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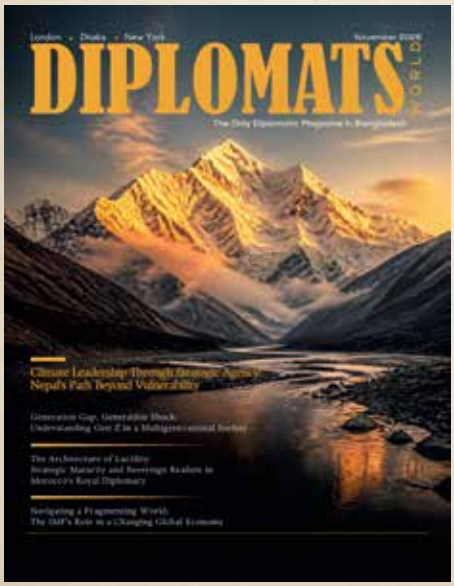
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CONTENTS

01 CLIMATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH STRATEGIC AGENCY: NEPAL'S PATH BEYOND VULNERABILITY 07

02 WORKFORCE DIPLOMACY: WHY BANGLADESH MUST ALIGN HUMAN CAPITAL WITH GLOBAL LABOUR DEMAND 14

03 GENERATION GAP, GENERATION SHOCK: UNDERSTANDING GEN-Z IN A MULTIGENERATIONAL SOCIETY 20

04 THE ARCHITECTURE OF LUCIDITY: STRATEGIC MATURITY AND SOVEREIGN REALISM IN MOROCCO'S ROYAL DIPLOMACY 27

05 ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: ITS IMPACT ON SOIL, WATER & FOOD SECURITY AND REMEDIAL MEASURES 33

06 NAVIGATING A FRAGMENTING WORLD: THE IMF'S ROLE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ECONOMY 40

07 A SHORE HELD IN LIGHT 45

08 FLASH CORNER
Dispatches from the diplomatic frontier 50

NOVEMBER 2026

EDITORIAL NOTE

At a critical juncture defined by the realignment of global alliances and internal institutional consolidation, Bangladesh enters October 2026 with a calibrated posture in international diplomacy and domestic governance. The 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), under the presidency of Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, alongside decisive economic and security measures in Dhaka, provides a cogent blueprint of the nation's evolving geopolitical trajectory.

Addressing the UNGA, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman articulated structural paradigms for persistent challenges. On the Rohingya crisis encompassing 1.3 million displaced persons, Dhaka advanced a pragmatic five-point framework prioritizing voluntary repatriation, ending violence in Myanmar, sustainable financing, judicial accountability, and anti-syndicate enforcement.

Diplomats World observes that this framework marks a vital transition from dependence on aid toward durable, structural partnerships. The global community must recognize that disproportionately burdening a single host state fundamentally undermines security across the broader Bay of Bengal littoral.

On climate governance, Bangladesh underscored a stark asymmetry: contributing under 0.5% of global emissions while bearing disproportionate loss and damage. Dhaka rightly demanded strict adherence to the 1.5°C threshold and non-debt climate financing grounded in Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

Domestically, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed reasserted state authority, reaffirming that the rule of law remains non-negotiable. Externally, Washington's acknowledgement that bilateral matters, including issues surrounding ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, pertain strictly to the diplomatic and judicial channels of Dhaka and New Delhi reinforces sovereign legal processes. Diplomats World views this stance as an indispensable affirmation of state sovereignty; regional stability in South Asia cannot hinge on ad-hoc political arrangements, but on institutional extradition frameworks, mutual respect, and non-interference.

Underpinning these priorities are national energy sovereignty goals including drilling 150 onshore wells, completing 2D/3D seismic surveys by 2030, and offering 26 offshore blocks and civil aviation modernisation through a $2.05 billion acquisition of 10 Airbus aircraft. Energy independence and regional connectivity remain the dual bedrocks of an autonomous foreign policy.

