers of student financial aid
- ✓ Focus on first-generation, rural, and low-income learners
- ✓ Revival of alumni-driven aid strengthens long-term sustainability
- ✓ Financial support directly enhances student retention and equitable access

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger

Executive Summary

DU contributes to food security through research in Nutrition & Food Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Botany; evidence-based nutrition policy inputs; and community-level nutrition awareness programs. Students and faculty collaborate with ministries and NGOs to support rural nutrition, food safety, and agricultural innovation. During crises, DU's students lead relief distribution across affected districts, including essential food packages.

High-Impact Claim: *DU's Nutrition and Food Science research ecosystem shapes national food-security policy and produces specialists who strengthen Bangladesh's nutrition workforce.*

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

For a large public university like Dhaka University (DU), where thousands of students rely on campus dining facilities each day, access to affordable and nutritious meals is a cornerstone of student welfare. In alignment with SDG 2, DU has long maintained a subsidised food system that ensures no student goes hungry due to financial constraints. In 2024, the University strengthened this commitment by expanding affordability measures, monitoring food quality more rigorously, and taking early steps to reduce food waste—showing tangible progress toward a more equitable and sustainable food ecosystem.

DU's network of subsidised canteens—including those at IER, IBA, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Registrar Building, the Business Studies Faculty, and all residential halls—remains central to campus life. These dining spaces serve thousands of students every day and function as informal but essential food-security hubs. Recognizing that affordability alone is not enough, DU also began implementing systems to monitor hygiene, ingredient standards, and daily food-preparation practices to ensure meals are both accessible and safe.

Another developing priority is food-waste reduction. With the volume of meals served daily, even minor inefficiencies accumulate into significant loss. DU has started tracking waste patterns and planning targeted interventions—an important first step that aligns with the sustainable consumption principles at the core of SDG 2.

While DU's current efforts do not yet constitute a fully integrated institutional food-security program, they mark clear progress. By maintaining subsidised meals, strengthening safety oversight, and taking initial action on waste, DU continues to ensure that students can pursue academic success without the burden of food insecurity.

DU Food Ecosystem: 2024 Snapshot

Subsidised Food Network Across Campus

Fine Arts Canteen

Registrar Building Canteen

IBA • IER • Business Studies Faculty

All Residential Halls

→ Thousands of students served daily

Food Quality & Hygiene Monitoring Introduced

Ingredient checks

Clean kitchen environment tracking

Oversight of daily food-preparation processes

Food Waste Reduction (Early Stage)

Tracking disposal patterns

Identifying high-waste points

Planning intervention areas

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU operates one of the largest subsidised student food systems in the country
- ✓ Reliable access to affordable meals for thousands of students every day
- ✓ New oversight measures help ensure safe, hygienic, and nutritionally improved food
- ✓ First steps taken toward institutional food-waste monitoring, supporting sustainability goals
- ✓ DU's food ecosystem directly reduces financial pressure, strengthening equitable access to education and student wellbeing

SDG 3 — Good Health & Well-Being

Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka (DU), operating under the **Dhaka University Order 1973**, contributes significantly to national health and well-being through its medical, psychological, nutritional, environmental, and public-health ecosystem. DU's health infrastructure—including **Nari Bikash Unit (NBU)**, **DU Medical Centre**, **Nasirullah Psychotherapy Services** (<https://npudu.net/>), and multiple departmental health-science laboratories—supports thousands of students, staff, and community beneficiaries annually. DU's academic units (e.g., Psychology, Public Health, Microbiology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Nutrition & Food Science) engage in health research, diagnostics, mental-health counselling, and community health campaigns.

Through partnerships with the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, **CCHPU**, **WHO**, **UNFPA**, and NGOs, DU contributes to national health promotion, climate-health capacity building, vector-disease research, and disaster-health resilience. DU students participate in blood-donation drives, sanitation campaigns, and epidemic-response volunteering.

High-Impact

Claim:

DU is one of Bangladesh's most influential public-health knowledge hubs, producing essential health research, providing large-scale on-campus health services, and shaping national health policy and climate-health preparedness.

SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

SDG 3 calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all—a goal that Dhaka University (DU) advances through academic expertise, student-driven initiatives, and community-oriented health programs. Although DU faces structural challenges such as limited clinical capacity and rising mental-health needs, the University continues to shape national health consciousness through research, civic engagement, seminars, and awareness activities. In 2024, DU's contributions to SDG 3 were especially visible in voluntary health actions, public-health education, and expanding mental-health support for its large student community.

The year's most active engagement came from student-led humanitarian efforts. The voluntary blood donation campaign of 12 December, conducted with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society near Surya Sen Hall, demonstrated DU's strong culture of civic responsibility. Additional donor-recognition activities organized by Badhon units of Shahidullah Hall and Salimullah Muslim Hall reaffirmed student leadership in health-focused volunteerism.

Academic health expertise also played a central role. The Department of Zoology, in partnership with the Bangladesh Zoological Society, organized a major seminar on “Dengue in Megacities of Bangladesh,” highlighting DU's position as a national centre for scientific and policy-relevant public-health knowledge.

Mental well-being received dedicated attention in 2024. DU marked World Mental Health Day with workshops, awareness programming, and counselling services supported by the Office of Student Counselling and the Department of Clinical Psychology. These efforts helped normalize conversations around stress, anxiety, and emotional wellness—critical for a university community of DU's scale.

Beyond clinical and academic initiatives, DU continued to promote holistic well-being through sports and community activities. Inter-departmental tournaments, hall-level competitions, and alumni-supported wellness events fostered physical fitness, social connection, and stress relief across campus.

Together, DU's 2024 activities show a health ecosystem supported by engaged students, research-driven public-health outreach, and a growing commitment to mental well-being. While expanded counselling capacity and sustained programming remain priorities, the year marked meaningful progress toward a healthier and more supportive campus environment.

DU Health & Well-Being at a Glance — 2024

💧 Community Health & Volunteerism

Major blood donation drive on 12 December (Red Crescent collaboration)
Donor recognition events by Shahidullah Hall & Mohsin Hall Badhon units

🦟 Public-Health Research & Awareness

Dengue in Megacities seminar hosted by Zoology Department
Collaboration with Bangladesh Zoological Society
High student and faculty engagement

🧠 Mental-Health Support & Awareness

World Mental Health Day programs
Workshops & counselling sessions
Activities led by Office of Student Counselling & Clinical Psychology Department



Figure 2: DU observes mental health day

Full news link:

[https://www.bssnews.net/news/215522#:~:text=DHAKA%2C%20Oct%2010%2C%202024%20\(,the%20year%20despite%20limited%20resources.](https://www.bssnews.net/news/215522#:~:text=DHAKA%2C%20Oct%2010%2C%202024%20(,the%20year%20despite%20limited%20resources.)

Campus Wellness & Sports

Inter-department football & cricket

Hall-level competitions

Alumni-supported wellness events

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is one of Bangladesh's largest student-led contributors to community health and voluntary blood donation
- ✓ The University serves as a national hub for public-health scholarship, linking science with policy
- ✓ DU's expanding mental-health initiatives help normalize emotional well-being conversations for thousands of students
- ✓ Sports, wellness events, and alumni partnerships reinforce DU's holistic approach to well-being
- ✓ 2024 demonstrated multi-sectoral health engagement—combining research, volunteerism, mental-health action, and community fitness

SDG 4 — Quality Education

Executive Summary

As Bangladesh's flagship public university, DU is structurally mandated under the **Dhaka University Order 1973** to uphold national academic excellence, equitable access, and teacher development. DU fulfils SDG 4 through its extensive academic offerings—across 13 faculties, 83 departments, and over 50 institutes/centres—serving more than 40,000 students.

DU's teaching quality is strengthened by the Institute of Education & Research (IER), Institute of Modern Languages (IML), Department of English (MA in Applied Linguistics & ELT), Department of Bangla, and Department of Linguistics, which collectively produce thousands of trained teachers, TESL specialists, curriculum designers, and teacher-trainers annually. DU supports inclusive access through quotas, financial aid, scholarships, special-needs accommodations, and first-generation student pathways.

Further, DU contributes to national educational governance by providing experts to NCTB, MoE committees, and national reform commissions. Lifelong-learning programs, digital literacy initiatives, and professional-skills courses strengthen employability.

High-Impact Claim:

DU is Bangladesh's single most important producer of teachers, teacher-trainers, and curriculum designers—making it central to the country's SDG 4 achievements in education quality, equity, and lifelong learning.

SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 4—focused on inclusive and equitable quality education—aligns closely with Dhaka University’s historic mission as the country’s leading centre of learning and research. For over a century, DU has expanded access to higher education, nurtured first-generation scholars, and shaped national intellectual life. In 2024, DU continued to advance SDG 4 by strengthening academic excellence, expanding financial and institutional support, deepening global partnerships, and positioning itself as a forum for national dialogue on educational reform. These gains are especially meaningful given ongoing challenges related to funding, infrastructure, and the need to modernize curricula for an increasingly global and skills-driven economy.

The year saw notable investment in student welfare and academic recognition, including new trust funds and multiple scholarship and gold-medal ceremonies supported by benevolent institutions such as the Nurul Islam Memorial Trust and the Army Welfare Trust. These initiatives reinforced DU’s culture of merit-based achievement and financial accessibility.

Research quality and global academic visibility remained key strengths. Ten DU faculty members were named among the world’s top 2% scientists, with more joining international rankings later in the year. Intellectual exchange was further energized through the “Chintar Chash” researchers’ conference and a non-fiction book fair, both of which broadened scholarly resources and encouraged academic collaboration.

Internationalization advanced significantly in 2024. DU signed multiple MoUs with Chinese universities, strengthened ties with the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC), and explored a joint academic program in marine sciences. Engagements with JICA created potential pathways for development cooperation and institutional capacity building.

