SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

1. Executive Summary

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) emphasizes the development of resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and the promotion of innovation. As a leading public higher education institution, the University of Dhaka contributes to these objectives through infrastructure development, digital connectivity, scientific research, technological innovation, international academic cooperation, and industry–academia partnerships.

During 2025, the University advanced several major infrastructure development initiatives, including the BDT 2,841 crore University of Dhaka Further Development Project and the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project. The University also undertook structural safety audits and rehabilitation work across residential halls following heightened concerns about seismic vulnerability. These initiatives reflected institutional efforts to strengthen physical infrastructure, improve safety, and expand residential and academic capacity.

The University also made progress in digital infrastructure development. High-speed Wi-Fi facilities were expanded across residential halls, a modern computer laboratory was established in the Department of Urdu with support from the Pakistan High Commission, and academic facilities in the Department of Arabic were modernized. Additional initiatives included accessible walkways and wheelchair distribution, as well as the installation of an automated sanitary napkin vending machine.

Technological innovation remained another important area of institutional activity. The University organized VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge, bringing together 41 teams from 35 universities, and the Robotics Fest Project Showcase, which involved approximately 900 participants and 200 teams from 50 educational institutions. University teams achieved notable competitive results in both events.

The University further strengthened its research and innovation environment through specialized seminars on artificial intelligence, robotics, biomedical applications, mass spectrometry, solar photovoltaic modelling, and microbial fuel cell technology. Research recognition and international academic rankings also highlighted the University's performance in scientific and interdisciplinary research.

In addition, industry–academia collaboration and international research partnerships remained important institutional priorities. Initiatives included a symposium on healthcare and material science, strategic consultations with JICA, and discussions with Peking University on joint research and academic exchange.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to resilient infrastructure, research capacity, technological development, and innovation. However, the available records do not provide consolidated information on research expenditure, patent applications, technology commercialization, industrial productivity, or the economic returns of

infrastructure investments. The report therefore focuses on documented activities, institutional outputs, and project milestones rather than unmeasured outcomes.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 9

The University of Dhaka recognizes that modern higher education requires reliable physical infrastructure, accessible digital connectivity, advanced research facilities, and strong collaboration between academia, industry, and international knowledge networks.

The University's contributions to SDG 9 during 2025 can be understood through five interconnected areas:

1. **Resilient physical infrastructure:** Developing academic and residential facilities, improving structural safety, and modernizing campus infrastructure.
2. **Digital infrastructure and accessibility:** Expanding high-speed internet connectivity, modernizing computing facilities, and improving access to inclusive campus amenities.
3. **Technological innovation:** Supporting artificial intelligence, robotics, mechatronics, and other emerging technologies through research activities and competitive platforms.
4. **Scientific research and technological capacity:** Strengthening research capabilities in renewable energy, biomedical applications, analytical science, and interdisciplinary fields.
5. **Industry–academia and international collaboration:** Connecting academic research with industrial requirements and developing partnerships for technology transfer, joint research, and institutional capacity building.

These priorities reflect the University's role in building the institutional, scientific, and technological foundations required for sustainable industrial and economic development.

The reporting period is January–December 2025. The available source records document activities mainly between July and December 2025. Accordingly, the report presents the documented initiatives within the full-year reporting framework without assuming that undocumented activities occurred during the first half of the year.

3. Large-Scale Campus Infrastructure Development and Structural Resilience

Developing reliable and resilient infrastructure is a central component of SDG Target 9.1. During 2025, the University of Dhaka advanced major capital development projects and undertook structural rehabilitation initiatives to strengthen its academic and residential facilities.

3.1 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Construction Project

The University of Dhaka advanced the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project to address residential accommodation requirements for female students.

The project carries an estimated investment of BDT 244 crore, financed through financial cooperation and official development assistance from the Government of the People's Republic

of China. Upon completion, the facility is expected to provide 1,500 residential seats for female students.