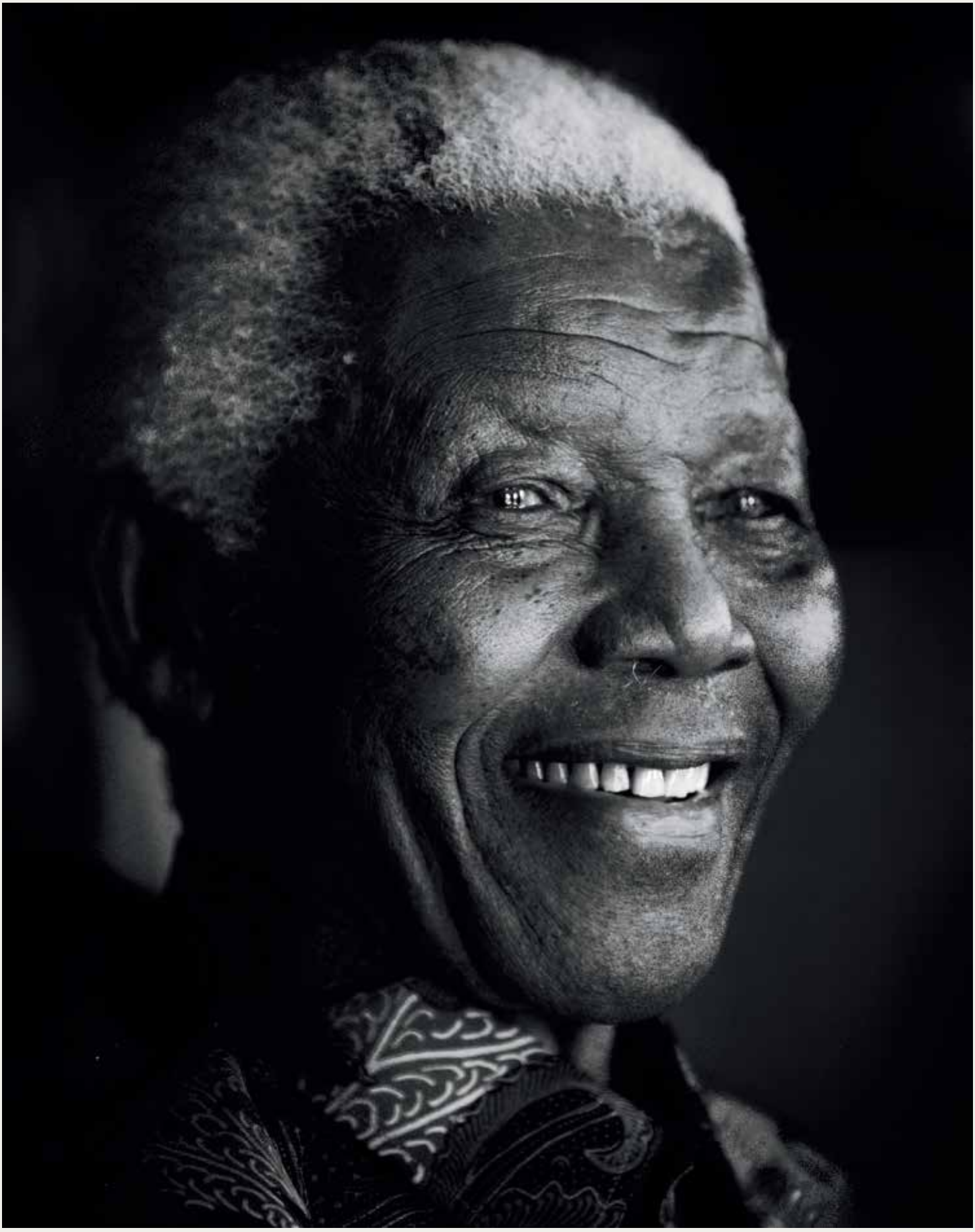
In this issue, we complement Bangladesh's national journey with broader thematic insights: examining strategic climate agency through Nepal's path beyond vulnerability, the imperative of workforce diplomacy in matching human capital to global labor demand, decoding hydro-politics in South Asia, navigating Gen-Z dynamics in a multigenerational society, the sovereign realism of Morocco's royal diplomacy, the IMF's role in a fragmenting global economy, and the future of sustainable agriculture.

This framework marks a vital transition from dependence on aid toward durable, structural partnerships.

By synthesizing rigorous governance with principled multilateral engagement, Bangladesh continues to forge a resilient, sovereign path on the world stage.

Shahed Akhtar
Ambassador & Former Secretary, GoB
Editor, Diplomats World





Nelson Mandela, Johannesburg

Photo: Shahidul Alam/Drik

Climate Leadership Through Strategic Agency:

Nepal's Path Beyond Vulnerability

Imtiaz Ahmed and Dilip Bhattarai

Introduction

On August 26, 2026, a catastrophic debris flow cascaded through the Himalayan mountains, triggered by the collapse of ice and rock from Langtang Lirung's northern face. Within hours, the disaster had travelled across international borders, disrupted critical infrastructure, and claimed numerous lives. Yet this calamity offers Nepal an unexpected opportunity: to transform from a nation perpetually described as climate-vulnerable into a leader redefining how Asia confronts climate risk.

The question that emerges is not merely how Nepal recovers from this disaster, but how it leverages this moment to exercise genuine strategic agency in climate diplomacy and governance.

Nepal should transition from "vulnerability diplomacy" the traditional approach of requesting post-disaster assistance to "climate statecraft" defining the rules and frameworks that will govern Asia's response to climate risks.

This shift represents far more than semantic reframing; it constitutes a fundamental reimagining of Nepal's role in regional and global affairs.



The Failure Beyond Detection

The August 26 disaster is commonly characterised as an early warning failure. The seismic signal was detected globally at 8:37 AM, yet the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology received confirmation through administrative channels nearly nineteen minutes later. By that time, the warning system had already lost critical lead time. This narrative, however, obscures a deeper truth: detection was not the problem. The real failure lay in the conversion of scientific information into timely public action.

The distinction proves crucial for understanding Nepal's strategic challenges. The country possessed the technological infrastructure to detect the hazard seismic networks, satellite systems, hydrometric stations, and disaster-management institutions existed. What it lacked was institutional integration capable of connecting scientific data to community protection before catastrophe struck. This failure of conversion, rather than detection, fundamentally shapes Nepal's path forward.

The remarkable example of Rajendra Dawadi, Principal of Tribhuvan Trishuli Secondary School, illustrates what remains possible. With only minutes' warning, Dawadi evacuated approximately 900 children to safety without formal evacuation procedures or functioning sirens. This achievement demonstrates that even limited warnings, when people receive and understand them, can save lives. For Nepal's future climate leadership, this lesson transcends the operational realm to become philosophical: credible climate statecraft requires anticipating shocks, protecting citizens, and fundamentally reshaping how infrastructure is designed.



Decolonising Climate Politics

Beneath the operational challenges lies a more profound intellectual problem. Global climate diplomacy has been organised around frameworks carbon accounting, mitigation targets, adaptation finance, and loss-and-damage mechanisms that inherit hierarchical assumptions from colonialism and empire. These international relations structures were shaped in an era when European powers wielded disproportionate influence over defining the categories through which global politics operates.

