





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.

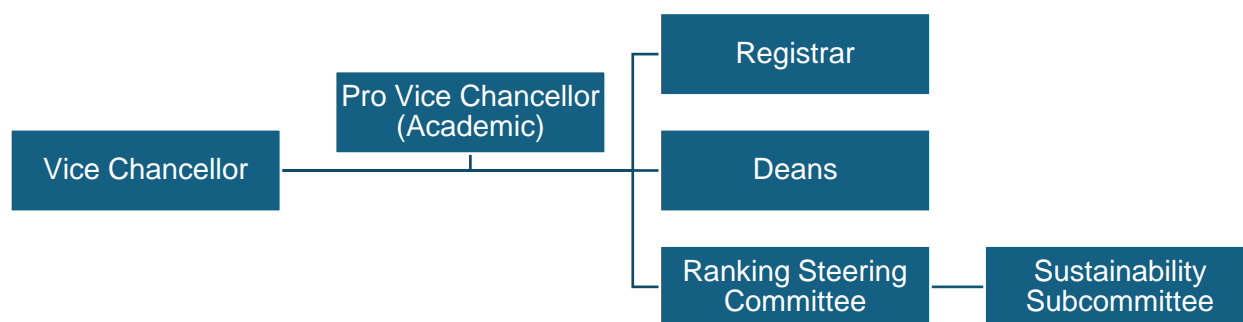
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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.



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 1: 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 2: 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.