The project received formal approval from the Chinese government following an official technical assistance request transmitted through the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka.

In December 2025, a high-level joint delegation conducted a physical site inspection in the Jagannath Hall area. The delegation included Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, the Treasurer, the Vice-President of the DU Central Student Union (DUCSU), and specialized Chinese feasibility study experts.

The inspection focused on site boundaries, feasibility considerations, and civil engineering arrangements. According to the source report, construction activities were expected to commence within one to two months following final feasibility report approval.

The project represents an important example of international development cooperation supporting higher education infrastructure. Its completion is expected to expand residential capacity and improve access to university accommodation.

For the 2025 reporting period, the documented milestones include formal approval and technical site inspection. The planned residential capacity should not be interpreted as accommodation already delivered during the year.

3.2 University of Dhaka Further Development Project (2025–2030)

The University initiated a major institutional development programme titled the University of Dhaka Further Development Project, with an estimated investment of BDT 2,841 crore over a five-year implementation period covering 2025–2030.

The project is designed to modernize the University's physical infrastructure, accommodate growing student demand, improve institutional facilities, and strengthen campus-wide utilities.

Several important administrative and financial milestones were achieved during 2025:

- Appointment of a dedicated Project Director on 12 October 2025.
- Publication of the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) for FY 2025–2026 through the national e-GP procurement portal.
- Approval of a BDT 60 crore allocation under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the first year.
- Initiation of consultant selection for architectural master planning and structural engineering across 31 targeted building projects.

The planned infrastructure components include:

Infrastructure component	Planned scope
Academic facilities	6 multi-storey academic buildings
Female student accommodation	4 residential halls with 2,600 seats
Male student accommodation	5 residential halls with 5,100 seats

Residential facilities for academic staff	House tutor quarters across 9 halls
Faculty and officer accommodation	2 residential complexes
Administrative and operational facilities	5 specialized facilities
Sports infrastructure	1 full-scale field development project
Public sanitation	2 public sanitation blocks
Environmental and utility infrastructure	Campus-wide stormwater drainage and solid waste management improvements
Waterbody restoration	Rehabilitation and restoration of 4 major campus waterbodies

The planned residential halls are expected to provide accommodation for a combined 7,700 students. Together with the 1,500 planned seats under the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project, the two initiatives represent a potential expansion of 9,200 residential seats.

The project is significant not only for expanding institutional capacity but also for improving the quality, resilience, and functionality of the University's physical infrastructure.

The 2025 milestones primarily concern project governance, funding allocation, and procurement preparation. The total project value represents the estimated multi-year investment rather than expenditure completed during 2025.

3.3 Post-Earthquake Seismic Auditing and Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Following heightened regional seismic activity, the University administration strengthened its attention to structural safety and the rehabilitation of aging campus buildings.

The Vice-Chancellor convened technical review and monitoring sessions, while a specialized technical subcommittee comprising structural engineering experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) undertook detailed inspections and assessments across residential halls.

The technical assessment process included:

- Visual inspections of building conditions.
- Non-destructive testing.
- Structural integrity evaluations.
- Identification of vulnerable building components.
- Recommendations for short-, medium-, and long-term rehabilitation.

The audit findings were documented through the University Engineering Office and relevant hall administrations to guide subsequent repair and rehabilitation work.

The reported structural rehabilitation progress as of December 2025 included:

Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall

- 112 of 175 rooms had been fully repaired.
- Ferrocement application and masonry repairs were ongoing in residential rooms and other building sections.
- Repair activities covered veranda ceilings, drop walls, parapet walls, sanitary blocks, the hall mosque, dining hall roofing, reading room ceilings, and ground-floor corridor soffits.

Surja Sen Hall

- 96 of 141 rooms had been fully repaired across the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors.
- Structural and cosmetic improvements were completed in the ground-floor canteen, main corridors, and sanitary blocks.
- Plastering and ferrocement ceiling repairs remained ongoing in the hall mosque and upper residential levels.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall

- 32 of 121 rooms had been fully repaired.
- Work included repairs in rooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the South Block.
- Ferrocement casting was completed on veranda roofs across the third, fourth, and fifth floors, as well as selected sanitary, reading room, and roof sections.