Climate governance, having inherited this historical hierarchy, perpetuates an assumption that countries facing climate risks should primarily receive knowledge, standards, and solutions from wealthier, technologically advanced nations. Conversely, countries responsible for generating the climate crisis retain greater authority in defining its parameters. This imbalance demands decolonisation, not through rejecting Western science or international institutions, but through redistributing epistemic authority and decision-making power.

For Nepal, decolonisation becomes intensely practical. Who defines Himalayan risk? Whose data receives trust? Which communities appear in climate models? Who establishes infrastructure standards? These questions reveal that data sovereignty increasingly determines climate sovereignty. A nation dependent entirely on foreign platforms for environmental intelligence may possess advanced technology without possessing strategic autonomy.

The Bhotekoshi disaster offered a promising counterpoint. Nepali, regional, and Chinese institutions collectively developed a preliminary understanding of the event within one to two days, demonstrating that regional analytical capacity is improving. Nepal should capitalise on this emerging capability by pursuing data autonomy and knowledge leadership not technological isolation, but rather becoming a producer of Himalayan climate intelligence through universities, scientists, public agencies, and communities.



Climate Justice as Climate Agency

Nepal possesses an exceptional case for climate justice. The nation's contribution to cumulative global emissions remains minuscule compared to the catastrophic climate risks it faces. This profound asymmetry should occupy the centre of Nepal's diplomatic argument. However, climate justice must transcend compensation claims to become a demand for agency.

The August 26 disaster generated $1.4 billion in preliminary losses, affected 748 megawatts of hydropower capacity, destroyed more than 41 bridges, and damaged 40 kilometres of the Nepal-China trade corridor. These figures underscore why climate finance cannot remain primarily a post-disaster instrument. Instead, Nepal should demand financing that acts preemptively: resilient bridges, hardened monitoring stations, safer hydropower infrastructure, emergency communications systems, risk-informed land-use planning, and community evacuation capacity.

Reconstruction becomes an investment in climate futures rather than a restoration of past vulnerabilities. This reframing transforms climate justice from a plea for mercy into a demand to participate in designing resilience. Nepal ceases to be merely a vulnerable victim and becomes an active participant in reshaping the systems that will determine Asia's climate future.

AUGUST 26 / IMPACT SNAPSHOT

$1.4B preliminary losses	**748 MW** hydropower affected
41+ bridges destroyed	**40 km** trade corridor damaged

The scale of loss makes proactive climate finance and resilient infrastructure essential.

Building Multipolar Climate Diplomacy

The traditional geography of Himalayan hydropolitics organised around simple upstream-downstream hierarchies has been fundamentally disrupted. The August 26 disaster originated in Nepal, struck Chinese infrastructure within minutes, and continued downstream through Nepal itself. Both nations faced exposure to the same connected system of risk, offering a preview of the multipolar climate politics that Asia will increasingly confront.

Climate risk transcends diplomatic categories. A nation can be upstream in one event and downstream in another. Infrastructure on one border can be damaged by environmental processes originating from the other side. This reality creates openings for reciprocal diplomacy based on shared vulnerability rather than hierarchical power relations.

The response already offers a model. Chinese authorities transmitted quantified warnings to Nepal about a newly formed barrier lake, including information on inflow, breach probability, and timing. Nepal subsequently moved toward institutionalising real-time data-sharing with China and adopted joint monitoring proposals. This precedent should be formalised into a standing transboundary emergency-notification mechanism focused narrowly on disaster warning while remaining separate from more contentious water-allocation questions.

Nepal should cultivate strategic partnerships based on comparative advantage rather than dependency. Working with China, where Chinese capabilities matter; with India on downstream river systems and regional

energy; with Japan and South Korea on resilient infrastructure; and with Western partners on science and finance creates a diversified network that prevents reliance on any single power while maximising access to specialised expertise.

Kathmandu as Asian Climate Hub

Nepal cannot compete with India, China, or other Asian powers on an economic or military scale. It can compete on ideas. Kathmandu already hosts the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), providing an institutional anchor for a more operational Asian architecture addressing mountain climate security. Rather than creating another bureaucratic apparatus, Nepal could leverage ICIMOD as the foundation for a flexible, opt-in platform focused on shared mountain risks.

Such a platform would emphasise practical priorities: shared cryospheric data, common emergency-notification procedures, coordinated early-warning systems, and climate-resilience financing. Rather than establishing a supranational authority, it would serve as a platform that governments use when their interests align. This approach proves particularly valuable in multipolar contexts where cooperation succeeds precisely because it does not demand political alignment.

