



SDG 11 Progress Report 2023

University of Dhaka



SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The goal of SDG 11 is to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. It relates to the university's inclusive campus. The open campus of the University of Dhaka provides a safe community for the local people to visit and learn various things. The major historical landmarks of the universities including multiple sculptures, museums and architectural marvels are open to the people. We have libraries, museums, green spaces, etc. The University of Dhaka is pledged to preserve the art, culture, and heritage of the country along with sustainable development of the campus area.

This year we have made remarkable strides towards our SDG 11; some notable events and initiatives are highlighted:

- The option for remote work is still available this year. To fight COVID-19, we introduced virtual platforms and online class options. Taking some classes online due to natural disasters, political unrest, etc. is still possible. It allows faculty members the freedom to take classes online as necessary.
- To promote sustainable commuting and transportation, there are 80+ bus trips all over Dhaka city dedicated to the students, staff and faculty of the university. The availability of buses discourages private transportation within the city, combatting traffic jams and reducing the overall carbon footprint. This year we have introduced 5+ new bus trips for the students.
- We have multiple museums on the premise of the university to preserve and showcase the history and heritage of the country. The Department of Zoology provide free access to one of the richest and oldest animal collections in the country, Kazi Zaker Hossain Museum, where thousands of rare animal samples are preserved for research purposes. Moreover, the department provides free access to a seminar library where thousands of books of different disciplines are available to read in-house or to borrow.
- Besides the central library, the university boosts multiple specialized libraries such as the E-Library of the Faculty of Business Studies, Library of the English Department, Seminar Rooms, etc. The libraries are open to the students, staff, faculty and visitors.
- Like every year, the Fine Arts Institute of the university have hosted the “Mongol Shovajatra”, one of the biggest cultural festivals of the country, in the Dhaka University Campus where thousands of people participated. This year, six large structures of sheep,

elephant, nilgai, tepa doll, tiger and peacock will be presented in the Shobhajatra to represent the Bangla New Year's motifs.

"War is right now the biggest problem facing the globe. War puts people's lives at risk across the world. This year's Mangal Shovajatra will be held, calling for the end of all wars and wishing for the welfare of the people," said Nisar Hossain, Dean, Fine Arts Faculty, University of Dhaka.

- A six-day annual art exhibition featuring artworks by students of the sculpture department of Dhaka University ended at the Zainul Gallery on May 2023. In the exhibition, students displayed 65 sculptures created using mediums, namely iron, wood, bronze, soap, clay, plaster of Paris, bamboo, scrap metal, aluminium and plane sheets and 23 drawings. The art exhibition showcased the art and culture of the country, promoting our cultural heritage.
- The Department of Sculpture in cooperation with Nagar Upakhyan - Perceive, Research, Design Consultancy conducted a terracotta workshop preceded by a lecture on Paharpur terracotta plaques by Professor Lala Rukh Selim on 11 September, 2023 at the Department. It was part of the project of Nagar Upakhyan - Perceive "Interpreting the terracotta plaques of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur, Bangladesh" selected by the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) 2023 Campaign – Working on the Future, selected by UNESCO. The initiative focused on the characteristics of the terracotta plaques of Paharpur, with a discussion on the historical background, importance of the architecture, the subjects of the plaques, the aesthetics and the technical process used.
- Department of Dance has participated and performed in multiple programs to promote classical dance and art forms. On February 23, 2023, teachers and students of the Department of Dance performed dance at the event held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, organized by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). Delegates from 15 countries were present on that occasion. On September 8, 2023, the Department of Dance participated in the Meril Prothom Alo Awards 2023 organized by a leading daily newspaper, Prothom Alo.