**Centenary of the University of Dhaka**

**The Glorious Timeline**

The desire was always there, and hopes were high. Proposals were also raised. Finally, the dream became a reality! It was officially declared that a higher educational institute would be established in East Bengal. ‘University of Dhaka’ is the name of that institution. This year the university touches the centenary of its establishment.

**1921:**

The educational activities of the University of Dhaka officially began on 01 July 1921. In 1920, the Dacca University Act was passed based on the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission (Sadler Commission) in 1917. The university started its educational activities with 3 student dormitories (Dhaka Hall, Muslim Hall and Jagannath Hall), 3 faculties (Faculty of Arts, Science and Law), 12 departments, 60 teachers and 877 students. The departments included in the Faculty of Arts, Science and Law were Sanskrit and Bengali, English, Education, History, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Persian and Urdu, Philosophy, Economics and Politics, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Law.

: Sir Philip Joseph Hartog was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the university.

**1922:**

* The Earl of Ronaldshay G.C.I., the first Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, was awarded the first Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by the university. The Chancellor of the university at that time was Alexander George Robert Buller Lytton
* A new department called the Department of Commerce was founded
* The ‘Dacca University Bulletin’ was published
* Dhaka University Athletics Club was established

**1923:**

* The authority approved the first monogram of the university with the inscription "*Truth shall prevail"*.
* First convocation: The first convocation of the university was held. Chancellor Alexander George Robert Bulwar Lytton delivered the keynote address at the convocation.
* First female student: Leela Nag, the first female student of the university, obtained the M.A. in English degree by securing the first position in the first class.

**1924:**

* The second convocation of the university took place conferring degrees to 256 students.

**1925:**

* Fajilatunnesa, the first Muslim female student, was admitted at the university who studied for a Master’s degree in Mathematics.
* Vinayatosh Bhattacharya from the Department of Philosophy obtained the first Ph.D. degree.
* Professor GH Langley took over as the second Vice-Chancellor.
* The university awarded the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Sir Philip Joseph Hartog the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws

**1926:**

* The Muslim Literary Society was established under the leadership of some eminent teachers of the university. It is the activities of this organization that gave birth to a movement called 'The Freedom of Intellect Movement'.
* The visit of Rabindranath Tagore: The Bishwa-Kobi Rabindranath Tagore came to Dhaka by the invitation of the University of Dhaka.

**1927:**

* The first women's hostel of the university was opened at Chummery House (now CIRDAP auditorium) with 6 of its female students.The total number of female students in the university at that time was 9
* Sir Stanley Jackson was appointed as the new Chancellor of the University

**1928:**

* Third Amendment to the Dacca University Act was introduced (Bengal Act No. II of 1925)
* Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was given a two-day reception at the University of Dhaka

**1929**

* The foundation stone of Salimullah Muslim Hall was laid.

**1934:**

* Sir A. F. Rahman joined as the Vice-Chancellor, becoming the first Indian, Muslim and Bengali Vice-Chancellor of the university

**1935:**

* Karuna Kana Gupta joined as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History, becoming the first female teacher ofthe university

**1936:**

* The university awarded honorary doctorate degrees to the highest number of distinguished persons. The Right Hon’ble Sir John Anderson and Sir Abdur Rahim were awarded Doctor of Laws; Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose and Sir Prafulla Chandra Roy were awarded Doctor of Science and Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Rabindranath Tagore and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay were awarded Doctor of Literature

**1947:**

* The East Bengal Education Ordinance No. 1 of 1947 was introduced after the partition. The Ordinance enabled the University of Dhaka to oversee the educational institutions above the Matriculation level. These institutions in East Bengal were previously affiliated to the University of Calcutta. In total, 55 colleges got affiliated to the University of Dhaka
* The enrolment of 100 female students, out of a total 1693 students

**1948:**

* The Language Movement began under the leadership of the students of the University of Dhaka. Many students, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the Department of Law, were arrested on 11 March 1948, during the first all-out student strike demanding to make Bangla the state language. During his visit to Dhaka, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Governor General of Pakistan, gave speech on 21 March at the Racecourse Ground and on 24 March at the Curzon Hall in favour of making Urdu the state language.This faced strong resistance from the students

**1949:**

* 27 students including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were fined and expelled in March for allegedly supporting the movement of low-wage employees of the University of Dhaka. Refusing to sign a bond to retain the student status, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had to renounce his studentship
* The Department of Soil, Water and Environment and the Department of Geology were founded