These activities demonstrated the University's efforts to improve the structural integrity and safety of residential infrastructure. They also established a more systematic approach to campus-level risk assessment and infrastructure maintenance.

4. ICT Access Expansion and Digital Infrastructure Modernization

Access to reliable digital infrastructure is increasingly essential for academic research, communication, teaching, and institutional administration. Under SDG Target 9.c, the University undertook several initiatives to expand digital connectivity and modernize computing and academic facilities.

4.1 Expansion of High-Speed Wi-Fi Connectivity

During 2025, the University expanded high-speed wireless internet access across several residential halls.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

In September 2025, the hall administration installed four high-speed Wi-Fi routers to improve connectivity across the:

- Reading Room.
- Debating Club office.
- Badhan blood donation office.

- Hall Union executive office.

The initiative expanded access to digital resources and improved connectivity in important academic and student activity spaces.

Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall

In November 2025, the administration expanded high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity into the reading zones of Pratikkha Hall, supporting students' access to online academic materials and digital research resources.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

The hall administration completed router installations across three internal reading rooms in November 2025 to strengthen digital access for residential students.

These initiatives reflected a practical approach to extending digital connectivity beyond central academic buildings into student residential and learning environments.

4.2 Modern Computer Laboratory in the Department of Urdu

In July 2025, the Department of Urdu inaugurated a modern computer laboratory established with technical and financial assistance from the High Commission of Pakistan.

The facility expanded computing access within the Department and supported academic activities relating to language digitization and research.

The initiative demonstrated the contribution of international institutional cooperation to the modernization of departmental computing infrastructure.

4.3 Modernization of Academic Lecture Hall and Seminar Library

In November 2025, the Department of Arabic completed the renovation and modernization of two important academic facilities:

- Shamsul Ulema Abu Nasr Waheed Lecture Hall.
- Professor Abul Kashem Abdul Mannan Seminar Library.

The improvements were financed entirely through alumni contributions and incorporated updated acoustic arrangements, digital presentation equipment, and ergonomic study stations.

The initiative enhanced the physical and technological environment for academic presentations, seminars, and independent study.

4.4 Accessible Infrastructure and Inclusive Campus Facilities

The University also documented improvements to physical accessibility and student support infrastructure.

In November 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall procured and distributed wheelchairs to support students with mobility limitations and students recovering from injuries.

The hall administration also undertook civil works around the quadrangle, including soil leveling, debris removal, and the construction of barrier-free accessible walkways.

These improvements contributed to the development of a more accessible residential environment.

4.5 Specialized Health and Amenity Infrastructure

In December 2025, the University of Dhaka Alumni Association funded and installed an automated sanitary napkin vending machine at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

The installation improved access to menstrual hygiene products within the residential facility and represented an additional example of student-oriented infrastructure development supported through alumni engagement.

Summary of Digital and Facility Modernization

Facility/location	Infrastructure improvement	Date / funding partner
Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	4 high-speed Wi-Fi routers	September 2025; Hall Administration
Department of Urdu	Modern computer laboratory	July 2025; Pakistan High Commission
Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Wheelchair distribution and accessible walkways	November 2025; Hall Administration
Department of Arabic	Modernization of lecture hall and seminar library	November 2025; Department alumni
Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall	Wi-Fi expansion in Pratikkha Hall reading zones	November 2025; Hall Administration
Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Wi-Fi routers across 3 reading rooms	November 2025; Hall Administration
Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Automated sanitary napkin vending machine	December 2025; DU Alumni Association

These developments demonstrate the University's efforts to integrate digital access, academic facility modernization, and inclusive infrastructure into its campus development activities.