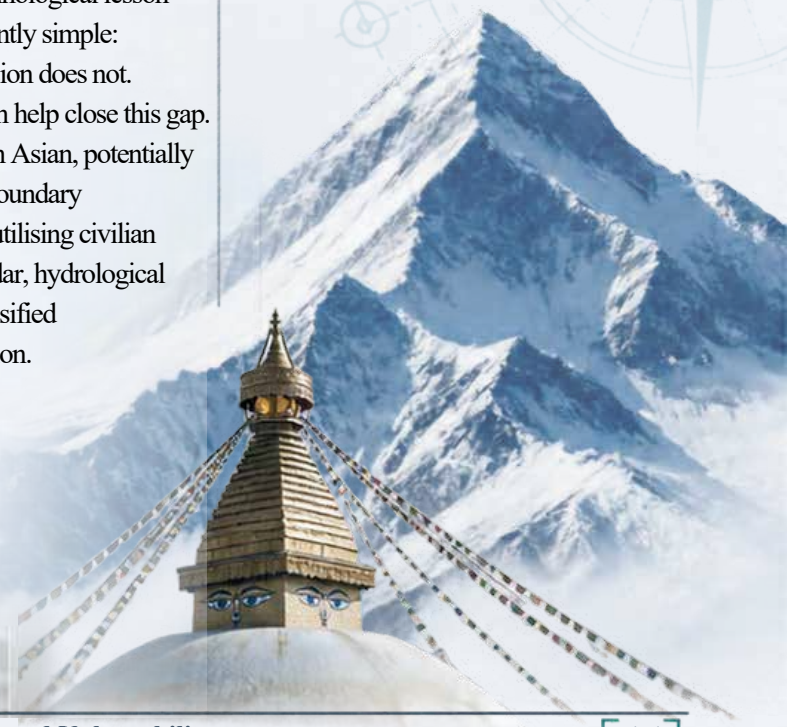
Through this institutional innovation, Nepal would occupy a unique position in Asian affairs. Rather than requesting an external study of its mountains, Nepal would become the country that helps Asia govern itself. This represents a fundamental reversal in how Nepal engages the international system.

Technological Transformation Through AI

The most important technological lesson from August 26 is elegantly simple: detection exists; conversion does not. Artificial intelligence can help close this gap. Nepal should propose an Asian, potentially global, AI-driven transboundary early-warning network utilising civilian seismic data, satellite radar, hydrological observations, and unclassified environmental information.

Machine-learning systems can distinguish mass-flow events from earthquakes, identify dangerous slope deformation, and generate automated warnings. The Langtang Valley analysis recommends denser seismic monitoring, more resilient measuring stations, and continuous satellite surveillance of unstable slopes, all linked to automated alerting and protective action. The goal should be measured in minutes, not hours.

Unrestricted cross-border data-sharing raises legitimate security concerns in the geopolitically sensitive Himalaya. The answer lies not in abandoning cooperation but in careful design. A firewalled civilian architecture could limit cooperation to agreed environmental data while keeping military and intelligence systems separate. The purpose would be disaster warning, not surveillance.



This approach positions AI differently within Asian geopolitics. While global discourse emphasises chips, commercial models, and military competition, Nepal would present an alternative proposition: AI as shared public infrastructure for saving lives. Climate sovereignty increasingly becomes data sovereignty, making this technological approach strategically significant.

Conclusion: A New Vision for Nepal's Role

Prime Minister Balen Shah of Nepal could present five concrete proposals at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2026. First, Nepal should link climate justice to the climate agency, demanding greater access to finance and technology alongside stronger voices in defining risks and designing adaptation measures. Second, Shah should argue that Himalayan climate security constitutes both Asian security and a critical factor shaping Asian futures. Third, Nepal should propose a Himalayan transboundary emergency-notification framework beginning with China. Fourth, an Asian mountain-climate architecture anchored in Kathmandu should operate through institutions like ICIMOD. Fifth, an AI-driven civilian early-warning network should be constructed around unclassified data.

Yet the true test extends beyond any UN address. Climate leadership will be judged by what Kathmandu builds after cameras depart: whether seismic detection connects to automatic warnings, hydrometric systems survive hazards they measure, emergency notification with China becomes institutionalised, ICIMOD strengthens Asian mountain architecture, data governance becomes part of climate sovereignty, and reconstruction produces safer infrastructure rather than reproducing vulnerabilities.

Nepal's ultimate task is not to explain why the Himalaya remains vulnerable, but to demonstrate how a vulnerable state exercises strategic agency in a warming, technologized, multipolar world. This represents the climate leadership Nepal should offer the international community—not as a supplicant requesting assistance, but as a nation reshaping the frameworks through which Asia will govern itself. Through this transformation, disaster becomes opportunity, and vulnerability becomes the foundation for unprecedented strategic influence.

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ALGERIAN NATIONAL EMIGRATION DAY

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCTOBER 17, 1961 PARIS MASSACRE

COMMEMORATED IN DHAKA



DHAKA · COMMEMORATION





CEREMONY · DHAKA



ALGERIAN PROTESTERS ARRESTED IN PUTEAUX, WEST OF PARIS, WAIT TO BE QUESTIONED BY POLICE.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPH.

SOURCE: RFI.



A COMMEMORATIVE PLATE DEDICATED TO THE VICTIMS OF THE MASSACRE WAS UNVEILED IN 2019 ON THE BANKS OF THE SEINE.

CONTEMPORARY MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPH.

SOURCE: AFP.

THE CEREMONY

The Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Dhaka solemnly commemorated the 65th anniversary of the October 17, 1961 Paris Massacre, observed as National Emigration Day under the official slogan ‘From Deep Memory to Future Horizons.’

The ceremony opened with the national anthems of Algeria and Bangladesh, followed by a minute of silence to honor Algeria’s martyrs. A Holy Quran recitation and prayers imparted spiritual solemnity.

REMEMBERING 17 OCTOBER 1961

Ambassador H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani recalled the sacrifices of the Algerian diaspora during the peaceful Paris demonstration against the colonial curfew, where demonstrators were repressed and victims were associated with the River Seine.

ALGERIA AND BANGLADESH

The tragedy prompted international solidarity and contributed to the wider movement toward Algerian independence on 5 July 1962. Ambassador Saidani highlighted the enduring fraternal solidarity uniting Algeria and Bangladesh through their historic struggles for freedom, dignity, and justice.