**1950:**

* Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad (The State Language Action Committee) was formed at

the University of Dhaka to give momentum to the Language Movement

* The Department of Statistics, Life Statistics and Information Statistics was established
* The Dhaka University Press came into being

**1951:**

* SanskritiSangsad, the central cultural organization of the University of Dhaka was established under the leadership of teachers of the university to develop Bengali nationalist consciousness, secular outlook and humanistic values

**1952:**

* The Language Movement reached its climax. An all-party Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad was formed by making Golam Mahbub, a student of the university, the Convenor. The Dhaka University Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad was included in it. On 21 February, decision was taken to go on an all-out strike. Following this when the protesting students violated Section 144, many people including Abul Barkat, a student of the university, were killed in the police firing. Bangla gained the recognition of one of the state languages because of the indomitable movement spread across the country

**1953:**

* ‘Dhaka University Students’Union (DUSU)’ was transformed into ‘Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (DUCSU)’. Student organisations formed the United Front in the spirit of the Language Movement, largely in opposition to the pro-government student associations

**1956:**

* The Rokeya Hall was established as the first female hall of the University of Dhaka. Mrs. Akhtar Imam was appointed as the first Provost.
* Pratibha Mutsuddi was elected as the first Vice-President of the Union of the Hall

**1957**

* Shahid Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall (formerly Iqbal Hall) was established
* The Department of Sociology and the Department of Biochemistry were established

**1959:**

* The Government of Pakistan attempted to introduce writing Bengali in Roman and Arabic scripts. Professor Dr. Qazi Motahar Hossain and other teachers found such attempt illogical
* The Department of Library Science (now the Department of Informatics and Library Management) was established

**1961:**

* **T**he foundation stone of TSC as a socio-cultural meeting point of the university was laid
* Despite the anti-Rabindra activities of the government, the students and teachers of the University of Dhaka played a pioneering role in the celebration of Rabindranath's birth centenary with due dignity. The Department of Bangla also observed a Language and Cultural Week despite the challenges of the Government of Pakistan

**1962:**

* When the Sharif Commission’s report on education reform was published, the University of Dhaka swelled in protests. This movement of students is known as the 'Education Movement of '62’. Succumbing to pressure from the students, the government with held the implementation of the Sharif Commission Report
* The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism was established.

**1965:**

* A new Arts Faculty Building (*Kala Bhaban*) was established in the university.
* Bangla New Year (*PahelaBoishakh*) celebration happened in Dhaka University though government took stance against this cultural event
* The Department of Psychology and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering were established

**1966:**

* Sir P. J. Hartog International Hostel was established
* Surja Sen Hall was established
* Rover Scout began its activities
* Construction work of TSC was completed
* The Institute of Business Administration was established

**1968:**

* The Department of Bangla resisted the initiative of the government to reform the Bangla spelling and script

**1969:**

* On 23 February, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was bestowed with the title of 'Bangabandhu' on the proposal of Tofail Ahmed, the Vice President of DUCSU. Awami League President Sheikh Mujib has since become the one and only leader of the Bengalis
* The Institute of Nutrition and Food Science was established this year

**1970:**

* A cyclone hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh. In consequence, many people were killed or injured. The students and teachers of the University of Dhaka responded to the situation by extending their supports to the affected people and giving them relief products
* The Faculty of Commerce and the Faculty of Social Sciences were established

**1971:**

* A decision was taken that all the administrative activities of the University of Dhaka would be carried out in Bangla
* On 02 March, the flag of the Independent Bangladesh was hoisted for the first timeat the historic student meeting held at the Arts Faculty Building of the university
* On 05 March, the teachers of the University of Dhaka joined a protest meeting held at the Shaheed Minar and took an oath of independence chaired by Dr. Ahmed Sharif
* A genocide was committed in the Dhaka University campus on 25 March in the name of Operation Search Light
* Shamsunnahar Hall was established this year

**1972:**

* After the independence, classes of the university started from 07 February amid the ravages of the war
* Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Chowdhury, Professor of Political Science, was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor
* At the very beginning, the university authority undertook a rehabilitation programmeof Tk 10 lakh for the war-affected students
* On 06 May 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman officially visited the University of Dhaka. On that day, he was awarded with Life Membership of DUCSU at a ceremony held at the Central Playground
* DUCSU took the initiative to erect the sculpture of ‘Aparajeyo Bangla’ in front of the Arts Faculty Building to commemorate the Great Liberation War
* US Senator Edward Kennedy, a true friend of Bangladesh, was given a reception at the university. He planted a banyan sapling in front of the Arts Faculty Building
* The Department of Applied Chemistry was established