Student achievement also elevated DU’s standing. A DU team earned runner-up in the Asia West region at the ICPC World Final, signaling strong growth in computing, problem-solving, and STEM competitiveness. Meanwhile, Mitsubishi Corporation’s Tk 34 lakh donation supported skills-development programs aimed at better aligning academic learning with job-market needs.

Beyond classrooms and laboratories, DU remained an influential national voice. Stakeholders convened on campus to discuss education reform, primary education quality, and civic aspirations for a “New Bangladesh.” Student–teacher dialogue

forums strengthened internal communication and academic accountability. Additionally, DU-linked cultural leadership contributed to community literacy through the establishment of a children's library at the National Museum.

Taken together, these achievements reflect a university expanding its research impact, strengthening student support, deepening global engagement, and contributing to national educational thought. DU's 2024 progress demonstrates steady movement toward a more inclusive, research-driven, and internationally connected higher-education ecosystem.

University of Dhaka's Contribution to Teacher Preparation through Language and Linguistics Programmes. Beyond formal B.Ed/M.Ed degrees offered through the Institute of Education and Research (IER), the University of Dhaka plays a nationally significant role in preparing English- and Bangla-medium teachers, ELT professionals, and teacher-trainers through its language- and linguistics-focused departments. These programmes supply the country with highly qualified graduates able to teach in primary, secondary, college, English-medium, and tertiary sectors, and also to design curricula and training for the broader education system.

1. Department of English – MA in Applied Linguistics & ELT (AL/ELT)

The Department of English offers a specialized MA in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching, one of the most established ELT master's programmes in Bangladesh. The degree provides: A strong foundation in linguistics, second language acquisition (SLA) and advanced grammar; Training in pedagogy, curriculum design, materials development, and language assessment; Practicum components that prepare graduates to become effective classroom teachers; Theoretical and research training enabling graduates to serve as teacher-trainers, curriculum specialists, ELT researchers, and academic coordinators

Graduates of this programme are widely employed in: English-medium schools; National curriculum schools and colleges; Language institutes; University-level ELT programmes; Government and NGO-run teacher-training projects. This makes the Department of English a central contributor to the country's teacher-education pipeline, particularly in English-language teaching—a critical national skill area.

2. Institute of Modern Languages (IML) – BA in TESL & MA in TESL

The Institute of Modern Languages offers full degree programmes in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels: BA in

TESL-- Provides foundational linguistic knowledge, phonetics, morphology, syntax, and sociolinguistics; Includes modules on ESL methodology, educational psychology, assessment, and teaching practicum; Produces graduates ready to teach English at primary, secondary, and higher-secondary levels

MA in TESL: Offers advanced training in applied linguistics, ELT research, curriculum studies, discourse analysis, and classroom communication; Prepares graduates for leadership roles as teacher-trainers, ELT coordinators, curriculum developers, and academic consultants

Through these two degrees, DU's IML supplies a substantial cohort of professionally trained English teachers, many of whom staff the schools, colleges, and language institutes across Bangladesh.

3. Department of Linguistics – Language Science and Pedagogical Training

The Department of Linguistics equips students with: Deep knowledge of phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, and language teaching; Applied courses on language testing, child language acquisition, speech technology, and Bangladeshi language policy; Exposure to Bangla linguistics, enabling graduates to serve as teachers, textbook writers, and curriculum developers. Research-based training that prepares graduates for teacher-training roles in government and development-sector projects

Graduates work as Linguistics lecturers, Curriculum specialists, Language-policy researchers, and Trainers for English and Bangla teacher-development programmes. This department provides the scientific backbone for language education across the university.

4. Department of Bangla – Language, Literature & Pedagogy Pathways: The Department of Bangla trains thousands of students each year in: Bangla linguistics, Bangla grammar and phonetics, Literary analysis, Mother-tongue pedagogy. These graduates form a large part of Bangladesh's national Bangla-medium teaching workforce, especially in primary and secondary schools. Many also serve as textbook writers, content developers, and trainers in national curriculum reforms.

Together, the Department of English, Institute of Modern Languages, Department of Linguistics, and Department of Bangla form one of Bangladesh's strongest language-education ecosystems—producing hundreds of trained teachers, ELT professionals, linguists, and teacher-trainers each year. These programmes substantially strengthen the national teaching workforce and directly advance SDG 4 by raising the quality of language instruction across the country.

Academic Excellence & Research

- 10 DU faculty ranked among the world's top 2% scientists
- “Chintar Chash” multi-disciplinary research conference hosted
- Non-fiction book fair enhanced access to academic resources
- Student Achievement & Skills
- ICPC Asia West Runner-Up (World Final)
- Tk 34 lakh skills development grant from Mitsubishi
- Multiple gold medals & scholarships awarded across faculties
- International Partnerships
- New MoUs with Chinese universities
 - i) Full news link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/225312>
- Expanded cooperation with NMEFC (marine sciences)
- JICA delegation explored development and capacity-building initiatives
- Educational Engagement & Community Impact
- National consultation on education system reform
- Seminars on primary education quality & constitutional aspirations
- Student–teacher dialogue forums improved campus communication
- DU-linked children's library initiative supported early literacy

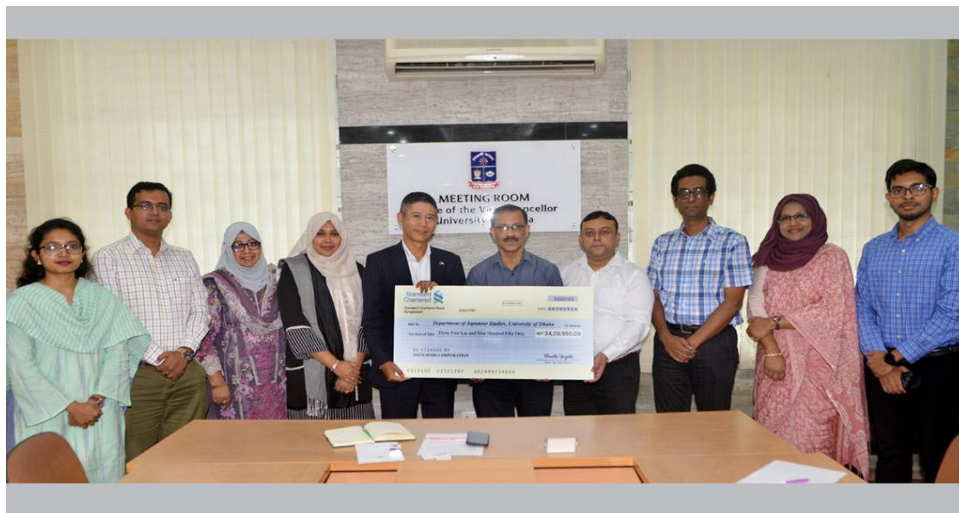


Figure 3: Mitsubishi donates Tk 34 lakh to DU for skills development, 21 October, 2024, 01:35

Full news link: https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/248278/mitsubishi-donates-tk-34-lakh-to-du-for-skills-development#:~:text=Mitsubishi%20donates%20Tk%2034%20lakh%20to%20DU,sills%20development%20*%20Mitsubishi.%20*%20Dhaka%20University.



Figure 4: JICA delegation explored development and capacity-building initiatives, 18 Dec 2024, 18:29

Full news link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/231778>

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU remains Bangladesh's premier engine of academic excellence, with globally recognized scholars and competitive achievements.
- ✓ Strong upward trajectory in research visibility, international mobility, and global academic standing.
- ✓ DU's expanding ecosystem of scholarships and trust funds strengthens equitable access to quality education.
- ✓ International partnerships and MoUs position DU as a regional leader in transnational learning and scientific cooperation.
- ✓ DU continues to shape national educational conversation, demonstrating thought leadership on curriculum reform and public-policy dialogue.
- ✓ Investments in student skills and STEM competitiveness (e.g., ICPC, Mitsubishi funding) highlight DU's commitment to future-ready education.

SDG 5 — Gender Equality

Executive Summary

DU has a historic and statutory commitment to gender equality—as the university that produced Bangladesh’s earliest women scholars, activists, and leaders. Through academic programs, policies, and institutional protections, DU ensures gender-sensitive governance under its **Statutes and Ordinances guided by DU Order 1973**.

The **Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Centre for Gender & Development Studies (BCGDS)** leads gender research, training, and policy dialogues. DU’s **Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell, central childcare facilities, women-friendly hostels**, grievance mechanisms, and legal-aid services provide structural protection for students and staff.

Academic departments (Women & Gender Studies, Sociology, Law, Anthropology, Development Studies) produce national-level research on gender justice, labour, violence prevention, reproductive rights, and women’s leadership. DU collaborates with UN Women, UNFPA, and MoWCA to strengthen national gender policy and capacity building.

Each year, DU hosts women-led innovation programs, leadership workshops, and gender mainstreaming initiatives across faculties. Student groups engage in campaigns on menstrual hygiene, workplace safety, and rights awareness.

High-Impact Claim:

DU is Bangladesh’s leading centre for gender scholarship, advocacy, and institutional protection—shaping national gender policy and supporting thousands of women on their academic and professional journeys.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Gender equality has long been embedded in Dhaka University's identity. For over a century, DU has been a national home for women scholars, activists, and professionals who reshaped discourse on rights, justice, and social transformation. In 2024, DU continued advancing SDG 5 through research-driven engagement, high-level academic dialogues, and national policy conversations led by the Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Centre for Gender and Development Studies (BCGDS). These initiatives reinforced DU's role as both a thought leader and a convening platform for addressing persistent structural barriers—including unequal labour participation, unpaid care burdens, and entrenched gender norms that shape everyday life.