FROM DEEP MEMORY TO FUTURE HORIZONS



ECONOMIC STATECRAFT, GLOBAL MIGRATION & HUMAN CAPITAL

Workforce Diplomacy:

Why Bangladesh Must Align Human Capital With Global Labour Demand

Major General (Retd.) Md. Nazrul Islam

Bangladesh's migration success is often measured in remittances. In fiscal year 2025–26, remittance inflows reached US$35.59 billion, reinforcing the sector's importance to the national economy and to millions of households that depend on overseas earnings. Yet this impressive figure raises a more fundamental question: Is Bangladesh prepared for a global labour market that increasingly rewards skills, certification, productivity and adaptability rather than simply the availability of workers? The answer will shape the country's next phase of economic development. Across Asia, Europe and the Gulf, labour markets are undergoing profound transformation. Ageing populations, declining birth rates, technological change and shifting economic priorities are creating workforce shortages in all sectors.

From healthcare, logistics to construction, manufacturing and technical services, many economies are struggling to meet labour demand through domestic resources alone.

For Bangladesh, these developments present both an opportunity and a challenge. The country has established itself as one of the world's leading sources of migrant labour. However, the future of labour mobility will not be determined solely by the number of workers available. Increasingly, destination countries are looking for workers who possess verified skills, recognised qualifications, language proficiency and the ability to integrate into modern workplaces. In that environment,

Bangladesh must move beyond a traditional labour-export model towards a more strategic workforce-development approach. Success should be measured not simply by the number of people who migrate, but by the quality of jobs they obtain, the wages they earn, the protection they receive and the long-term value they contribute to both destination and home economies. This shift can be understood through the concept of workforce diplomacy: the deliberate alignment of national human-capital development with the evolving labour requirements of international partners.

Labour Mobility as an Instrument of Economic Statecraft

Historically, labour diplomacy has focused on securing access to overseas employment opportunities through bilateral agreements and recruitment arrangements. Countries facing demographic pressures and labour shortages are increasingly designing immigration and employment policies to attract workers with specific skills. Japan's skilled-worker pathways, Europe's concern about workforce deficits and economic diversification programmes across the Gulf all reflect a common reality: labour is becoming a strategic resource. For Bangladesh, this creates an opportunity to integrate workforce planning more closely with foreign policy. The central question for policymakers should no longer be, "How many workers can we send abroad?" Instead, it should be, "What skills will international labour markets require over the coming decade and how can Bangladesh develop a workforce capable of meeting those needs?"

Answering that question requires stronger coordination among diplomatic missions, labour authorities, employers and training institutions. Bangladesh's missions abroad can play an important role in identifying emerging labour-market trends, occupational shortages, certification requirements, wage structures and employer expectations. Such information can help ensure that workforce preparation at home is informed by actual demand rather than assumptions.



Skilled workers in Welding Training



Green Energy (Solar) Installations and maintanance Training



Arannya Abakash Bakery training



Shortage Carpentry training



Workforce coordination



Japanese Language Course

Bangladesh's diplomatic missions could make this process more systematic by developing a regular labour-market intelligence mechanism. Labour wings and commercial sections could periodically identify occupations facing shortages, expected recruitment volumes, qualification and licensing requirements, wage ranges and changes in immigration policy in their host countries. This information should flow through a central national platform to relevant ministries, training institutions and recruiting agencies. Training priorities could then be adjusted before workers enter programmes rather than after opportunities emerge.

> Embassies could also engage employers, industry associations and certification bodies to explore country-specific training and recruitment partnerships. Such a system would turn overseas missions into active contributors to workforce planning, connecting diplomacy abroad with skills development at home. In this sense, diplomacy becomes more than a channel for facilitating migration. It becomes a means of gathering labour-market intelligence, building partnerships and positioning Bangladesh's workforce within an increasingly competitive global environment.

Matching Skills With Demand

One persistent weakness in migration systems is the gap between domestic training programmes and overseas employment requirements. Workers may complete courses that do not correspond sufficiently with the competencies employers seek, resulting in lost opportunities and underutilised skills. A more effective approach begins with labour-market demand. Employers, industry associations and regulatory bodies in destination countries can help identify workforce requirements, occupational standards, language expectations and employment conditions. Training institutions can then design programmes that prepare candidates for specific opportunities and recognised qualifications.

The sequence is straightforward: identify demand, develop skills, certify competencies and facilitate placement. This approach reduces uncertainty for both workers and employers. It can also improve wage outcomes by ensuring that training investments correspond more closely with labour-market requirements. Several countries offer useful examples. Japan's Specified Skilled Worker framework links employment opportunities to defined occupational and language requirements. Gulf economies are also seeking workers with demonstrable technical competencies as their economies diversify. Opportunities are similarly emerging in selected European labour markets where demographic pressures and skills shortages are becoming more pronounced. For Bangladesh, aligning workforce development with verified international demand could represent a significant competitive advantage.

Building a National Workforce Ecosystem

Workforce diplomacy cannot succeed through any single institution acting alone. It requires coordination across a broad network of public and private actors. Government ministries, technical training providers, recruiting agencies, financial institutions, employers and diplomatic missions all influence migrant outcomes. Yet these stakeholders often operate through fragmented systems that leave workers navigating complex processes on their own. A more integrated approach would connect every stage of the migration journey, from candidate identification and skills development to certification, recruitment, overseas placement and welfare support.







Bangladesh already possesses many of the institutional foundations needed to support such a framework. The challenge lies less in creating new organisations than in improving coordination among existing ones and establishing clear accountability across the migration cycle. International experience offers useful lessons. The Philippines, for example, has institutional mechanisms connecting skills development and certification with migrant-worker governance and welfare. India and Sri Lanka have also developed systems aimed at preparing workers for international employment and supporting labour migration. These models differ in structure, but they demonstrate the value of connecting workforce development with migration governance.