5. Technological Innovation, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

Scientific innovation and technological development are central to SDG Target 9.5, which emphasizes strengthening scientific research and upgrading technological capabilities. During 2025, the University of Dhaka organized national innovation competitions, robotics showcases, and specialized research seminars to encourage technological creativity and strengthen academic engagement with emerging technologies.

5.1 VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge

In November 2025, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized the *VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge* at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

The competition brought together 41 teams from 35 domestic and international universities. Participants presented AI-driven software and hardware applications addressing practical challenges in areas such as industrial automation, civil infrastructure diagnostics, and public utility management.

The University of Dhaka secured the Champion position in the Project Showcasing Track.

The competition provided an opportunity for students to demonstrate applied technological capabilities and engage with other emerging innovators. It also created a platform for evaluating student-developed solutions against practical and industry-oriented challenges.

5.2 Robotics Fest Project Showcase

In August 2025, the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering organized a two-day national *Robotics Fest Project Showcase.*

The festival attracted approximately:

- 900 participants.
- 200 competing teams.
- 50 educational institutions across Bangladesh.

The competition featured specialized technology tracks, including:

- Soccer Bot.
- Line Follower Robot.
- Micromouse.
- Artificial Intelligence challenges.

University of Dhaka engineering teams achieved notable results in the University-Level Project Showcase:

- *Turtle Bot* secured the Champion position.
- *IHABOT* achieved the Runner-up position.

The event demonstrated the University's contribution to robotics education, practical engineering, and experiential technological learning. By bringing together students from multiple institutions, the festival also supported wider engagement with emerging technologies across the higher education sector.

5.3 Specialized Research Seminars and Expert Knowledge Exchange

In addition to competitive innovation platforms, the University organized specialized seminars and international lectures addressing emerging scientific and technological fields.

High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry

In November 2025, the Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS) organized a technical seminar titled *"High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) and its Applicability."* The session examined advanced analytical chemistry techniques and their applications across multidisciplinary laboratory research.

Artificial Intelligence and Biomedical Research

In December 2025, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) hosted a guest lecture by Prof. Javed Mustafa, Dean of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. The lecture, titled *"AI and Machine-Learning Approaches for Improving Biomedicine and Healthcare,"* examined the application of computational models in clinical diagnostics and therapeutic optimization.

Ethical and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence

In December 2025, the Department of Information Science and Library Management organized an expert seminar titled *"Toward Beneficial AI: Strategies for Coexisting with AI."* The session was presented by Prof. Sam Oh of Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea, and focused on algorithmic governance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence.

AI Applications in Library and Information Science

In December 2025, the Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) organized an international conference at the Senate Bhaban titled *"Reimagining Librarianship: Forging the Future with AI Technologies."* The conference examined the application of AI in automated cataloguing, natural language processing for information retrieval, and digital asset management.

Artificial Intelligence in Educational Assessment

In August 2025, the Institute of Education and Research organized a specialized lecture titled *"Learning Assessment in the Age of AI."* The lecture was delivered by an Emeritus Professor from Kansai University, Japan, and addressed algorithmic assessment tools and academic integrity frameworks.

Collectively, these activities demonstrated the University's engagement with artificial intelligence across scientific research, healthcare, education, information management, and ethical governance.

6. Renewable Energy Research and Applied Sustainable Technology

Research and technological development in renewable energy and sustainable technologies represent an important contribution to SDG Targets 9.4 and 9.5. During 2025, the University's Energy Institute conducted academic seminars and knowledge-sharing activities on emerging clean energy technologies.

6.1 Microbial Fuel Cell Technology

In July 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical seminar titled *"A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design."*

The session, presented by Research Assistant Md. Rakib Hossain, examined the fundamental principles and design considerations of microbial fuel cells.

The seminar explored bio-electrochemical systems capable of converting chemical energy stored in organic compounds into electricity through microbial activity. It also discussed the potential of combining organic waste treatment with clean electricity generation.

The initiative strengthened academic engagement with emerging bio-energy technologies and created opportunities for further research into low-cost and alternative energy systems.

