SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

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SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

1. Executive Summary

Universities are not only centres of education and research; they are also complex urban environments where thousands of people live, study, work, and interact every day. Their buildings, residential facilities, transportation systems, public spaces, sanitation infrastructure, and environmental management practices directly influence the quality of life of their communities. As a major public university located in the heart of Dhaka, the University of Dhaka recognizes the importance of developing a campus that is safe, accessible, environmentally responsible, and resilient.

Throughout 2025, the university undertook a range of initiatives contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11): Sustainable Cities and Communities. The available institutional records for 2025 demonstrate progress across several interconnected areas, including residential infrastructure development, structural safety, environmental conservation, sustainable mobility, public health, disaster preparedness, and cultural heritage preservation.

A major development during the reporting period was the advancement of two significant infrastructure projects. The BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project, covering the period 2025–2030, received Ministry of Education approval, including an initial BDT 60 crore Annual Development Programme allocation. The project includes nine new residential halls with a planned capacity of 7,700 students, six academic buildings, public sanitation facilities, drainage improvements, waste management infrastructure, and the restoration of four campus waterbodies. In parallel, the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project advanced towards implementation, with a planned capacity of 1,500 female students.

Campus safety and infrastructure resilience also received significant attention following seismic events in late 2025. The university, with technical support from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), conducted structural assessments and initiated repair interventions across several residential halls. By December, reported repairs covered 112 rooms at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, 96 rooms at Surja Sen Hall, and 32 rooms at Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Environmental management emerged as another important area of progress. The university introduced a campus-wide prohibition on burning fallen leaves under the campaign "Shorapata Projjolon Bondho Korun", encouraging the preservation of organic materials for fertilizer production. It also received national recognition for enforcing a ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during year-end celebrations, reflecting its commitment to reducing air and noise pollution and protecting campus wildlife.

Efforts to improve the campus environment extended to public spaces and green infrastructure. Residential halls introduced landscaped garden beds, plant-integrated facilities, shaded seating, and bicycle parking arrangements. The university also incorporated the restoration of four major waterbodies, public toilets, and integrated drainage and waste management systems into its long-term development plans.

Sustainable mobility and clean energy were supported through the expansion of bicycle parking facilities, including two new stands at Amar Ekushey Hall with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles. Academic institutes also organized technical seminars and workshops on microbial fuel cells, photovoltaic technology, solar cell simulation, and renewable energy policy.

The university further strengthened its disaster preparedness through fire safety and emergency rescue drills, youth volunteer mobilization, and international collaboration on coastal disaster management and climate resilience. Public health and sanitation initiatives included water reservoir cleaning, drinking water filtration, mosquito control, medical support in residential halls, and improved hygiene facilities.

In addition, the university continued to preserve historical memory and cultural heritage through the establishment of memorial spaces, historical archives, public art exhibitions, and national commemorative programmes.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the university's efforts to transform its campus into a safer, healthier, greener, and more resilient urban environment. While several major infrastructure projects remain at the planning or early implementation stage, the activities undertaken during the reporting period establish an important foundation for the university's longer-term contribution to SDG 11.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 11

2.1 The University Campus as a Sustainable Urban Community

A university campus can be understood as a small urban ecosystem. It brings together residential communities, academic buildings, public spaces, transportation networks, sanitation systems, environmental resources, and essential public services.

For the University of Dhaka, advancing SDG 11 therefore involves more than constructing new buildings or maintaining existing facilities. It requires an integrated approach to campus planning that balances human well-being, environmental responsibility, infrastructure development, public safety, and cultural preservation.

During 2025, the university's activities reflected six major strategic priorities:

1. **Safe and adequate housing:** Expanding residential capacity and improving the quality and safety of existing student accommodation.
2. **Environmental sustainability:** Reducing pollution, improving organic waste management, restoring natural resources, and expanding campus greenery.
3. **Sustainable mobility:** Encouraging non-motorized transportation and improving bicycle parking infrastructure.
4. **Disaster resilience:** Strengthening structural safety, emergency preparedness, and institutional capacity for disaster response.
5. **Public health and sanitation:** Improving drinking water quality, hygiene, healthcare access, and vector control.
6. **Cultural heritage and inclusive public spaces:** Preserving historical memory, promoting public art, and improving the usability of campus spaces.