The flagship event of the year was the BCGDS International Women's Day Seminar (13 March 2024) titled "Empowering Future: Invest in Women towards Smart Bangladesh." Keynote speaker Nasim Ferdous, President of the Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership, emphasized economic independence as the foundation of genuine empowerment. Discussant Dr. Binayek Sen highlighted the intersections of literary tradition, labour-force dynamics, and unpaid care work—areas where gender disparities remain most visible.

The seminar's second half brought in leading activists such as Bibi Russel and Shomi Kaiser, who centered grassroots experiences and the emotional dimensions of empowerment. Their reflections underscored the need to value unpaid care labour, integrate men as partners in gender progress, and rethink gender roles across class boundaries. The policy recommendations that emerged—ranging from R&D investment to assessing the economic cost of violence against women—linked scholarship with actionable pathways for national reform.

This momentum culminated in the 3rd International Conference on "Revisiting Gender Equality and Sustainable Development" (7–8 August 2024). Organized by BCGDS, the conference expanded the discussion to global intersections between gender, governance, digital inclusion, climate, and economic transformation. With sub-themes spanning "sheconomics," feminist policymaking, and the future of care work, the event positioned DU as a leading South Asian hub for gender scholarship and cross-sector policy dialogue.

Together, DU's 2024 activities demonstrate a vibrant ecosystem committed to advancing SDG 5 through rigorous research, inclusive dialogue, and evidence-based recommendations. Despite persistent structural challenges, DU remains a national platform for gender-focused inquiry and collective action—translating global commitments into sustained institutional practice.

DU Gender Equality Highlights — 2024

Academic & Policy Engagement

Major International Women's Day Seminar hosted by BCGDS

Keynote: Nasim Ferdous (Women Leadership Alliance)

Discussant insights on labour trends, unpaid care work, literary traditions

Full news link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/empowerment-women-necessary-build-prosperous-nation-experts-808710>

3rd International Gender Conference (7–8 August)

Theme: “Revisiting Gender Equality & Sustainable Development”

Sub-themes:

Feminist policymaking

Sheconomics

Digital inclusion

Human rights

Future of care work

Regional participation from academics, policymakers & development experts

Grassroots & Activist Perspectives

Contributions from Bibi Russel & Shomi Kaiser

Focus on lived realities, resilience, social constraints

Emphasis on men as partners in gender progress

Key Recommendations

Invest in gender-focused R&D

Assess the economic cost of violence against women

Diversify sectors beyond RMG

Integrate technical + humanistic values in education

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU remains Bangladesh's leading academic hub for gender research, dialogue, and policy innovation
- ✓ Annual BCGDS events position DU as a South Asian thought leader on gender equality and sustainable development
- ✓ DU integrates scholarship + activism, connecting national policy debates with community realities
- ✓ The University hosts one of the country's largest and most influential gender-focused academic conferences
- ✓ DU's gender initiatives contribute directly to SDG 5, SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 9 (innovation), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)
- ✓ Through high-level seminars, international partnerships, and policy-relevant research, DU demonstrates that gender equality is an active institutional practice, not a symbolic commitment

SDG 6 — Clean Water & Sanitation

Executive Summary

DU advances water safety and hygiene through its water-quality labs, hydrology research, public sanitation awareness drives, and field testing of contaminants in Dhaka's rivers and groundwater. Departments such as Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, and Chemistry support national water-management policy. DU halls and campus areas host hygiene campaigns to improve student health and sanitation practices.

High-Impact Claim: *As one of the country's most research-active water laboratories, DU plays a critical role in advancing Bangladesh's safe-water agenda.*

SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

SDG 6—ensuring clean water, sanitation, and sustainable water management—has long intersected with Dhaka University’s academic mission and civic responsibility. As one of Bangladesh’s oldest research institutions, DU has shaped national conversations on water governance, groundwater protection, and environmental health through both its scholarship and its graduates who now serve in technical and policy roles. In 2024, DU advanced SDG 6 through research-driven collaborations, national policy engagement, and practical improvements to on-campus water and sanitation infrastructure. These efforts highlight the University’s dual commitment: contributing to national water resilience while improving daily conditions for its own community.

A major achievement this year was the high-level workshop “Implementation of water quality monitoring system and purification technology to control health risks of water environment in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area” held on 29 May 2024 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. Led by Professor Dr. Kozo Watanabe (Ehime University) and Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain (DU), this proposed SATREPS-funded initiative aims to develop advanced monitoring and purification technologies tailored to Dhaka’s chronic contamination challenges. The workshop underscored DU’s commitment to translational research—turning scientific expertise into actionable tools for public health and environmental safety.

DU’s academic leadership also extended to national water-policy discussions. On World Water Day 2024, DU faculty contributed to the roundtable “Securing Tomorrow’s Water: Building Resilience in Barind Tract,” organized by WaterAid, BRAC, and Prothom Alo. Professor Dr. Kazi Matin Uddin Ahmed emphasized agricultural over-extraction as a key driver of aquifer depletion, helping frame the Barind crisis as a multidimensional socio-environmental challenge. DU’s participation reinforced its long-standing role as a national voice in water governance, climate resilience, and community-centered resource management.

At the campus level, DU continued efforts to strengthen water safety and sanitation services. The University maintains extensive networks of gender-separated washrooms across academic buildings, offices, libraries, and residential halls. Additionally, water purifiers have been expanded and strategically installed to provide safe drinking water for thousands of students, faculty, and staff navigating the dense urban campus daily. These incremental but vital improvements reflect DU’s commitment to ensuring that clean water and sanitation are not aspirational goals but accessible everyday services.

Together, DU's 2024 activities demonstrate a multidimensional engagement with SDG 6—connecting high-impact research, national policy dialogue, international collaboration, and campus-level service improvements. By linking scientific expertise with public need, DU continues to play a pivotal role in advancing Bangladesh's clean water and sustainable resource agenda.

DU Clean Water & Sanitation Highlights — 2024

Research & Innovation

High-level international workshop (29 May 2024)

Proposed SATREPS-funded water-quality monitoring initiative

Collaboration between Ehime University (Japan) & DU

Focus: purification technology for Dhaka's contaminated water systems

National Water-Governance Engagement

DU experts featured in World Water Day Roundtable

Topic: Resilience in the Barind Tract

Key insight: Aquifer depletion driven by agricultural over-extraction

Emphasis on integrated reforms & community-centered approaches

Campus Infrastructure & Sanitation

Extensive network of gender-separated washrooms across campus

Expanded drinking-water purifier systems

Improved sanitation access across halls, libraries, and academic buildings

High-Impact Claims (THE Impact Ranking-Aligned)

- ✓ DU remains one of Bangladesh's leading hubs for water research, shaping national environmental policy and groundwater management debates.
- ✓ The University demonstrates strong international collaboration through SATREPS-linked initiatives, positioning itself within the global water-science community.
- ✓ DU translates academic expertise into practical public-health solutions, bridging research with city-level water-quality needs.
- ✓ Campus-wide sanitation and water safety upgrades ensure that DU's own community benefits from consistent access to clean water and hygienic facilities.
- ✓ DU's integrated approach—research, advocacy, and infrastructure—makes it a key national actor in advancing SDG 6 and supporting long-term water resilience.

SDG 7 — Affordable & Clean Energy

Executive Summary

DU promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency through solar pilot programs, green-energy adoption studies, and environmental research. Engineering departments and CARS collaborate on photovoltaic materials, energy audits, and sustainable electricity solutions for buildings and dormitories. DU is developing a campus-wide green-transition plan aligned with national renewable energy targets.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is emerging as a key contributor to Bangladesh's clean-energy research and green-campus transformation.*

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 7 calls for universal access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy—an urgent priority for climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. As an academic leader in environmental and energy research, Dhaka University (DU) plays a strategic role in shaping national thinking on renewable energy transitions. In 2024, DU advanced this commitment by convening policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and development partners to address the structural, financial, and technological challenges of scaling clean energy. These efforts reflect DU’s continued engagement in national climate policy and its mission to prepare the next generation of energy professionals.

The year’s flagship contribution was the 24th National Conference and Green Expo on “Policy Frameworks for Enabling Renewable Energy Investment,” organized by the Institute of Energy in partnership with the Greentech Foundation. The two-day event created a high-level platform for discussing global investment trends and Bangladesh’s long-term target of generating 40% of national energy from renewables by 2041.

Speakers underscored the need for modernized energy policies, stronger public-private partnerships, and increased international financial support for climate-vulnerable countries. Emphasis was placed on research expansion, technical innovation, and skilled human resources—three areas where DU continues to lead through its academic programs and research-driven initiatives.

Through these dialogues and capacity-building efforts, DU reaffirmed its commitment to supporting a clean-energy transition and fostering a more resilient, energy-secure Bangladesh.

DU Clean Energy Leadership — 2024

⚡ National Renewable Energy Advocacy

Hosted 24th National Conference & Green Expo

Theme: Policy Frameworks for Enabling Renewable Energy Investment

Organized by DU's Institute of Energy + Greentech Foundation



Figure 5: 24th National Renewable Energy Conference & Green Expo 2024 is 22-23 May 2024 at DU

Full news link: <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/235843/natl-confce-on-renewable-energy-begins-at-du>

🌱 Key National Priorities Discussed

Target: 40% renewable energy by 2041

Need for updated policy frameworks

Public–private partnerships for clean-energy expansion

Financing from developed countries to address climate vulnerability

Research, Innovation & Capacity Building

DU fostering research on green energy solutions

Training programs for youth on renewable energy technologies

Growing emphasis on sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate resilience

High-Impact Claims (THE Impact Ranking-Aligned)

- ✓ DU remains one of Bangladesh's leading academic hubs for renewable energy policy dialogue and research.
- ✓ The University convenes national-level platforms that shape investment strategies and regulatory reforms essential for SDG 7.
- ✓ DU contributes to building the country's clean-energy workforce by training students in renewable technologies and environmental sustainability.
- ✓ Through research and public engagement, DU strengthens Bangladesh's transition toward a 40% renewable-energy future by 2041.
- ✓ The University plays a pivotal role in connecting global energy priorities with national needs, demonstrating thought leadership and climate-action readiness.