**1973:**

* In order to transform the University of Dhaka into an autonomous institution, the dark act of 1961 was repealed and the 'The Dacca University Order, 1973' was enacted. The order was enforced from 16 December 1972. The University of Dhaka thus got the recognition of a democratic and autonomous institution.
* ‘Shikkhai Alo’ (Education is Light) was adopted in the current monogram of the university.
* The Ranger Unit was launched at the university

**1974:**

* At a Special Convocation of the University of Dhaka, Professor Satyendra Nath Bose (posthumous), Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah (posthumous), Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Dr. Hirendralal Dey, Dr. Muhammad Qudrat-iKhuda, Professor Qazi Motahar Hossain and Professor Abul Fazl were awarded the Honorary Doctorate degree

**1975:**

* In 1975 the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh introduced the post of National Professor. Professors of the university Abdur Razzak, Qazi Motahar Hossain and Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin were appointed as National Professors
* On 15th August 1975, His Excellency the Hon’ble President of Bangladesh and the Hon'ble Chancellor of the University of Dhaka Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was scheduled to attend a special programme at the university. On the occasion of his visit, the university was decorated colourfully, and the authority published a special supplement in the newspaper. But the university could not avail his company due to the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu and his family in the early hours of the morning of that day. Being martyred, Bangabandhu could no longer come to University of Dhaka

**1976:**

* National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was buried at the premise of the Dhaka University Central Mosque

**1977:**

* The post of Pro-Vice Chancellor was created by bringing an amendment to the 'Dacca University Order 1973'. Professor Mofizullah Kabir was appointed as the first Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university.
* Through the said amendment, the Hon'ble Chancellor also made provision for the appointment of a Treasurer on full-time regular salary. Professor Safiullah joined as Treasurer in 1978
* LLB was made a 4-year degree

**1985:**

* The roof of the Jagannath Hall auditorium collapsed, killing at least 40 people, most of them students. Many were injured. This day is observed as the Dhaka University Mourning Day every year

**1993:**

* The university conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science to Nobel laureate Professor Abdus Salamat a special convocation ceremony
* The Department of Anthropology was established

**1998:**

* The constitution of DUCSU was amended by the Syndicate of the University of Dhaka. According to the revised constitution, the term of DUCSU would be 365 days. In addition, a provision of announcing election within 90 days after the expiration of the term was attached. The elected DUCSUwas declared defunct
* The country suffered a terrible flood. Students of the university, irrespective of parties or views, engaged themselves in relief work for the people in the country. Their project of making make-roti and oral saline for the flood victims was widely lauded at home and abroad
* The Department of Population Sciences and the Institute of Health Economics were established

**1999:**

* Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Amartya Sen,the Nobel laureate Professor in Economics were awarded Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Science degrees respectively.
* Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 'Bangabandhu Chair' in the university.
* The Department of Peace and Conflict and the Department of Women and Gender Studies were established

**2000:**

* After the UNESCO recognition, the first International Mother Language Day was celebrated on 21 February 2000 with great vibe,dignity andenthusiasm under the apt management of the University of Dhaka
* The Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the Department of Development Studies was established

**2001:**

* Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and Amar Ekushey Hall were established and on 07 May 2001, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the Halls
* The Institute of Information Technology was established

**2007:**

* The Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate building was constructed

**2010:**

* In an emergency meeting on 14 August, the Dhaka University Syndicate revoked the decision of expelling the young student leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, taken by the then Executive Council of the university on 26 March 1949. The Syndicate also termed that decision as ‘undemocratic and unjust’
* The Department of Nuclear Engineering was established

**2011:**

* The University of Dhaka was awarded with the Independence Award by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 2011 in recognition of its pioneering role in the creation of a nation-state called Bangladesh

**2012:**

* The Department of Oceanography and the Department of Disaster Science and Management were established

**2015:**

* The Department of Meteorology was established

**2016:**

* At the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of ICH, UNESCO held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 November, the traditional Mongol Shobhajatra of the University of Dhaka, an essential and attractive component of the New Year (Noboborsho) celebration of the Bengalis, was recognised and listed as 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.

**2020:**

* A research institution of international standard titled 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Research Institute for Peach and Liberty' was founded in the university

**2021:**

* For the first time, a full-fledged Master Plan was prepared for the University of Dhaka. In order to improve the qualitative standard of education, research and infrastructure, an integrated plan has been adopted to build a science-based modern and aesthetic campus
* Her Excellency the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the centennial webinar series
* Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Centre for Gender and Development Studies was established.