2.2 Contribution to Specific SDG 11 Targets

The university's initiatives are particularly relevant to the following SDG 11 targets:

SDG target	Relevance to university initiatives
Target 11.1 – Safe and affordable housing	Expansion of student residential facilities, improvement of existing halls, and structural safety interventions.
Target 11.2 – Sustainable transport systems	Development of bicycle parking facilities and promotion of non-motorized transportation.
Target 11.3 – Inclusive and sustainable urbanization	Integrated campus planning through the 2025–2030 Mega Campus Development Project.
Target 11.4 – Protection of cultural and natural heritage	Preservation of historical memorials, archives, graffiti, public art, and campus heritage.
Target 11.5 – Reduction of disaster impacts	Structural safety assessments, emergency response drills, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
Target 11.6 – Reduction of environmental impact	Organic waste management, prohibition of leaf burning, pollution control, and integrated waste management planning.
Target 11.7 – Access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces	Campus greening, shaded seating, restoration of waterbodies, and improved public spaces.
Target 11.b – Integrated disaster risk management	Technical partnerships, disaster response capacity building, and institutional resilience planning.

These areas demonstrate how the university translates the global SDG framework into practical campus-level interventions.

3. Sustainable Housing, Campus Development and Infrastructure Resilience

3.1 Addressing the Challenge of Student Accommodation

Safe and adequate accommodation is one of the most important requirements for a sustainable university environment. As a large public institution, the University of Dhaka faces considerable pressure on its residential infrastructure. Limited accommodation capacity, ageing buildings, and growing demand for student facilities make long-term infrastructure planning essential.

During 2025, the university advanced two major residential development projects intended to address these challenges.

3.2 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall: Expanding Female Student Accommodation

One of the significant infrastructure developments during the reporting period was the advancement of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project.

The BDT 244 crore project, supported by financial cooperation from the Chinese Government, is designed to provide modern residential accommodation for 1,500 female students.

Following the transmission of official project approval communications through the Economic Relations Division to the Chinese Embassy, the Chinese Government formally approved the project proposal in October 2025.

A major implementation milestone occurred on 18 December 2025, when a specialized Chinese technical feasibility team visited the proposed construction site adjacent to the Jagannath Hall area. The team was accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, the university Treasurer, Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, and DUCSU student representatives.

The visit represented an important step towards assessing the feasibility of the proposed development. Physical construction was expected to commence within one to two months following the reported inspection.

The project is particularly significant because it addresses the shortage of female residential accommodation. Expanding safe and structured housing facilities can improve residential access, support educational continuity, and create a more enabling environment for female students.

3.3 Mega Campus Development Project: A Long-Term Infrastructure Vision

Beyond individual residential projects, the university advanced a broader campus development programme covering the period 2025–2030.

The BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project received approval from the Ministry of Education, including an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of BDT 60 crore.

Administrative implementation progressed during the year through the appointment of a Project Director on 12 October 2025 and publication of the Annual Procurement Plan on the government e-GP portal. Tender notices for architectural and structural design consultants covering 31 major buildings were also issued in late November.

The development plan includes:

- Six modern academic buildings.
- Four new female residence halls accommodating 2,600 students.
- Five new male residence halls accommodating 5,100 students.
- A total of 7,700 additional residential seats across nine halls.
- Dedicated house tutor quarters across the nine new halls.
- Two residential quarters for faculty and administrative officers.
- Five administrative and utility service buildings.
- Integrated campus drainage and waste management networks.
- Restoration of four major campus waterbodies.
- Improvement of one main athletic sports field.
- Construction of two public sanitation facilities.

The project represents a major institutional effort to address long-standing infrastructure shortages while improving the overall quality of the campus environment.

Its significance extends beyond the construction of individual buildings. The integration of residential accommodation, academic infrastructure, sanitation, drainage, waterbody restoration, and waste management reflects a more comprehensive approach to sustainable campus planning.

Although the project remained at the procurement and early implementation stage during the reporting period, its planned infrastructure provides a substantial foundation for the university's long-term urban sustainability agenda.

3.4 Strengthening Structural Safety After Seismic Events

Infrastructure sustainability depends not only on constructing new facilities but also on maintaining and strengthening existing buildings.

Following seismic events in late 2025, the university prioritized structural safety assessments across residential halls. A Central Coordination Committee chaired by the university Treasurer worked with a specialized technical subcommittee comprising structural engineering experts from BUET.

The committee completed technical assessments and undertook further inspections of selected residential facilities, including Shamsun Nahar Hall, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall, and Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall.