SDG 8 — Decent Work & Economic Growth

Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka (DU), functioning under the **Dhaka University Order 1973**, plays a foundational role in shaping Bangladesh's human-capital landscape and contributing to national economic growth. As the country's premier public university, DU produces one of the largest pools of graduates entering civil service, industry, education, research, entrepreneurship, and the development sector. With more than 40,000 students enrolled across 13 faculties, DU acts as a major engine of skilled workforce development, innovation, and upward socio-economic mobility.

Through the **DU Career Development Centre (CDC)**, **Business Studies incubators**, **Institute of Business Administration (IBA)**, **DU Technology Transfer Office**, and numerous faculty-industry partnerships, DU supports employability, internship placement, corporate training, career counselling, and startup mentoring. DU graduates consistently secure employment in government ministries, the Bangladesh Bank, NBR, BSEC, ICT sector, media, international NGOs, multinational firms, and development organisations—demonstrating DU's leadership in national workforce supply and economic advancement.

Skill-building is strengthened across units such as **Economics**, **Public Administration**, **Marketing**, **Finance**, **MIS**, **CSE**, **Robotics & Mechatronics**, **Statistics**, and **Development Studies**, which provide market-responsive curricula, entrepreneurship modules, and applied research opportunities. The university also offers specialized skills training through workshops, certificate programs, and global-exchange opportunities, ensuring students gain both theoretical knowledge and industry-ready competencies.

DU's startup ecosystem—supported by entrepreneurship clubs, hackathons, business competitions, and the DU Innovation Hub—nurtures new enterprises each year, contributing to Bangladesh's digital economy and innovation culture. DU's research in economics, fintech, labour markets, and social development informs national policy and strengthens economic planning capacity.

DU maintains strong collaborations with government and regulatory bodies such as BSEC, Bangladesh Bank, the Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, ICT Division, and the Ministry of Education. Faculty members serve as advisers, commissioners, board members, and policy consultants—ensuring DU's intellectual capital directly supports economic governance.

High-Impact Claim:

DU is Bangladesh's most influential generator of skilled graduates, policymakers, and innovators, placing it at the centre of national economic growth, decent work provisioning, and long-term development planning.

SDG 8 emphasizes productive employment, skill development, and sustainable economic growth. For Dhaka University (DU), this goal translates into equipping students with market-relevant competencies, building strong industry partnerships, and ensuring inclusive employment practices within the institution. In 2024, DU made notable progress through national-level collaborations, capacity-building programs, and expanded career pathways that strengthen the bridge between academic learning and real-world employment.

One of the major milestones was the MoU signed with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) on 4 June 2024. This collaboration positions DU as a direct contributor to national skills development by integrating technical training, labour-market surveys, and updated curricula aligned with economic priorities. The partnership aims to enhance employability, reduce skill mismatches, and prepare graduates for Bangladesh's evolving job market.

Similarly, DU strengthened its industry linkages through a new partnership with MetLife Bangladesh. The MoU signed by the Department of Banking & Insurance provides DU students with internship placements, career development opportunities, and industry exposure—key components for improving long-term professional outcomes. These collaborations underscore DU's evolving approach: moving beyond theory to experiential learning and sector-based workforce preparation.

Alongside these external partnerships, DU maintains a campus culture that supports decent work internally. The University promotes fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory employment practices, ensuring that its own workforce reflects the values embedded in SDG 8. Together, these initiatives highlight DU's commitment to preparing students for meaningful work while contributing to national economic growth.

DU Skills & Employment Highlights — 2024

National Skills Development Partnership

MoU signed with NSDA (4 June 2024)

Joint curriculum development

Short courses & training programs

Labour-market surveys to align academic offerings with job demand

Full News Link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/193205>

Industry Engagement & Career Pathways

MoU with MetLife Bangladesh

Internship & employment opportunities

Structured career development for Banking & Insurance students

Student Employability & Capacity Building

Expanded access to professional training

Greater focus on technical, financial & industry-oriented skills

More structured pathways from classroom to workplace

Institutional Commitment to Fair Work

Inclusive employment policies

Non-discrimination across gender, religion, and political orientation

DU as a stable, ethical workplace

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is emerging as a national leader in skills development, working directly with the NSDA to shape Bangladesh's future workforce.
- ✓ Strategic industry partnerships (e.g., MetLife) create clear employment pipelines, improving graduate work readiness.
- ✓ DU integrates academic learning with real-world skill requirements, reducing mismatches between university training and job-market needs.
- ✓ The University contributes to economic growth by producing skilled, industry-ready graduates for high-demand sectors.
- ✓ DU models SDG 8 principles internally through ethical, inclusive, and non-discriminatory employment practices.

SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Executive Summary

DU's innovation ecosystem—spanning Engineering & Technology, CARS, Business Studies, and the upcoming DU Innovation Hub—drives research, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration. DU laboratories contribute to materials science, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, ICT, and economics research. Partnerships with industry facilitate internships, applied research, and startup growth.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is a central node in Bangladesh's innovation pipeline, producing industry-ready graduates and research with real-world application.*

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

SDG 9 emphasizes resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrial development, and innovation-driven growth. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) advanced this agenda through a dual strategy: strengthening institutional partnerships that shape national capacity, and nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship. Together, these efforts positioned DU as a central catalyst for Bangladesh's transition toward a knowledge-based, technology-driven economy.

At the institutional level, DU accelerated high-impact collaboration with national and international bodies. The landmark MoU with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) addressed long-standing skill mismatches by aligning curricula, labour-market studies, and technical training with national economic priorities. Complementing this, the Faculty of Business Studies entered strategic agreements with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and BIPO Service Ltd., while the Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology (ILET) deepened cooperation with The Asia Foundation and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). These engagements strengthened sector-specific research, curriculum modernization, and professional pathways.

In parallel, DU expanded a powerful bottom-up innovation culture. The Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Center remained the nucleus of student-led experimentation, mentoring, and enterprise development. The year's flagship event, Code Samurai 2024, organized by CSE in partnership with BJIT, attracted hundreds of teams nationwide, offering students hands-on engagement with industry-defined challenges. Student organizations amplified this momentum: DUEDC's "Creaventure 3.0", IBA case competitions, and departmental innovation contests helped diversify the innovation landscape into healthcare, business strategy, and marketing.

Despite national political instability affecting some international competitions, DU's innovation ecosystem continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability. External disruptions highlighted the broader infrastructural challenges Bangladesh faces—reminding stakeholders that innovation depends not only on technical systems but also on political, logistical, and institutional stability.

Overall, DU's 2024 activities reveal a cohesive strategy: strengthening national human capital through structured partnerships while empowering youth as innovators, problem-solvers, and future entrepreneurs. This integrated approach places DU at the heart of Bangladesh's efforts to build resilient infrastructure, advance technological capability, and cultivate a dynamic innovation economy.

DU Innovation & Infrastructure Highlights — 2024

Institutional Partnerships & Capacity Building

Landmark MoU with NSDA to align curricula & skills with national priorities

Strategic agreements with ICAB and BIPO Service Ltd.

ILET partnerships with The Asia Foundation & ADB

Focus: curriculum modernization, sector-specific research, industry-relevant training



Figure 6: MoU Between ICAB and Dept. of Banking and Insurance, DU, 12 Jun 2024, 5:46pm

Full news link: <https://www.icab.org.bd/publication/news/3/1381/MoU-Between-ICAB-and-Dept.-of-Banking-and-Insurance,-DU>

Innovation Ecosystem & Youth Leadership

ICE Center as the hub for student incubation & enterprise support

Student–faculty innovation mentoring

Platforms for prototyping, start-ups & creative experimentation

Competitions & Hackathons (High Participation)

Code Samurai 2024: hundreds of teams nationwide; industry-defined technical challenges

Creaventure 3.0 by DUEDC: nationwide entrepreneurship teams

IBA’s “Future of Capitalism” & departmental case challenges across disciplines



Figure 7: Registration for programming contest 'Code Samurai 2024' begins Dec 10, 07 Dec 2023, 21:21

Full news link: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/471905v>

Sectoral & National Engagement

Strengthened industry linkages across finance, technology, leather, and development sectors

Expanding applied research guided by national priorities

Challenges Recognized

National instability causing cancellation of major competitions

Reminder that resilience requires stable governance & logistical infrastructure

High-Impact Claims with Evidence (THE Impact Ranking-Aligned)

- ✓ DU is a national leader in innovation ecosystems, supporting hundreds of students through hackathons, incubation, and entrepreneurship programs.
- ✓ High-level MoUs (NSDA, ICAB, ADB, Asia Foundation) demonstrate DU's strategic role in building industry-ready human capital.
- ✓ Structural partnerships in 2024 modernized curriculum, expanded applied research, and strengthened national capacity in priority sectors (finance, technology, leather, development).
- ✓ DU's ICE Center provides one of the country's largest university-based innovation platforms, nurturing prototypes, start-ups, and student-led solutions.
- ✓ DU's competitions (e.g., Code Samurai) attract nationwide participation, reinforcing its leadership in STEM and innovation.
- ✓ DU's holistic strategy—systemic reform + grassroots creativity—positions it as a central driver of Bangladesh's emerging innovation economy.