A Platform for Innovation

Within Bangladesh, several institutions possess the reach and organisational capacity to contribute to a workforce-diplomacy agenda. One example is the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (Ansar-VDP), whose extensive presence across the country and experience in vocational training could make it a useful platform for carefully designed pilot initiatives. The significance of such institutions lies not merely in their size but in their ability to reach communities that often remain outside formal employment networks. By linking local talent with market-driven training, recognised certification pathways and transparent recruitment systems, community-based organisations can help expand access to opportunities.

However, any pilot initiative should be evaluated on outcomes rather than participation figures. The relevant measures are not simply the number of trainees enrolled but the number of workers who secure verified employment, achieve higher earnings, face lower migration costs and receive effective protection abroad. A carefully designed pilot involving selected occupations and destination countries could generate evidence, identify operational challenges and provide valuable lessons for policymakers before broader implementation.



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ECONOMIC STATECRAFT, GLOBAL MIGRATION & HUMAN CAPITAL

Putting Workers at the Centre

Ultimately, workforce diplomacy should be judged not only by economic returns but also by its impact on workers themselves. Despite the economic benefits of migration, many workers continue to face challenges ranging from excessive recruitment costs and unclear contracts to inadequate access to support services overseas. Skills alone cannot solve these problems. A sustainable migration strategy requires transparency in recruitment processes, clear contractual arrangements, affordable financing options and effective grievance mechanisms. Workers should have access to accurate information before departure and reliable support when difficulties arise abroad.

Equally important is the period after workers return home. Returning migrants often bring valuable technical skills, savings, professional discipline and international exposure. Policies that support entrepreneurship, investment and skills transfer can help maximise the developmental impact of migration while creating new opportunities within Bangladesh itself. Migration should therefore be viewed not as a single event but as a continuous process encompassing preparation, employment, protection, return and reintegration.

Beyond Remittances

Bangladesh has already demonstrated its ability to participate successfully in global labour markets. The next challenge is to improve the quality and value of that participation. The growing international competition for skilled workers offers Bangladesh an opportunity to rethink migration policy through a strategic lens. Workforce diplomacy provides such a framework by connecting human-capital development, foreign policy, labour-market intelligence and worker protection within a common national agenda. The objective is not simply to send more workers abroad. It is to ensure that Bangladeshi workers are better prepared, internationally competitive, appropriately certified, fairly compensated and adequately protected.

If Bangladesh can align its workforce development efforts with the evolving demands of the global economy, labour mobility could become more than a source of remittances. It could emerge as an instrument of economic diplomacy, strengthening the country's competitiveness while expanding opportunities for its citizens in an increasingly skills-driven world.



Major General (Retd.) Md. Nazrul Islam
Columnist and an Author & former Executive Chairman of BEPZA and former Executive Member (Planning and Development) at BEZA

Four Envoys Tour Ansar-VDP Academy as Bangladesh Unveils Global Skills Horizon

Heads of mission from Maldives, Morocco, Kosovo, and Singapore inspect high-tech vocational facilities, green energy labs, and ILO-aligned ethical migration pipelines.

On Monday, October 26, 2026, an esteemed diplomatic delegation representing Singapore, Morocco, Kosovo, and the Maldives undertook an official inspection of the **Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Academy at Shafipur, Gazipur. Hosted by Director General Major General Abdul Motaleb Sazzad Mahmud, the envoys** reviewed the 6-million-member force's institutional modernization, featuring 50% female representation, centralized ERP infrastructure, and biometric **databases** that ensure ILO-compliant **ethical migration pipelines for global workforce deployment.**

- **6-MILLION-MEMBER FORCE**
- **50% FEMALE REPRESENTATION**
- **CENTRALIZED ERP INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **BIOMETRIC DATABASES FOR ILO-COMPLIANT PIPELINES**





Delegation at the entrance of Ansar's upcoming resort project, 'Aranya Abakash'



Delegates inspect masonry training during



Delegates inspect welding training facilities



Delegates appreciate handmade local handicrafts during an official Ansar inspection visit."



Industrial Garments Manufacturing Training floor



Traditional Pottery & Cottage Handicrafts Exhibition

Generation Gap, Generation Shock: Understanding Gen-Z in a Multigenerational Society

A discussion article on youth politics, leadership by influence and the geopolitical question

Dr. Hasan Mahmood



A new political actor

In just over two years, South Asia has seen young people, many of them still students, shake governments that looked secure. In Bangladesh in 2024, a protest over job quotas grew into a movement that ended Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule. In Nepal in September 2025, anger over a social media ban and elite privilege brought down the Oli government within days.