Reported repair progress across major residential halls included:

Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall

Structural repairs were completed across 112 of the hall's 175 student rooms. Additional work included ferrocement structural casting and repairs involving ceilings, balconies, drop walls, parapet walls, bathrooms, the mosque, dining hall roof, and reading room.

Surja Sen Hall

Repairs were completed across 96 of 141 student rooms, particularly on the third to sixth floors. Work also covered corridors, the ground-floor canteen, and bathrooms, while additional structural repairs continued in the mosque and corridor ceilings.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall

Structural plastering and room repairs were completed across 32 of 121 rooms. Additional ferrocement casting was undertaken on balconies, bathrooms, reading room facilities, and the North Block roof.

Rokeya Hall and Shamsun Nahar Hall

Engineering inspections led to further structural plaster and wall reinforcement activities. At Rokeya Hall, plaster repairs were completed in Rooms 67 and 87 of the Aparajita Building.

These interventions reflect the university's effort to strengthen the physical safety of existing residential infrastructure. For a large residential university, structural maintenance and disaster resilience are essential to protecting students and maintaining uninterrupted campus operations.

4. Environmental Conservation, Pollution Control and Green Campus Development

4.1 Moving Towards More Responsible Organic Waste Management

Universities generate significant quantities of organic waste through routine campus maintenance, particularly fallen leaves and other plant materials. How these materials are managed has direct implications for local air quality and environmental sustainability.

Traditionally, the burning of fallen leaves can contribute to air pollution and unnecessary emissions. Recognizing this challenge, the University of Dhaka introduced a campus-wide environmental stewardship initiative in December 2025.

On 11 December, the university launched the campaign "Shorapata Projjolon Bondho Korun" (Stop Burning Fallen Leaves) at the Central Mall. The initiative was launched by the Vice-Chancellor in collaboration with the University of Dhaka Arbiculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Parliament.

The campaign established a prohibition on burning fallen leaves across campus grounds and introduced protocols for preserving organic materials for fertilizer production.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also incorporated this approach into its regular facility management by collecting and preserving fallen leaves for conversion into natural fertilizer for hall gardens.

This initiative represents an important shift towards circular environmental management. Instead of treating fallen leaves as waste requiring disposal through burning, the university encouraged their reuse as a resource for maintaining campus greenery.

The approach can help reduce open burning, improve local air quality, and support more sustainable management of organic materials.

4.2 Reducing Air and Noise Pollution Through Environmental Regulation

Environmental management also requires addressing activities that create unnecessary pollution and threaten public safety.

During 2025, the university enforced a campus-wide ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during 31st Night celebrations.

The policy addressed several environmental and safety concerns associated with pyrotechnics, including air pollution, chemical residue, noise pollution, fire hazards, and harm to urban wildlife and bird populations.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan with a national honor and commemorative crest in recognition of the university's enforcement of this policy.

The Ministry recognized the initiative as an exemplary model of environmental governance.

This recognition demonstrates how university-level administrative decisions can contribute to broader environmental protection objectives. By regulating activities that create unnecessary pollution, the university sought to protect both its human population and the surrounding urban ecosystem.

4.3 Expanding Campus Greenery and Improving Public Spaces

Green spaces are essential components of sustainable urban environments. They improve the visual quality of public spaces, support environmental well-being, and provide opportunities for recreation and social interaction.

During the reporting period, several residential halls introduced small but practical improvements to their outdoor environments.

At Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, a landscaped garden bed was constructed beside the lobby driveway on 17 July 2025. The hall administration also developed three shaded seating spaces, including one near the breakfast kiosk and two at the former bicycle parking area.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall introduced another form of green infrastructure by integrating plant tubs into custom shoe racks installed outside student rooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the South Block East wing. This initiative encouraged vertical greening within the residential environment.

These interventions demonstrate how green spaces can be incorporated into both outdoor and shared residential areas, even where available land is limited.

4.4 Restoring Campus Waterbodies and Improving Environmental Infrastructure

Natural waterbodies play an important role in the environmental health of urban campuses. They contribute to local ecological balance and can improve the quality and attractiveness of public spaces.

The university incorporated the restoration of four major campus waterbodies into the BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project.

The planned interventions include dredging, cleaning, restoration, and associated environmental engineering work. The project also includes improvements to drainage networks, construction of two public toilets, and the introduction of an integrated solid waste management system.

Although these activities were part of the approved development plan rather than completed restoration works during the reporting period, they represent an important commitment to improving the university's environmental infrastructure.