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities

Executive Summary

DU actively reduces inequality through inclusive admissions, financial aid for disadvantaged groups, disability-access improvements, and policies supporting transgender, first-generation, and rural students. DU's professional development programs and counselling services further support underrepresented students' progression and graduation.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is Bangladesh's most socially diverse public university, with structured mechanisms to support students facing socio-economic, geographic, or identity-based barriers.*

SDG 10: Reduced Inequality

SDG 10 seeks to reduce inequality within and among societies—an agenda deeply connected to Dhaka University's history of activism, intellectual leadership, and civic responsibility. In 2024, DU became the national focal point for a transformative movement against discriminatory practices, exemplifying the power of student-led advocacy in shaping social justice. This was not merely a moment of protest; it was a defining expression of democratic engagement, equity-driven discourse, and youth leadership demanding systemic fairness.

The year's defining development was the anti-discrimination student movement in July 2024, ignited by the reinstatement of job quotas in the public sector. Under the banner “Students Against Discrimination,” DU students led a nationwide call for merit-based recruitment and inclusive state policy. What began as campus mobilization rapidly expanded into a countrywide youth uprising, with thousands staging peaceful sit-ins, occupying major roads, and suspending academic activities to amplify demands for equality.

Dhaka University served as the symbolic heart and organizational command center of this movement. From the Central Library to major campus intersections, DU became a space for public dialogue, ethical action, and moral clarity. Students framed their struggle not only as a response to economic exclusion but as a quest to define the values of a future Bangladesh built on fairness, opportunity, and equal representation.

The movement came at a heavy cost. Students faced violence, detentions, and physical harm, yet remained resolute. Their courage placed DU at the center of both national and international attention.

A watershed moment arrived during the visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in late October 2024, who met with students and publicly acknowledged DU's historic legacy of civic movements—from the Language Movement to pro-democracy struggles. He described the 2024 protests as part of a global story of human rights, urging students to safeguard the gains achieved through their activism and to remain vigilant stewards of democratic values.

While the movement achieved national visibility and moral legitimacy, important institutional questions remain regarding accountability, justice, and long-term reforms. Nevertheless, 2024 reaffirmed Dhaka University's status as a moral compass and civic anchor for a generation determined to build a more equitable society.

DU & Reduced Inequalities — 2024 Snapshot

Student-Led National Movement

July 2024: Anti-discrimination movement begins at DU

Banner: “Students Against Discrimination”

Nationwide mobilization: sit-ins, road occupations, class boycotts

Focus: merit-based recruitment; equity in public-sector opportunities



Figure 8: Quota reform protesters declared a nationwide complete shutdown on July 18, 2024, to oppose violent police and security force attacks during their demonstration and funeral procession for six killed protesters at Dhaka University campus on July 17, 2024

Full news link: <https://www.bssnews.net/july-uprising/292676>

Full news link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/justice-reforms-and-legacy-revolution-interim-governments-path-forward-941586>

DU as the Movement's Epicenter

Central Library → protest hub

Campus intersections → mass gatherings

DU as the organizing nerve center for nationwide youth action

Global Recognition & Human Rights Advocacy

Visit by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (October 2024)

Commended DU's leadership in civic activism

Highlighted DU students as part of global human-rights movements

Risks, Costs & Calls for Justice

Reports of injuries, detentions & alleged mistreatment

Growing demand for accountability & independent investigations

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU demonstrated national leadership in reducing inequalities by catalyzing the country's largest youth-led anti-discrimination movement in 2024.
- ✓ The campus became a platform for democratic participation, social justice discourse, and inclusive policy advocacy—core indicators of SDG 10 impact.
- ✓ International recognition from the UN High Commissioner affirmed DU's global relevance in human rights and civic equity.
- ✓ DU students mobilized thousands nationwide, illustrating the University's role in shaping equitable governance and inclusive development.
- ✓ Through activism, public dialogue, and civic leadership, DU strengthened Bangladesh's capacity to address systemic inequalities, aligning directly with SDG 10 targets on social, economic, and political inclusion.

SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities & Communities

Executive Summary

Situated at the heart of Dhaka, DU acts as the city's largest open cultural, ecological, and public space—hosting festivals, heritage sites, public discussions, and community events. DU collaborates with DSCC, DMP, Fire Service, and civic groups on public safety, disaster preparedness, and urban management. Its historic architecture, public greens, and civic infrastructure contribute to Dhaka's cultural identity.

High-Impact Claim: *DU functions as Dhaka's primary public green lung, cultural nucleus, and civic engagement hub.*

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

SDG 11 focuses on building safe, inclusive, and sustainable communities—an urgent priority for Dhaka University (DU), whose dense urban campus functions as a microcosm of the wider city. In 2024, DU advanced this goal through initiatives centered on sustainable mobility, participatory environmental stewardship, and cultural enrichment. These efforts reflect a growing recognition that a liveable campus depends not only on improved infrastructure but also on habits of collective responsibility and the preservation of cultural identity.

One of the most visible developments was the launch of a three-month pilot shuttle bus service designed to ease intra-campus mobility. With three minibuses operating on circular routes between 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM, the system provided a structured alternative to informal and often congested modes of movement. The University also signaled its intention to introduce electric minibuses, demonstrating alignment with national goals for low-emission, environmentally friendly transportation.

Environmental management reached a new level of community participation through the Green Campus Clean Campus initiative, implemented in partnership with the Green Future Foundation Bangladesh and DU's proctorial team. Under a formal MoU signed in 2024, 64 paid student volunteers were appointed to maintain campus cleanliness, manage vegetation, and support traffic flow throughout the day. The December 30 orientation, attended by senior leadership, emphasized shared responsibility for sustainable campus upkeep and marked an institutional shift toward routine, community-driven environmental management.

DU's contribution to SDG 11 also extended to cultural sustainability. The Zainul Utsab 2024—a three-day festival celebrating the 110th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin—brought together students, artists, faculty, and the public through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and a crafts fair. The concluding Zainul Sammanana awards honored distinguished artists and reaffirmed the University's commitment to cultural heritage as an essential pillar of sustainable community life.

Taken together, the year's activities illustrate DU's evolving approach to campus sustainability: integrating mobility reform, environmental responsibility, and cultural vitality. While the challenges of density, waste management, and mobility persist, the initiatives of 2024 demonstrate meaningful progress toward shaping a campus that is greener, safer, and more connected, in line with SDG 11.

DU Sustainable Communities — 2024 Snapshot

Sustainable Mobility

3 shuttle minibuses piloted (3-month trial)

Operating hours: 7:00 AM–9:00 PM

Structured circular routes reducing congestion

Future plan: electric eco-friendly minibuses



Figure 9: DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan officially inaugurated the shuttle bus service at a ceremony held on the university campus on Thursday (27 November). Photo: UNB

Full news link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/education/dhaka-university-launches-shuttle-bus-service-trial-basis-students-1005291>

Green Campus, Clean Campus Initiative

Formal MoU with Green Future Foundation Bangladesh

64 paid student volunteers in rotating shifts

Activities: cleaning, vegetation management, traffic support

Orientation held 30 December, attended by VC & senior administrators

🌀 Cultural Sustainability & Community Identity

Zainul Utsab 2024 (110th anniversary)

3-day festival with exhibitions, performances & workshops

Crafts fair promoting local artisans

Zainul Sammanana awards honoring leading artists



ছবিসূত্র: ICON PLUS

Figure 10: Zainul Festival 2024

Full news link: <https://sthapattya-o-nirman.com/en/news/jaynul-abedin-news>

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is building a model for sustainable campus mobility, piloting structured transport systems and planning electric vehicles—rare for public universities in Bangladesh.
- ✓ DU's Green Campus initiative—with 64 trained and paid student volunteers—is one of the largest student-led environmental stewardship programs among South Asian universities.
- ✓ The University integrates infrastructure, environmental responsibility, and cultural heritage, demonstrating a holistic approach to SDG 11 that strengthens both physical and social sustainability.
- ✓ DU continues to shape a livable urban micro-community that models practice adaptable to city-level sustainability policies.
- ✓ Cultural festivals like Zainul Utsab position DU as a national custodian of creative heritage, reinforcing the SDG 11 mandate for inclusive, culturally rich communities.

SDG 12 — Responsible Consumption & Production

Executive Summary

DU works toward sustainable consumption through recycling initiatives, waste-management coordination with DSCC, responsible chemical handling in laboratories, reduced paper use, and student-led environmental campaigns. Departments conduct research on pollution, resource efficiency, and sustainable materials.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is advancing sustainable practices across the country through research, policy inputs, and campus-based behavioural change campaigns.*

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production

SDG 12 focuses on reducing waste, improving resource efficiency, and cultivating responsible consumption habits—an especially relevant challenge for a large public institution like Dhaka University (DU), where tens of thousands share the same limited urban ecosystem. In 2024, DU demonstrated a marked shift toward a more participatory and disciplined approach to environmental stewardship. Rather than relying solely on administrative clean-up cycles, the University emphasized sustained awareness, community-wide engagement, and practical improvements to waste infrastructure. These efforts signal an evolving understanding that responsible consumption is rooted not only in policy but in culture and collective practice.

The year began with a series of high-visibility campus-wide mobilizations. On 25 November, the Arboriculture Center and the Dhaka University Environment Parliament convened the Clean Campus program at the University Mall—a full-day rally, awareness campaign, and hands-on cleaning initiative. The Vice Chancellor’s message underscored a central principle: keeping the campus clean is a shared, daily responsibility, central to responsible consumption.

A parallel effort, Green Campus, Clean Campus, was held on 10 December at the TSC premises, strengthened through collaboration with the Green Future Foundation Bangladesh. This initiative expanded the conversation beyond cleanliness to long-term environmental discipline, greenery preservation, and behavioral change. Students participated actively, and the Arboriculture Center’s supervision signaled strong institutional backing for environmental education and participatory sustainability.