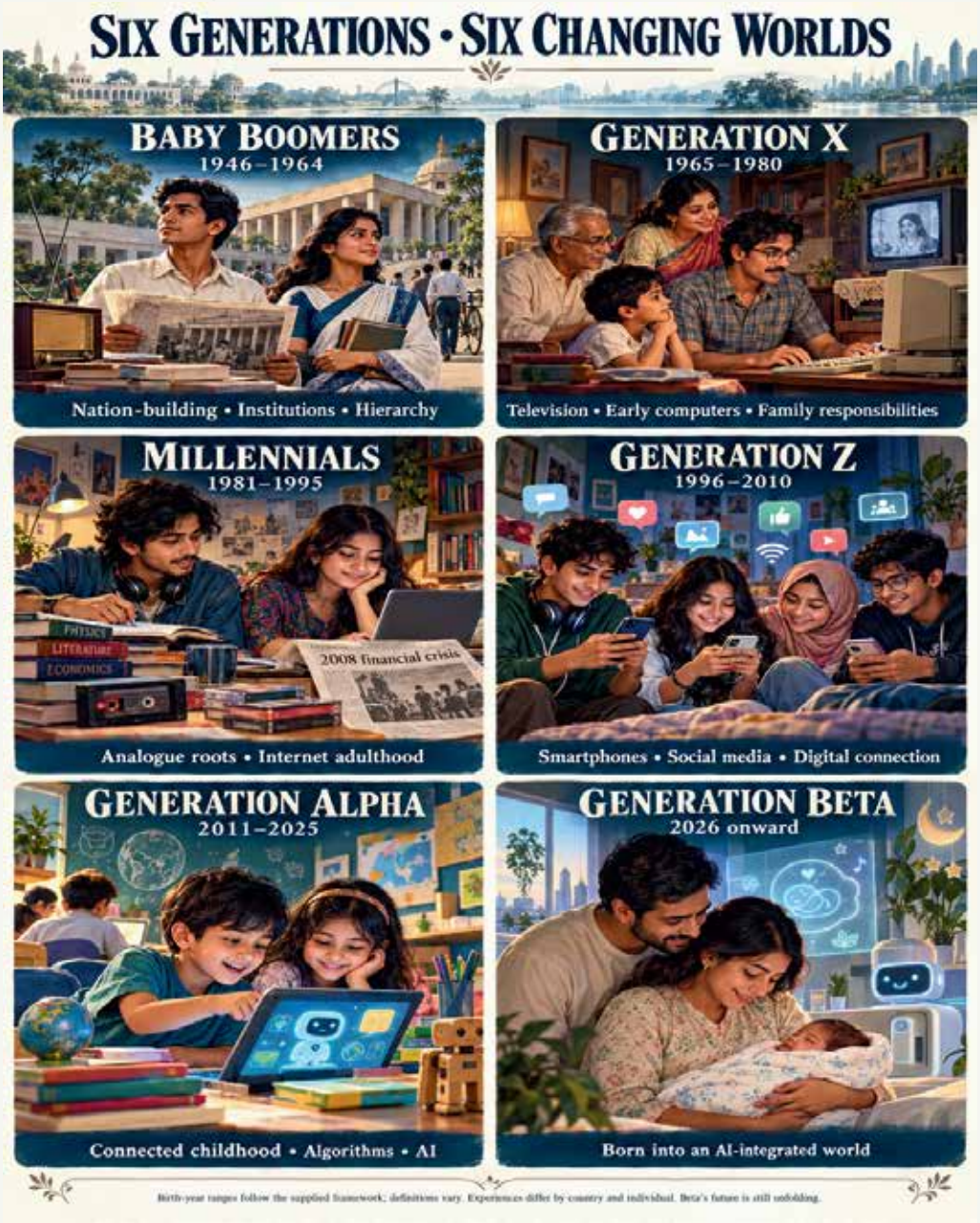
Gen-Z-style mobilization has since been discussed in other countries, including India, where youth anger over jobs, exam leaks and local grievances such as the Ladakh protests has drawn the "Gen-Z" label. India's institutions, party structures, and electoral system are far more resilient than those of its neighbors', so comparisons should be treated with caution and the latest developments checked before drawing conclusions.

> The question is no longer whether Gen-Z matters politically. It is who they are, what they want, and whether anyone else is steering them.

Six generations, one society

Today's societies hold several generations at once, each shaped by a different world:

- Baby Boomers (born roughly 1946-1964): grew up with nation-building, independence or liberation narratives, and trust in institutions and hierarchy.
- Generation X (1965-1980): lived through economic liberalisation and the arrival of television and early computers. Pragmatic and often sandwiched between caring for parents and children.
- Millennials (1981-1995): the first to go online in large numbers, hit by the 2008 crisis, and comfortable with both analogue and digital life.
- Generation Z (1996-2010): born into smartphones and social media, with no memory of a world without them.
- Generation Alpha (2011-2025): growing up with AI and algorithmic feeds as normal.
- Generation Beta (2026-onward): Born with AI



Each generation reads the same event differently. An older Bangladeshi may see the 1971 Liberation War as the foundation of political legitimacy. A 20-year-old sees a ruling class that has held power for decades while graduates cannot find work. Neither is irrational. They are looking through different windows.

Leadership is earned through contribution, connection and action.

Gen-Z Characteristics: Communication, Values, Relationships, and Leadership



Generational traits are tendencies, not rules. Class, country, and education shape individuals as much as birth year does. With that caveat, here is how the patterns play out, tied to the Bangladesh and Nepal examples.

Communication

Gen-Z communicates in a visual, fast, and layered way. Memes, short videos, stickers, and screenshots often carry meaning that a paragraph would take longer to say. Humour is a main language, including irony and dark humour, which is how young Nepalis and Bangladeshis turned political anger into shareable content. Group chats and platforms like Discord and Instagram replace the meeting room. Many also prefer text to phone calls and expect quick replies, which older generations can read as cold or rude. In the other direction, older people's long, formal speeches can read to Gen-Z as evasive. This style also makes mobilisation fast. A single post can move thousands within hours, but it also spreads rumours and misinformation at the same speed.

Values

- Authenticity over polish. They distrust staged, scripted language and respect people who admit flaws.
- Fairness and anti-corruption. The "nepo kids" balklash in Nepal and the quota protest in Bangladesh were about perceived unearned privilege.
- Mental health and wellbeing. They speak openly about stress, burnout, and anxiety, topics older generations often kept private.
- Inclusion and identity. Many care strongly about equality, though views vary widely by country and community.
- Pragmatism about money. Having seen crises and a tight job market, many value stability and side income while also wanting meaningful work.