Taken together, the leaf preservation campaign, pyrotechnics ban, campus greening activities, and planned waterbody restoration reflect a broader effort to improve the environmental quality and sustainability of the campus.

5. Sustainable Mobility, Clean Energy and Low-Carbon Campus Development

5.1 Encouraging Non-Motorized Transportation

Sustainable transportation is an important component of SDG 11, particularly in densely populated urban environments where traffic congestion and vehicle emissions create significant challenges.

Within the university campus, bicycles provide a practical alternative for short-distance transportation. However, the availability of secure and designated parking facilities is important for encouraging their regular use.

During 2025, the university expanded bicycle parking infrastructure across several residential halls.

On 9 October 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall constructed two designated bicycle stands, Mandura-2 and Mandura-3, with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles.

Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also introduced dedicated bicycle parking stands and multi-purpose corridor racks.

These interventions support non-motorized transportation while helping maintain orderly residential spaces and clear emergency exit corridors.

Although the available records do not provide data on changes in bicycle usage or reductions in vehicle emissions, the expansion of bicycle parking represents a practical step towards encouraging lower-emission mobility.

5.2 Advancing Research and Knowledge on Renewable Energy

Sustainable urban development also depends on access to cleaner and more efficient energy technologies.

The University of Dhaka contributed to this area through academic seminars and technical knowledge-sharing activities organized by its energy-related institutes.

On 10 July 2025, the Institute of Energy organized a technical seminar titled "A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design". The session, presented by Research Assistant Md. Rakib Hossain, introduced participants to biochemical energy conversion systems.

On 14 August 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical session titled "Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1)". The programme provided specialized training on photovoltaic devices, numerical simulation, and research applications in solar cell technology.

A further initiative took place on 13 November 2025, when the Energy Institute collaborated with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) to organize a national workshop titled "EnDev's 16-Year Journey".

Chaired by the SREDA Chairman, the workshop focused on clean energy transitions and the deployment of off-grid technologies.

These activities demonstrate the university's contribution to the knowledge and research dimensions of sustainable energy development. By creating opportunities for technical learning and collaboration with national energy institutions, the university helps strengthen the expertise required for future clean energy applications.

6. Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Response and Urban Resilience

6.1 Strengthening Campus Emergency Preparedness

A sustainable urban environment must be capable of anticipating, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.

For the University of Dhaka, disaster preparedness involves protecting residential buildings, academic facilities, administrative offices, and the wider campus community against different types of hazards.

During 2025, the university undertook several practical initiatives to strengthen emergency response capacity.

On 9 October 2025, a fire safety, fire-extinguishing, and emergency rescue drill was conducted for administrative staff and officers at the Social Science Faculty building under the technical supervision of the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

A similar student-focused fire safety training programme was conducted at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall on 14 August 2025.

These activities helped introduce practical emergency response knowledge within both academic and residential environments.

The inclusion of administrative personnel and students is particularly important because effective disaster response depends on the preparedness of the entire campus community.

6.2 Mobilizing Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction

The university also emphasized the role of youth and volunteers in strengthening disaster resilience.

On 11 December 2025, the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), in partnership with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Bangladesh, organized a national convention titled "Every Contribution Matters" at the Senate Bhaban.

Inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, the convention brought attention to youth volunteer mobilization and institutional cooperation in local disaster response.

The initiative recognized that disaster resilience cannot depend solely on government agencies or institutional authorities. Local communities, volunteers, and young people can also play important roles in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

6.3 Building International Partnerships for Climate and Coastal Resilience

Recognizing the importance of knowledge exchange and specialized expertise, the university also advanced international collaboration in disaster risk reduction.

On 18 December 2025, the Vice-Chancellor held a strategic meeting with Professor Dr. Olaf Murlink of Central Queensland University, Australia.

The institutions established a partnership framework focused on joint research programmes, capacity-building workshops, and specialized training modules in coastal disaster management, climate resilience, and youth empowerment.

This collaboration provides an opportunity to connect academic research with practical disaster management challenges, particularly those relevant to climate-vulnerable coastal communities.

The university's engagement in structural safety assessments, emergency drills, volunteer mobilization, and international partnerships demonstrates a multi-level approach to disaster resilience.

7. Public Health, Water, Sanitation and Inclusive Campus Facilities

7.1 Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water

Access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is fundamental to a healthy and sustainable campus.

During 2025, the university undertook several maintenance and improvement activities across residential halls to strengthen water supply systems.