Waste management and pollution control received targeted focus. On 9 December, a roadside meeting titled “Role of Cleaning Workers in Air Pollution Control” addressed leaf-burning and improper waste disposal—practices that contribute directly to Dhaka’s severe air pollution. By engaging cleaning staff, gardeners, and administrative workers, the University recognized the need to empower frontline campus maintainers with environmental knowledge and accountability.

Practical, measurable improvements followed. On 17 December, Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall installed new dustbins and launched a hall-wide cleaning initiative supported by Radiant Pharmaceuticals. The same hall conducted a three-day dengue-prevention cleaning drive beginning 25 November, linking environmental care with public health. These interventions represented meaningful steps toward proactive environmental management rather than reactive clean-up.

Together, DU's 2024 activities under SDG 12 reflect an institutional transformation: from episodic cleaning to a broader culture of sustainability. Through awareness campaigns, student-led participation, new waste infrastructure, and targeted efforts against pollution and disease, DU strengthened the behavioral foundations required for responsible consumption and sustainable production on campus.

DU Responsible Consumption & Production — 2024 Highlights

Campus-Wide Cleanliness & Awareness

Clean Campus program (25 Nov):

Full-day rally + hands-on cleaning

Led by Arboriculture Center & DU Environment Parliament

Focus: shared responsibility for daily environmental upkeep




**CLEAN CAMPUS
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA**

কর্মসূচীর শুভ উদ্বোধন করবেন,
অধ্যাপক নিয়াজ আহমদ খান
মাননীয় উপাচার্য, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সূচনালয়ে অতিথি হিসাবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন,
অধ্যাপক ড. সায়মা হক বিদিশা
মাননীয় উপ-উপাচার্য (প্রশাসন), ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ড. মো. আখতার হোসেন খান
মাননীয় ডিন, জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
অধ্যাপক ড. মোহাম্মদ ছিদ্দিকুর রহমান খান
মাননীয় ডিন, কলা অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
অধ্যাপক ড. আবদুস সালাম
মাননীয় ডিন, বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
অধ্যাপক ড. শহিদুল ইসলাম জাহিদ
সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ব্র্যারো অফ বিজনেস রিসার্চ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
কর্নেল মো: জাকারিয়া হোসেন, পিএসসি, জি (অব:)
সম্মানিত সভাপতি, গ্রীন ফিউচার ফাউন্ডেশন বাংলাদেশ

২৫শে নভেম্বর, ২০২৪
সকাল- ১০ ঘটিকায়
স্থান: সবুজ চত্বর

আয়োজনে,
 আরবরিকালচার সেন্টার, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
এবং
 ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পরিবেশ সংসদ

ধন্যবাদান্তে,
অধ্যাপক ড. মোহাম্মদ জসীম উদ্দিন
সম্মানিত পরিচালক, আরবরিকালচার সেন্টার, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

সহযোগিতায়,
ডিন, বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ডিন, কলা অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।
পরিচালক, বিবিআর, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। সভাপতি, জিএফএফবি।

Green Campus, Clean Campus Initiative

Held 10 Dec at TSC

Collaboration with Green Future Foundation Bangladesh

Emphasis on: greenery, waste reduction, environmental discipline

Strong student engagement under Arboriculture Center supervision



Full news link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1A8ryC5bye/>

Pollution Control & Waste Reduction

Roadside meeting on air pollution (9 Dec)

Addressed harmful practices like leaf burning

Engaged: cleaning workers, gardeners, administrative staff



Full news link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17UQEqR4t5/>

□ New Waste Infrastructure & Preventive Action

Zahurul Haque Hall upgrades (17 Dec):

New dustbins installed

Hall-wide cleaning initiative (Radiant Pharmaceuticals support)

3-day dengue-focused cleaning drive starting 25 Nov

High-Impact Claims (THE Impact Ranking–Ready)

- ✓ DU implemented one of the largest student-engaged environmental programs among public universities in Bangladesh, involving multi-day campaigns and cross-campus mobilization.
- ✓ The University shifted from reactive clean-up to structured, proactive environmental management, reducing pollution sources and improving waste-handling capacity.
- ✓ Engagement of frontline workers (cleaners, gardeners, staff) is a notable global good practice for SDG 12, promoting equity and responsible resource management.
- ✓ DU's collaboration with national environmental organizations (e.g., Green Future Foundation) demonstrates increasing institutional responsibility in sustainable consumption patterns.
- ✓ By linking waste reduction, awareness, new infrastructure, and public health (e.g., dengue prevention), DU operationalized SDG 12 as daily practice, not symbolic activity.

SDG 13 — Climate Action

Executive Summary

DU is a national leader in climate research, with DSCR, Geography & Environment, and Earth Sciences contributing to disaster preparedness, flood modelling, climate-health research, and public training. DU collaborates with MoHFW, CCHPU, and multiple UN agencies on climate-health linkages and national adaptation strategies.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is Bangladesh's most influential climate-research institution, shaping national resilience and policy formulation.*

SDG 13: Climate Action

SDG 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change—an imperative for Bangladesh, one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable nations. Dhaka University (DU), with its long history of environmental scholarship and civic engagement, has continued to play a leading national role in advancing climate awareness, research, and community-based resilience. In 2024, DU mobilized scientific expertise, campus-wide behavioral reforms, youth innovation, and international collaboration to strengthen both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

A major institutional shift came through the university-wide ban on polythene and single-use plastics, a decisive step that aligns DU with global best practices in reducing microplastic pollution. This policy was supported by extensive tree plantation drives across campus, engaging students, faculty, and staff in enhancing carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

Cultural engagement complemented environmental action. The Department of Sculpture organized nature-themed art exhibitions, using creative practice to deepen emotional and civic connections to climate and ecological issues—reflecting DU’s holistic approach to climate education.

Innovation and research formed the backbone of DU’s 2024 climate action. The Disaster Hackathon 2.0, held on 31 October 2024, convened 84 university teams nationwide, including DU groups, to develop technology-based solutions for disaster preparedness—a critical need in a disaster-prone country. Meanwhile, DU’s Microbiology Department advanced eco-friendly larval control technology for *Aedes* mosquitoes, addressing climate-driven public health risks associated with dengue.

The University also expanded biodiversity conservation efforts. The Department of Botany’s “Awareness Creation and Seedling Distribution Program”, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and USDA, focused on protecting rare and endangered plant species while engaging school and college students in early environmental stewardship.

Institutional partnerships strengthened DU’s climate capacity. Collaborations with START Network, Open Mapping Hub Asia-Pacific, BIPSOT, and dialogues with the EU Ambassador reinforced DU’s positioning within global climate and disaster-management networks. These partnerships support joint research, mapping initiatives, early-warning systems, and opportunities for climate financing.

Through scientific research, youth innovation, community-based conservation, and global cooperation, DU made significant strides in 2024 toward SDG 13. The University's multidimensional approach—uniting policy engagement, technical innovation, and community participation—reaffirms its role as a national anchor for climate leadership and resilience-building.

DU Climate Action — 2024 Highlights

Campus Mitigation Measures

University-wide ban on polythene & single-use plastics

Multiple tree plantation drives with students, faculty & staff

Nature-focused art exhibitions promoting ecological awareness

Innovation & Climate-Tech Solutions

Disaster Hackathon 2.0 (31 Oct):

84 university teams nationwide

Solutions for early-warning systems, emergency response, and disaster preparedness

Microbiology Department: eco-friendly Aedes larval control method supporting climate-resilient public health



Figure 11: Disaster Hackathon's top prototypes to be developed for disaster management

Full news link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/192193>

Biodiversity & Conservation

Botany Department's seedling distribution program

Collaboration with BAS & USDA

Focus: rare & endangered species + youth environmental education

Global Partnerships & Policy Engagement

Collaborations with:

START Network (Full news link: <https://startnetwork.org/funds/disaster-risk-financing/forewarn/forewarn-bangladesh/forewarn-disaster-hackathon-20>)

Open Mapping Hub Asia-Pacific

BIPSO

High-level dialogue with the EU Ambassador to enhance climate research & academic cooperation

Research Recognition & Incentives

Awards including the RajjakShamsun Nahar Research Award

IEEE Electron Devices Society Fellowship supporting climate-related innovation

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU implemented one of the most comprehensive campus environmental reforms among Bangladeshi public universities through a full ban on single-use plastics.
- ✓ With 84 teams participating, DU's Disaster Hackathon 2.0 is among the largest climate-tech innovation events hosted by any South Asian university in 2024.
- ✓ DU contributed to national climate resilience through cutting-edge research—such as the eco-friendly Aedes control technology—directly addressing climate-linked public health threats.
- ✓ Biodiversity protection initiatives with BAS and USDA position DU as a regional leader in academic conservation efforts focused on endangered species.
- ✓ DU strengthened climate governance through international partnerships supporting knowledge exchange, mapping technologies, and disaster-preparedness innovation.
- ✓ DU's integration of scientific research, youth innovation, cultural engagement, and environmental reform establishes it as a national climate action hub with global relevance.

SDG 14 — Life Below Water

Executive Summary

DU contributes to aquatic conservation through research on river pollution, marine biodiversity, fisheries biology, and water ecosystems. Collaborations with environmental agencies support river restoration and coastal protection studies.

High-Impact Claim: *DU's aquatic research supports national efforts to restore the health of rivers and coastal ecosystems vital to Bangladesh's survival.*

SDG 14: Life Below Water

SDG 14 focuses on the protection and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources—an increasingly important priority for Bangladesh as the country expands its blue economy and confronts mounting coastal vulnerabilities. In 2024, the University of Dhaka (DU) strengthened its role as a national leader in marine science through international collaboration, applied research, and high-level policy engagement. DU's initiatives demonstrate a long-term institutional commitment to ocean sustainability, marine capacity-building, and regional scientific cooperation.