6.2 Solar Cell Modelling and SCAPS-1D Simulation

In August 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical workshop titled *"Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1): Prerequisites for Publication on the Technological and Knowledge Implications of Solar Cells."* The workshop introduced researchers to SCAPS-1D simulation software for numerical modelling of photovoltaic devices.

The session covered photovoltaic device modelling, semiconductor layer parameters, and the technical considerations involved in solar cell research. It also highlighted how computational simulation can help researchers examine and optimize photovoltaic device parameters before physical fabrication, supporting more efficient research and development.

6.3 Sustainable Energy Policy and Industry Engagement

In November 2025, the Energy Institute, in collaboration with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), organized a knowledge dissemination workshop titled *"EnDev's 16-Year Journey."*

The workshop reviewed sixteen years of experience under the Energising Development initiative, including activities relating to:

- Energy access partnerships.
- Clean cooking technologies.
- Rural electrification.
- Off-grid renewable energy infrastructure.

The workshop provided an opportunity for academic researchers and energy-sector stakeholders to examine practical experiences in sustainable energy development and discuss their relevance to national policy priorities.

These initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to renewable energy research, technical capacity development, and knowledge dissemination. However, the available records do not establish that the seminars resulted in completed renewable energy installations or commercial technology deployment during 2025.

7. Scientific Research Performance and Institutional Recognition

Strengthening research capacity and scientific productivity is an important dimension of SDG Target 9.5. During 2025, the University received notable recognition in international higher education rankings and continued to support scientific research through institutional awards and publication incentives.

7.1 Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026

In November 2025, the University of Dhaka achieved 52nd position globally in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026. The rankings evaluated 911 universities across 94 countries. The University secured first position in South Asia and ranked first among the 12 participating universities from Bangladesh. This recognition highlighted the University's performance in interdisciplinary scientific research and its capacity to engage with research across multiple academic fields.

7.2 Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026

In October 2025, the University advanced to the 801–1000 global ranking band in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026. This represented an improvement of approximately 200 positions compared with its previous position in the 1001–1200 band.

The University maintained its position as a joint top-ranked institution in Bangladesh. The reported improvement was associated with stronger performance in areas including research environment, research quality, and industry collaboration. These rankings provided an important indicator of the University's international academic and research standing during the reporting period.

7.3 Science Faculty Research Awards and Publication Incentives

In November 2025, the Faculty of Science organized its Dean's Award ceremony at the Senate Bhaban. The ceremony recognized:

- 76 students for published scientific monographs, original research books, and peer-reviewed papers.
- 10 faculty members for their contributions to scientific books and publications.
- 38 faculty members who received cash research incentives for publications in Q1 and Q2 indexed journals.

The initiative demonstrated the University's efforts to recognize research achievements and encourage scientific publication.

By supporting and rewarding academic research, the University contributed to strengthening the institutional environment for scientific knowledge generation and dissemination.

8. Industry–Academia Partnerships and International Research Collaboration

Connecting university research with industrial needs is essential for technological upgrading, innovation, and industrial diversification. During 2025, the University of Dhaka pursued several initiatives to strengthen relationships with industry, international universities, and development partners.

8.1 Industry–Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science

In September 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology jointly organized a symposium titled *"Strengthening Industry-Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science."*

The event brought together academic researchers and representatives of national pharmaceutical enterprises.

The symposium focused on strengthening cooperation between university laboratories and industrial research and development facilities. Discussions included opportunities for applied research, technical exchange, industrial standards, and collaboration in healthcare and material science.

The initiative represented an important institutional effort to align academic research with industrial needs and encourage practical applications of scientific knowledge.

8.2 Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee

The University strengthened its institutional framework for industry engagement through the Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee (ICEC).

In collaboration with IQAC and SPSU, ICEC launched the *Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course* in November 2025, enrolling an initial cohort of 50 final-year undergraduate and Master's students.

