





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.

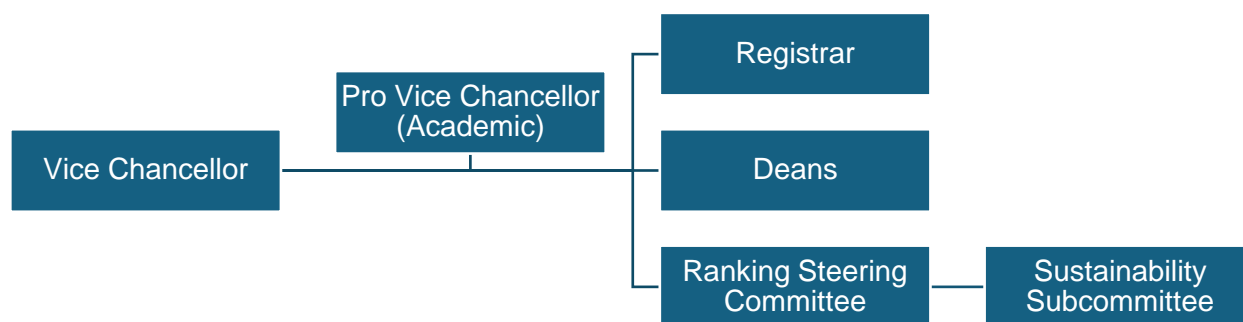
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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 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 1: 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.