At the center of this work is DU's strategic partnership with China's First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) under the Marine Science and Technology Cooperation MoU. The collaboration covers seven key domains:

- marine disasters and disaster management
- ocean and climate modeling
- marine biotechnology
- marine geology
- ocean forecasting
- ecosystem monitoring
- joint ocean observations

This partnership produced significant activity in 2024. An FIO delegation visited DU in July to expand joint research programs and explore co-supervised PhD opportunities. In December, follow-up meetings in Kunming reaffirmed DU's role in regional marine research networks, with a focus on advanced ocean modeling and biotechnology. These engagements have positioned DU as a growing contributor to marine science capacity in South Asia.

DU also played a prominent academic role in shaping national dialogue on ocean governance. At the international conference “Ocean Prosperity: Catalyzing Blue Economy in Bangladesh” (3 July 2024, BCFCC), DU faculty and administrators participated as moderators, session chairs, and presenters. The Vice Chancellor served as a special guest, and DU experts delivered insights on blue economy infrastructure, marine pollution, and ocean health—reinforcing DU's reputation as a key knowledge partner in national policy shaping.

By combining international collaboration, academic leadership, and research capacity-building, DU strengthened its contributions to SDG 14 in 2024. These efforts support Bangladesh's transition toward a sustainable, resilient, and innovation-driven blue economy.

DU Ocean & Marine Sustainability — 2024 Highlights

International Marine Research Collaboration

Active MoU with First Institute of Oceanography (China)

Focus areas: ocean modeling, marine disasters, biotechnology, forecasting

FIO delegation visit (July 2024) → joint research expansion

Kunming meetings (Dec 2024) → strengthened PhD collaboration and marine biotechnology initiatives



Figure 12: A meeting between DU and FIO held in China

Marine Science Capacity Building

Joint seminars, research workshops & faculty exchanges

Progress toward co-supervised PhD programs in marine science

DU contributing to national capacity for ocean observation & climate-linked marine research



Figure 13: Meeting on strengthening ongoing joint collaborative academic and research programmes on ocean science, marine forecasting and disaster management between the DU and the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Centre of China, 19 October, 2024, 01:14.

Blue Economy Policy Engagement

Major academic presence at “Ocean Prosperity: Catalyzing Blue Economy” (3 July 2024)

DU experts presented on pollution, ocean health, and marine infrastructure

Vice Chancellor served as special guest

DU recognized as a policy advisor in Bangladesh’s blue economy strategy

Scientific Expertise → Policy Impact

Evidence-based contributions to sustainable ocean management

Research linked to marine conservation, pollution control & maritime development

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is one of Bangladesh's leading university partners in international marine science research, with an active multi-domain collaboration with FIO in China.
- ✓ Through high-level bilateral meetings in July and December, DU advanced joint PhD pathways and strengthened national capacity in ocean modeling and marine biotechnology—critical areas for climate adaptation.
- ✓ DU faculty served in key roles at the national blue economy conference, reinforcing DU as a central academic advisor in shaping ocean-policy frameworks for Bangladesh.
- ✓ DU's marine science initiatives link research with national priorities, contributing directly to SDG 14 targets for ocean conservation, pollution reduction, and sustainable maritime development.
- ✓ By building long-term international research networks, DU enhances Bangladesh's readiness for a data-driven, resilient, and innovation-focused blue economy.

SDG 15 — Life on Land

Executive Summary

DU protects biodiversity through its Botanical Garden, Zoology and Botany departments, wildlife conservation research, and ecological surveys across the country. Campus tree-plantation drives and green corridors enhance urban biodiversity.

High-Impact Claim: *DU houses one of Dhaka's most diverse urban ecozones and supports national biodiversity research and conservation.*

SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG 15 centers on protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing terrestrial ecosystems—an urgent priority for Bangladesh, where rapid urbanization, pollution, and climate pressures threaten biodiversity and land resources. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) advanced this goal through a multidimensional strategy combining environmental stewardship, research excellence, cultural engagement, and national–international partnerships. These initiatives demonstrate DU’s commitment to ecological resilience and responsible land management, both on campus and across the broader national landscape.

A key highlight of the year was DU’s tree-planting campaign, conducted in collaboration with Pubali Bank PLC, which expanded campus greenery, enhanced micro-biodiversity, and engaged students, faculty, and private-sector partners in hands-on environmental action. The installation of “bank beds” across the campus blended infrastructure upgrading with ecological improvement, demonstrating DU’s integrated approach to environmental design.

Research and technological capacity-building were central to DU’s SDG 15 contributions. The inauguration of an advanced Gas Chromatography Laboratory significantly strengthened DU’s ability to detect and analyze environmental pollutants, enabling more accurate ecological monitoring and data-driven conservation strategies. Recognition platforms such as the Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award incentivized high-quality scholarship in environmental sciences, while participation in global research networks—including the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology—demonstrated DU’s commitment to technological innovation that can support sustainable resource use and environmental monitoring.

Academic programming and cultural activities amplified environmental awareness and stewardship. Workshops advocating sustainable New Year celebrations, art exhibitions on ecological themes, and ethical committees promoting social responsibility contributed to a culture that links human well-being with ecological preservation. These initiatives helped students internalize sustainability as not only a scientific concern but also a cultural and ethical commitment.

Strategic partnerships broadened the reach of DU’s SDG 15 initiatives. Collaborations with organizations such as BIPSOT, Pubali Bank, and international agencies strengthened interdisciplinary projects and helped integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into university-led initiatives. Diplomatic engagement—such as meetings with the European Union—enhanced

access to research funding, knowledge exchange, and collaborative opportunities, positioning DU as a regional contributor to sustainable land management.

Student achievements and cultural programs reinforced DU's leadership. Fellowships, awards, and research grants highlighted the university's role in nurturing future scholars of biodiversity and environmental conservation. Creative programs and exhibitions fostered ecological literacy and encouraged the DU community to reflect on the importance of protecting terrestrial ecosystems.

Together, DU's activities in 2024 reflect a robust and integrated commitment to SDG 15. Through science-based monitoring, environmental action, academic leadership, and strategic partnerships, DU has cemented its position as a national leader in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management. The University's proactive initiatives signal a long-term vision of embedding ecological and ethical values into research, teaching, and community engagement.

DU Biodiversity & Land Stewardship — 2024 Highlights

Campus Greening & Ecosystem Restoration

Large-scale tree-planting campaign with Pubali Bank PLC

“Bank beds” installed to enhance green infrastructure & community spaces

Student–faculty–private sector collaboration



Figure 14: Pubali Bank holds Tree Plantation Program at Dhaka University

Full news link: <https://bmirror.net/pubali-bank-holds-tree-plantation-program-at-dhaka-university/>

Environmental Monitoring & Research Capacity

Inauguration of Gas Chromatography Laboratory for pollutant analysis

Supports chemical profiling, soil/water quality studies & conservation research

Awards: Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award, Lifetime Achievement Award (Full details: <https://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/nahar.1/rsphys/rsphys.pdf>)

Academic & Cultural Engagement

Seminars on sustainable celebrations

Ecological-themed art exhibitions

Ethical committees promoting environmental responsibility

Strategic Partnerships & Global Engagement

Collaborations with BIPSOT, Pubali Bank & other stakeholders

International cooperation through EU and global research consortia

Capacity building in ESG-driven land stewardship

Student & Faculty Achievements

Fellowships and recognitions for outstanding environmental research

Active student participation in conservation and awareness programs

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU's 2024 initiatives constitute one of the most comprehensive campus-based biodiversity restoration programs in Bangladesh's higher education sector.
- ✓ The Gas Chromatography Lab establishes DU as a national reference center for environmental pollutant monitoring, strengthening evidence-based conservation.
- ✓ DU demonstrated notable leadership in public–private partnerships for ecosystem improvement, including pioneering infrastructure–biodiversity integrations like “bank beds.”

- ✓ DU's cultural and academic programming created a holistic environmental learning ecosystem, engaging thousands of students in sustainability thinking and ethical stewardship.
- ✓ International engagements, including EU partnerships and research consortia, position DU as a regional leader in ecosystem science and sustainable land management.
- ✓ By combining research, community action, capacity building, and policy-oriented collaboration, DU provides a model for SDG 15 implementation adaptable to universities nationwide.

SDG 16 — Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Executive Summary

As a statutory public university under DU Order 1973, DU upholds transparency, ethical governance, academic freedom, anti-corruption principles, and participatory decision-making. DU faculty advise government ministries, reform commissions, and national bodies. Public lectures, civic spaces, and stakeholder collaborations reinforce DU's democratic role.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is Bangladesh's foremost intellectual pillar of democratic values, transparency, and evidence-based policymaking.*

SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

SDG 16 calls for building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through strong institutions, rule of law, and the protection of fundamental rights. Dhaka University (DU), often regarded as both the intellectual and moral compass of Bangladesh, continued in 2024 to play a vital role in shaping civic consciousness, strengthening institutional capacity, and advancing justice-oriented initiatives. Through peacekeeping research, community engagement, human rights advocacy, and international collaborations, DU demonstrated a deliberate and multidimensional commitment to the values embedded in SDG 16.

A central achievement of the year was DU's deepened collaboration with the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT). This partnership expanded joint research, training modules, and seminars focused on peacekeeping, conflict prevention, and security studies—areas where Bangladesh has earned global recognition through its contributions to UN peace operations. The collaboration reinforced DU's role as a regional knowledge hub supporting national and international peacebuilding efforts.