The course focused on professional writing, technical reporting, CV and cover letter development, digital presentations, workplace adaptability, and structured problem-solving.

Although primarily a professional skills initiative, the course also reflected the University's broader efforts to align academic preparation with industry expectations.

8.3 JICA Technical Partnership Framework

In July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor and senior University leadership held strategic consultations with a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The discussions explored potential technical assistance, institutional development, and project financing in several high-growth areas:

- Artificial intelligence.
- Renewable energy systems.
- Financial technology.
- Environmental management.
- Science and technology infrastructure.

The proposed cooperation was intended to strengthen research facilities and technical capabilities among young faculty members and students.

The consultation demonstrated the University's interest in international cooperation for research infrastructure and technological capacity development. The available records document the exploration of a partnership framework rather than a completed project implementation.

8.4 Research and Academic Cooperation with Peking University

In August 2025, a high-level bilateral meeting took place between the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka and the Vice-President of Peking University, China.

The discussion focused on the possibility of establishing a formal Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate:

- Joint scientific research.
- Faculty and student exchanges.
- Collaborative technology research.
- Environmental science programmes.
- Wider academic cooperation.

The proposed partnership reflected the University's efforts to expand international research networks and facilitate cross-border academic and technological knowledge exchange.

The available source records the bilateral discussion and proposed areas of cooperation; it does not confirm that a formal MoU was signed during 2025.

9. Consolidated SDG 9 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The University's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate progress across physical infrastructure, digital connectivity, technological innovation, research capacity, and industry–academia collaboration.

9.1 Consolidated Activity Matrix

Activity/project	Organizing unit/partner	Main contribution
Microbial Fuel Cell Technology Seminar	Energy Institute	Research on bio-energy and waste-to-energy technology
JICA technical cooperation consultation	University administration and JICA	Exploration of research infrastructure and technical capacity development
Modern computer laboratory	Department of Urdu and Pakistan High Commission	Departmental computing and research infrastructure
Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D workshop	Energy Institute	Photovoltaic research and computational modelling
Robotics Fest Project Showcase	Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering	Robotics and applied engineering innovation
Learning Assessment in the Age of AI lecture	Institute of Education and Research; Kansai University	AI-related academic knowledge exchange
Peking University collaboration meeting	University administration and Peking University	Joint research and international academic cooperation
Healthcare and Material Science symposium	Faculties of Pharmacy and Engineering and Technology; pharmaceutical firms	Industry–academia collaboration
High-speed Wi-Fi installation	Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Digital connectivity
THE World University Rankings 2026	University of Dhaka	International research and academic recognition
Project Director appointment	DU Further Development Project	Infrastructure project governance
EnDev's 16-Year Journey workshop	Energy Institute and SREDA	Sustainable energy knowledge dissemination
VisionX National AI Innovation Challenge	Department of Computer Science and Engineering	AI and technological innovation
THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026	University of Dhaka	International research recognition
Science Faculty Dean's Awards and publication incentives	Faculty of Science	Research recognition and publication support
Department of Arabic lecture hall and seminar library modernization	Department alumni	Academic facility modernization
Wheelchair distribution and accessible pathways	Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Inclusive infrastructure

Wi-Fi expansion in residential reading spaces	Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Digital access
Annual Procurement Plan and ADP allocation	DU Further Development Project	Capital development and procurement preparation
Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall feasibility inspection	University administration and Chinese delegation	International infrastructure cooperation
BUET-supported seismic audits and rehabilitation	University administration and BUET experts	Structural resilience and infrastructure safety
AI and biomedical research lecture	IQAC and University of Toronto	Biomedical AI knowledge exchange
Beneficial AI seminar and international AI conference	Department of Information Science and Library Management; LAB; Sungkyunkwan University	AI governance and digital innovation

9.2 Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures summarize selected documented outputs and institutional project milestones:

- **BDT 2,841 crore:** Estimated value of the University of Dhaka Further Development Project.
- **BDT 60 crore:** Approved ADP allocation for FY 2025–2026 under the Further Development Project.
- **BDT 244 crore:** Estimated value of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project.
- **9,200 planned residential seats:** Combined potential capacity of the Further Development Project's residential halls and Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall.
- **31 targeted building projects:** Included in the Further Development Project's architectural and structural planning.
- **4 Wi-Fi routers:** Installed at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall.
- **3 reading rooms:** Equipped with Wi-Fi routers at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
- **41 teams from 35 universities:** Participated in the VisionX AI Innovation Challenge.
- **200 teams from 50 educational institutions:** Participated in Robotics Fest.
- **Approximately 900 participants:** Engaged in Robotics Fest.
- **52nd globally:** University of Dhaka's position in the THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026.
- **76 students and 10 faculty members:** Recognized through the Faculty of Science Dean's Awards.
- **38 faculty members:** Received research incentives for Q1 and Q2 journal publications.

These figures represent selected activities and documented project parameters rather than a complete inventory of the University's research, innovation, infrastructure, or investment performance.

10. Alignment with Specific SDG 9 Targets

The University's initiatives can be mapped to several targets under SDG 9. The following table distinguishes direct institutional activities from broader enabling contributions.

SDG target	Global focus	University's documented contribution	Nature of alignment
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure	Further Development Project, Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall, seismic audits and structural rehabilitation	Infrastructure development and resilience
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization	Industry–academia symposium and engagement with pharmaceutical enterprises	Industrial collaboration and knowledge exchange
9.3	Improve access of small-scale enterprises to financial services and markets	Student entrepreneurship and innovation platforms provide an indirect enabling environment	Limited indirect contribution
9.4	Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	Renewable energy research, campus modernization and sustainable technology seminars	Research and infrastructure modernization
9.5	Enhance scientific research and technological capabilities	Robotics Fest, VisionX, research seminars, publication incentives and interdisciplinary research recognition	Research and innovation
9.a	Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development through financial and technical support	Chinese government grant assistance, JICA consultations, and institutional development financing	International cooperation and infrastructure support
9.b	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation	AI and robotics challenges, industry–academia collaboration and research partnerships	Technological innovation and capacity development
9.c	Increase access to ICT and the internet	Wi-Fi expansion, modern computer laboratory and digital academic facilities	Digital infrastructure and connectivity

The University's strongest documented contributions relate to Targets 9.1, 9.5, and 9.c through physical infrastructure development, scientific research, technological innovation, and digital access.

Targets 9.2, 9.4, 9.a, and 9.b are supported through industry collaboration, sustainable technology research, international cooperation, and innovation activities.

The contribution to Target 9.3 is more indirect, as the available records do not document specific financing mechanisms or market-access programmes for small-scale enterprises.

11. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka demonstrated substantial engagement with the objectives of SDG 9 through infrastructure development, structural rehabilitation, digital connectivity, technological innovation, scientific research, and industry–academia collaboration.

The Further Development Project and Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall initiative represented major long-term infrastructure commitments, while seismic auditing and rehabilitation activities addressed the importance of structural safety and institutional resilience. Digital connectivity expanded through Wi-Fi installations, computer laboratory development, and modernization of academic facilities.

The University's innovation ecosystem was further strengthened through VisionX, Robotics Fest, specialized research seminars, and international knowledge exchange. Recognition in the Times Higher Education rankings and the Faculty of Science's research awards highlighted the University's continuing efforts to strengthen scientific research and institutional research performance.

Industry–academia engagement, JICA consultations, and discussions with Peking University also demonstrated the University's interest in connecting research capacity with industrial needs and international technological cooperation.

These initiatives represent meaningful contributions to the infrastructure, research, and innovation dimensions of SDG 9. Going forward, stronger monitoring of infrastructure implementation, research investment, technology commercialization, digital access, and industry collaboration outcomes will be essential for measuring the University's long-term contribution to sustainable industrial and technological development.