At Kavi Jasimuddin Hall, underground reservoirs and overhead water tanks serving the North and South Blocks, canteen, and house tutor quarters underwent deep cleaning and maintenance.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall also undertook water tank cleaning and maintenance activities.

The Social Welfare and Research Institute repaired its main overhead water supply line, improving the reliability of water distribution.

In addition, four high-capacity drinking water filtration units were installed in the main student building of Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall on 9 October 2025. Scheduled servicing of filtration systems was also undertaken at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.

These activities demonstrate the university's attention to the maintenance of essential water infrastructure and the availability of safer drinking water within student residential facilities.

7.2 Maintaining Sanitation and Hygienic Residential Environments

The university also undertook sanitation-related maintenance activities across different halls.

These included deep cleaning of bathrooms, restoration of floor mosaics, and improvements to shared residential facilities.

For example, the Aparajita Building of Rokeya Hall underwent bathroom floor cleaning and mosaic polishing in August 2025. Similar maintenance work was undertaken at the main dining hall of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

Such maintenance activities may appear routine, but they are essential for maintaining healthy residential environments in high-density student accommodation.

At the strategic level, the Mega Campus Development Project also incorporates two new public sanitation facilities, upgraded drainage networks, and integrated waste management infrastructure.

7.3 Strengthening Vector Control and Disease Prevention

Vector-borne diseases, particularly dengue, present a recurring public health concern in Dhaka.

To reduce mosquito breeding and related health risks, several residential halls maintained regular vector control and pest management operations during the reporting period.

Thermal fogging, larvicidal treatment, and targeted spraying were undertaken across Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, Rokeya Hall, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also outsourced specialized pest control services and upgraded chemical application equipment to improve coverage of drainage lines.

At Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, a targeted bedbug extermination programme was conducted across 29 rooms on 9 October 2025.

These interventions reflect the importance of preventive environmental health management in maintaining safe and hygienic student accommodation.

7.4 Improving Access to Medical and Emergency Health Services

The university also introduced measures to improve access to medical support within residential facilities.

On 14 August 2025, medical officers from the DU Medical Center were assigned to Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall during designated evening and night shifts to provide emergency medical consultations.

The initiative brought essential medical support closer to students and reduced the need to rely exclusively on off-site services for immediate consultations.

Free blood grouping drives were also organized by Badhan, while women's health awareness activities were conducted in collaboration with Ad-din Mother Care Limited.

These initiatives demonstrate the university's recognition that sustainable campus development must include health services, preventive healthcare, and accessible emergency support.

7.5 Supporting Universal Accessibility and Gender-Responsive Facilities

Inclusive infrastructure must address the needs of students with different physical and health requirements.

On 13 November 2025, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall procured and deployed dedicated wheelchairs for sick and injured students residing in the hall.

At Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, an automated sanitary napkin vending machine donated by the DU Alumni Association was received in December 2025 to improve access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

These interventions illustrate the importance of incorporating accessibility and gender-responsive facilities into everyday campus management.

8. Preserving Cultural Heritage, Historical Memory and Public Spaces

8.1 Protecting the University's Historical and Civic Identity

Sustainable communities are not defined only by physical infrastructure. They also depend on the preservation of cultural identity, historical memory, and shared public spaces.

As one of Bangladesh's historically significant academic institutions, the University of Dhaka has an important role in preserving the country's intellectual, cultural, and democratic heritage.

During 2025, the university undertook several initiatives to document historical events and create public spaces that recognize important moments in national history.

8.2 Establishing Memorial Grounds and Historical Archives

On 17 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated July Smriti Udyan at Bijoy Ekattor Hall. On the same day, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) inaugurated July Protirodh Prangon at Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah Hall.

These landscaped public spaces were established to memorialize the historical contributions of young people during national democratic movements.

The university also established specialized historical literature shelves under the name "July Corner" at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall. Equipped with three custom bookshelves, the archive was designed to preserve literature documenting the democratic movements of 1947, 1971, and 2024.

In addition to these physical spaces, the university initiated projects to systematically document historical graffiti and public artwork across campus.

The planned activities included publishing collections of graffiti, compiling accounts from students and faculty members, establishing a digital documentary archive, and finalizing structural designs for a central uprising memorial monument.

These activities contribute to preserving the university's historical and cultural identity for future generations.

8.3 Promoting Public Art and Cultural Engagement

The university also used public exhibitions and artistic activities to strengthen cultural engagement across the campus.