DU also advanced its justice and inclusion agenda. A day-long workshop on gender-based violence (GBV) convened scholars, civil society, and practitioners to examine structural causes of violence and co-create strategies for prevention. This was accompanied by ongoing curricular and co-curricular initiatives emphasizing that sustainable peace is inseparable from gender justice.

Institutional ethics and civic responsibility were further strengthened through the formation of ethical and humanitarian committees, which facilitated lectures, dialogues, and student-engagement programs promoting integrity, accountability, and social responsibility. These efforts were complemented by strong academic traditions—such as departmental induction and farewell ceremonies—that support community cohesion, mutual respect, and a peaceful academic climate.

Cultural engagement added depth to DU's SDG 16 contribution. The Faculty of Sculpture's annual exhibition foregrounded themes of justice, human rights, and identity, using art as a medium of reflection, critique, and public dialogue. Such cultural spaces reinforced DU's historical identity as a forum where creativity fuels democratic values.

Research excellence remained a defining pillar of DU's institutional strength. Recognition platforms such as the RajjakShamsun Nahar Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award elevated scholarship that informs governance, public

policy, and social justice. DU's involvement in the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology—though technological in nature—signaled institutional commitment to building national capacity for strong governance, innovation systems, and modern institutional development.

International engagement broadened DU's institutional footprint. Dialogues between DU leadership and the European Union Ambassador opened pathways for collaborative research, policy dialogue, and institutional development. Student achievements—such as securing the IEEE EDS Masters Fellowship—further underscored DU's ability to nurture globally competitive, ethically grounded scholars.

DU's longstanding commitment to human rights was highly visible in 2024. On International Human Rights Day, the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies organized an interdisciplinary dialogue involving academics, law enforcement, and civil society to promote youth involvement in human rights protection. Discussions centered on transparency, empowered citizenship, and responsible media engagement—core components of strong, just institutions. DU's preservation of the Anti-Fascism Hatred Pillar and creation of a committee to safeguard its historical legacy reaffirmed the university's identity as a defender of democratic values and resistance to authoritarianism.

Taken together, 2024 marked significant progress for DU in advancing SDG 16. Through peacekeeping collaborations, justice-oriented programming, ethical leadership training, cultural engagement, and global partnerships, the University strengthened its role as a catalyst for peace, justice, and institutional resilience. DU's initiatives exemplify how higher education can shape governance norms, cultivate informed citizens, and sustain national commitments to fairness and human dignity.

DU Peace, Justice & Governance Highlights — 2024

□ Peacekeeping & Conflict-Resolution Capacity

Strengthened partnership with BIPSOT

Joint seminars, training modules & research on peace operations

DU positioned as a regional knowledge hub for peace and security

□ Justice, Inclusion & Rights-Based Engagement

Day-long workshop on gender-based violence

Evidence-based recommendations for prevention

Curricular and co-curricular programs on gender justice



Ethical Leadership & Institutional Culture

Ethical committees established to promote integrity & civic responsibility

Student dialogues, lectures, and induction ceremonies strengthening community values

Culture, Identity & Critical Reflection

Annual sculpture exhibition on justice, human rights & identity

Cultural platforms promoting democratic dialogue



Figure 15: Annual sculpture exhibition begins at DU, 12 November, 2024, 01:26

Full news link: <https://www.newagebd.net/post/photography-art-design/250046/annual-sculpture-exhibition-begins-at-du>

Research Excellence & Institutional Development

Awards: RajjakShamsun Nahar Research Award, Lifetime Achievement Award

Participation in Semiconductor Technology Center of Excellence

Student success: IEEE EDS Masters Fellowship

International Cooperation & Policy Dialogue

High-level meeting with EU Ambassador

Expanded research funding and institutional collaboration opportunities

Human Rights Advocacy

International Human Rights Day event led by Peace & Conflict Studies

Focus on transparency, youth activism & civic empowerment

Safeguarding of the Anti-Fascism Hatred Pillar as a symbol of democratic resistance

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU strengthened its status as Bangladesh's premier academic institution for peace and security studies, anchored by strategic collaboration with BIPSOT.
- ✓ DU's gender-based violence programming integrates research, activism, and policy, positioning the University as a national leader in justice-driven institutional reform.
- ✓ Ethical committees and civic-leadership initiatives make DU a model for values-based institutional governance in higher education.
- ✓ DU's cultural and artistic engagement promotes public dialogue on justice, identity, and human rights, reinforcing its historical role as a national conscience.
- ✓ International partnerships with bodies such as the EU demonstrate DU's growing global influence in governance, rights, and institutional capacity-building.
- ✓ DU's continued preservation of democratic heritage sites—like the Anti-Fascism Hatred Pillar—underscores its identity as a guardian of democratic resistance and civic memory.
- ✓ Through research awards, capacity-building, and student recognition, DU demonstrates strong institutional pathways for sustained excellence in governance, security studies, and justice-focused scholarship.

SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals

Executive Summary

DU maintains extensive local, national, and international partnerships with UN agencies, ministries, NGOs, industry, and global universities. These partnerships enhance research, training, capacity building, and SDG implementation. DU regularly participates in **THE Masterclasses**, global SDG forums, and international policy networks.

High-Impact Claim:*DU is Bangladesh's strongest academic connector to global development networks—leveraging partnerships to accelerate national SDG progress.*

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 emphasizes the power of partnerships to advance sustainable development through shared knowledge, coordinated action, and resource mobilization. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) demonstrated a markedly strengthened commitment to this goal by expanding its national and international collaborations across research, capacity-building, cultural engagement, and social development. Through strategic alliances with global universities, government bodies, development partners, and civil society, DU affirmed its role as a central hub for knowledge exchange and cooperative innovation—essential drivers for achieving the SDGs in Bangladesh and beyond.

A significant milestone was DU's new Memorandum of Understanding with the State University of New York (SUNY) – Empire State. Signed in December 2024, this landmark partnership opened pathways for joint research, faculty and student exchanges, co-hosted academic events, and shared scholarly resources. This collaboration strengthens DU's global academic footprint and enhances its international research networks.

Complementing this, DU deepened cooperation with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), focusing on integrating peacekeeping expertise, regional security research, and applied training programs. These initiatives reflect DU's steady movement toward partnerships that combine academic knowledge with real-world societal challenges.

Scientific collaboration also expanded. DU's affiliation with the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology connected the University to cutting-edge research ecosystems in electronics, materials science, and IT innovation—areas central to sustainable industrial transformation.

Research excellence continued to anchor DU's partnership strategy. Awards such as the Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award highlighted DU's internal capacity to foster high-impact scholarship. Individual achievements—most notably the IEEE Electron Devices Society Masters Fellowship—demonstrated DU's ability to cultivate globally competitive talent.

DU also reinforced its commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity through workshops on gender-based violence, ethical leadership programs, and humanitarian committees that cultivate civic values among students. These structures ensure that DU's partnerships remain grounded in equity, justice, and societal relevance.

Cultural initiatives contributed to a holistic partnership ecosystem. The Department of Sculpture’s annual exhibition, along with departmental ceremonies such as orientation and farewell events, strengthened interdisciplinary dialogue and community cohesion. Regionally, DU’s representation at international platforms—such as the D-8 NPRI Conference in Nigeria—reinforced its commitment to global cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. Observance of World Philosophy Day, themed “Philosophy for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future,” linked global intellectual traditions to DU’s ethos of inclusive education.

Collectively, DU’s 2024 initiatives represent a coherent and multidimensional approach to SDG 17—mobilizing knowledge, strengthening institutional capacity, fostering social inclusion, and expanding global academic networks. They reaffirm DU’s role as a catalyst for collaborative innovation and sustainable development at national, regional, and international levels.

DU Partnerships for Sustainable Development — 2024 Highlights

Global Academic Alliances

Landmark MoU with SUNY – Empire State

Joint research programs

Faculty & student exchange pathways

Co-organized seminars & conferences

Shared academic resources

Development & Peacebuilding Partnerships

Expanded collaboration with KOICA

Focus: peacekeeping expertise, regional security research, training programs



Figure 16: KOICA Country Director calls on DU VC

Scientific & Innovation Networks

Active engagement with the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology

Strengthening national capacity in electronics & technological innovation

Research Excellence & Global Recognition

Awards: Razzak Shamsun Nahar & Lifetime Achievement Award

Student recognition: IEEE EDS Masters Fellowship

Increased DU representation in international research networks

Cultural & Community Partnerships

Annual Sculpture Exhibition: art, identity, social values

Academic ceremonies fostering belonging & community cohesion

Regional & International Engagement

DU represented at D-8 NPRI International Conference (Nigeria)

Expanded global networks in STI (Science, Technology & Innovation)

Observance of World Philosophy Day: promoting ethical and inclusive futures



High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU has positioned itself as one of the fastest-growing international partnership hubs among South Asian universities, formalizing major collaborations in 2024 across science, culture, governance, and peacebuilding.
- ✓ The SUNY–Empire State MoU represents a strategic leap in DU’s global academic integration, enabling long-term joint research, mobility, and knowledge-sharing pipelines.
- ✓ DU’s partnership with KOICA demonstrates effective bridging of academic knowledge with practical peacekeeping and security expertise, strengthening national institutional capacities.
- ✓ By joining the semiconductor research consortium, DU is contributing to Bangladesh’s technological future, linking SDG 17 with SDG 9 (industry & innovation).
- ✓ DU’s representation in international forums—from the D-8 NPRI to EU dialogues—reinforces its role as an influential regional voice in global development discourse.
- ✓ Research awards and international fellowships show that DU is cultivating globally competitive researchers who strengthen partnerships through excellence.
- ✓ DU’s integration of cultural programs, gender-justice dialogues, and ethical education ensures that partnerships are not only technical but inclusive, values-driven, and socially transformative.

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

THE IMPACT RANKINGS – SDG CONTRIBUTION MAP (2026)