On 10 July 2025, the Faculty of Fine Arts hosted the solo painting exhibition "Urkavye Prakriti" by artist Md. Rakibul Hasan at Zainul Gallery, alongside the sculpture exhibition "Uno-Ekti 29 Projojona".

On 11 September 2025, the Oriental Art Practice Association organized the "Guru-Disciple: Disciple-Guru (Phase-3)" exhibition at Zainul Gallery-1. The exhibition featured works by Proti Chokma, Amit Nandi, Jahangir Alam, and Moloy Bala under the supervision of Mikhail Idris.

The Department of History of Art further organized a four-day national workshop titled "Art of Equality" on 20 November 2025. The workshop brought together faculty members and student artists from nine higher education and art institutions to explore equality through artistic expression.

These initiatives demonstrate how academic and cultural institutions can use public spaces to support artistic creativity, social dialogue, and cultural participation.

8.4 Commemorating National Heritage and Historical Contributions

The university also observed National Victory Day and Martyred Intellectuals Day through public commemorative programmes on 14 and 16 December 2025.

Activities included illumination of major campus landmarks such as Curzon Hall, the Arts Building, the Teacher-Student Centre, and Smriti Chirantan.

Wreath-laying ceremonies were organized at national monuments, while documentary screenings were arranged across residential halls.

These activities strengthened the role of the university campus as a shared space for preserving national memory and cultural identity.

Collectively, the establishment of memorial spaces, historical archives, public art exhibitions, and commemorative programmes demonstrates the university's contribution to SDG Target 11.4.

9. Consolidated SDG 11 Performance and Institutional Outputs

The following table presents selected measurable outputs and major institutional milestones from the available records for 2025.

Strategic area	Selected institutional outputs and milestones
Student housing	BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project advanced, with planned accommodation for 1,500 female students.
Campus development	BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project approved, with an initial BDT 60 crore ADP allocation.
Residential expansion	Nine new halls planned, providing 7,700 additional residential seats: 2,600 female and 5,100 male.
Structural resilience	Repairs reported across 112 rooms at Muhsin Hall, 96 at Surja Sen Hall, and 32 at Ziaur Rahman Hall.
Environmental management	Campus-wide prohibition on burning fallen leaves introduced through the Shorapata Projjolon Bondho campaign.
Pollution control	Campus-wide ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during year-end celebrations received national recognition.
Green infrastructure	Garden beds, shaded seating, and plant-integrated facilities introduced at residential halls.
Waterbody restoration	Restoration of four major campus waterbodies incorporated into the approved development plan.
Sustainable mobility	Two new bicycle stands at Amar Ekushey Hall with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles.
Renewable energy knowledge	Technical seminars on microbial fuel cells, solar cells, photovoltaic simulation, and a national renewable energy workshop.
Disaster preparedness	Fire safety and emergency rescue drills conducted at the Social Science Faculty and Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall.
Disaster resilience partnerships	National volunteer convention organized with VSO Bangladesh and international collaboration advanced with Central Queensland University.
Drinking water	Four high-capacity drinking water filtration units installed at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall.
Public health	Water tank cleaning, supply-line repairs, mosquito control, medical support, and health awareness programmes undertaken across residential facilities.

Inclusive facilities	Wheelchair support introduced at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall and menstrual hygiene vending facilities installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
Cultural heritage	July Smriti Udyan, July Protirodh Prangon, and July Corner archives established.
Public art and cultural engagement	Fine arts exhibitions and a four-day Art of Equality workshop organized, involving nine institutions.

10. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a wide range of initiatives to strengthen its contribution to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The university's activities addressed several fundamental dimensions of sustainable campus development, including safe housing, structural resilience, environmental conservation, green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, disaster preparedness, public health, sanitation, and cultural heritage preservation.

The advancement of the BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project and the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project represents a significant long-term commitment to improving campus infrastructure and residential capacity. At the same time, structural repairs, environmental regulations, bicycle parking facilities, public health interventions, and cultural heritage initiatives demonstrate progress through more immediate institutional actions.

An important feature of these efforts is the recognition that a sustainable university campus must function as a healthy, safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible community. Infrastructure development alone is insufficient without effective environmental management, disaster preparedness, accessible public facilities, and the preservation of shared cultural resources.

Although several major projects remained at the approval, procurement, feasibility, or early implementation stage by the end of 2025, the available evidence demonstrates meaningful progress towards a more sustainable campus environment.

By continuing to integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning, campus operations, environmental management, public health, and cultural preservation, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its role as a contributor to sustainable urban development in Bangladesh.