Their values tend to attach to specific issues rather than party ideologies, which is why they can unite quickly around one grievance and fragment afterward.

Friends and family

Friendship for Gen-Z is often built online first. Friends may be spread across countries, linked by shared interests rather than neighbourhood. Online communities can give real support, especially to those who feel out of place at home. The downsides are comparison, social pressure, and loneliness despite constant connection.

Within families, many Gen-Z people in South Asia live with parents longer, partly for economic reasons, which keeps ties close but can create tension. Older generations expect deference and traditional career paths such as medicine, engineering, or a government job. Gen-Z tends to question those expectations and wants more say in choices about education, marriage, and work. In the protests, many parents feared for their children while others joined them, which shows the gap is not always a rift. Family can be both a support and the source of pressure.



Leadership styles

This is where the influencer discussion fits. Gen-Z leadership tends to be:

1. Horizontal & Collaborative Contribution over titles, shared input and collective decisions.
2. Communicator-Led Clear communication, open dialogue and active engagement.
3. Transparent & Responsive Timely updates, accountability and continuous feedback.
4. Cause-Driven Shared purpose, common values and collective action.

Weaknesses follow from these strengths. Leaderless movements struggle to negotiate, since no one can speak for everyone. Influence-based authority is fragile, because followers can turn quickly.



Slow, boring institutional work such as drafting policy, building coalitions, and managing budgets gets less attention than it needs. This is the gap between toppling a government and governing, and it is also where outside actors can step in most easily.

The multigenerational picture

The best outcomes come from combining strengths. Older generations bring institutional knowledge, patience, and negotiating experience. Gen-Z brings digital fluency, energy, and a refusal to accept "that's how it's always been." Mutual mentoring, where seniors teach process and youth teach platforms, works better than either side dismissing the other.



Why Gen-Z is different, and why it has so many names

Gen-Z is also called Zoomers, iGen, Digital Natives, and in some places the "post-Millennial" generation.The many names reflect how hard it is to pin down. What sets them apart:

1. **Digital-first identity.**
   Their social world, news, humour, and activism live on platforms like TikTok, Discord, Instagram, and X.
2. **Low institutional trust.**
   They have watched corruption exposed in real time and have little patience for explanations that take years.
3. **Speed and decentralisation.**
   Movements form through memes, hashtags, and group chats, not party offices and membership cards.
4. **Values over ideology.**
   They are less loyal to left-right labels and more driven by concrete issues: jobs, dignity, corruption, free expression.

5. **Economic anxiety.**
   Youth unemployment, rising costs, and visible elite privilege (the "nepo kids" theme in Nepal) fuel a sense that the system is rigged.

The influencer-as-leader phenomenon

Older generations tend to choose leaders through party ladders, seniority, family name, or a record of struggle. Gen-Z often values authenticity, relatability, and communication skill: someone who speaks plainly, appears accessible, and doesn't look like part of the old establishment.

This shows up repeatedly:

- In Nepal, young activists reportedly used Discord to debate and informally vote on who should lead an interim government, a striking mix of gaming-community culture and constitutional crisis.
- Figures who rose through social media, music, or viral public service have gained political appeal across the region.
- In Bangladesh, student coordinators became national faces through the movement itself, not through party careers.

Strengths: It can break stale dynastic politics, bring fresh voices in, and make politics more transparent.

Risks: Popularity is not governing competence. Influence is built on attention, and attention is volatile. Algorithms reward outrage and simplicity, and leaders who depend on virality may find compromise, the daily work of democracy, hard to do. A leader who is "followed" is not the same as one who is accountable.

Is Gen-Z being used as a geopolitical weapon?

This is the most sensitive question, and it needs careful treatment.

The case for suspicion.
Critics point out that great powers have a long history of exploiting domestic unrest, from the "colour revolutions" onward. Digital platforms are open to influence operations, funding networks, and coordinated amplification. South Asia is strategically contested between China, India, the US, and others, and regime change in a neighbouring country can shift the balance. Some leaders who fell, including Hasina, have themselves alleged foreign involvement.



The case against.

The triggers were overwhelmingly domestic and verifiable: a quota system in Bangladesh, a social media ban and a culture of elite impunity in Nepal. Governments facing mass protests often blame foreign hands, because it is easier than admitting their own failures. Public evidence of a coordinated external hand that created these movements is thin, and claims that rely on it should be treated as unproven. Reducing millions of young people to puppets also disrespects their genuine grievances.

A more realistic reading.

Gen-Z movements are probably authentically driven but opportunistically exploitable. Grievances are real and homegrown, but once a movement is leaderless, fast, and online, outside actors, whether states, parties, or interest groups, can try to amplify, redirect, or capture it. The real danger is not that Gen-Z is a weapon, but that its structure leaves it vulnerable to being used.

Conclusion

Gen-Z is not a new species, but it is the first generation whose political instincts were shaped entirely by networked technology. Its arrival has exposed a gap between how institutions work and how the young expect them to work. Whether this energy becomes lasting democratic renewal or just a cycle of upheaval depends on all generations, not only the youngest. The task for a multigenerational society is to bridge that gap before the next crisis forces it open.

What societies should do

Governments

should treat youth unemployment, corruption, and digital rights as urgent policy, not security threats. Heavy-handed responses, as seen in both Bangladesh and Nepal, escalated crises sharply.

Gen-Z

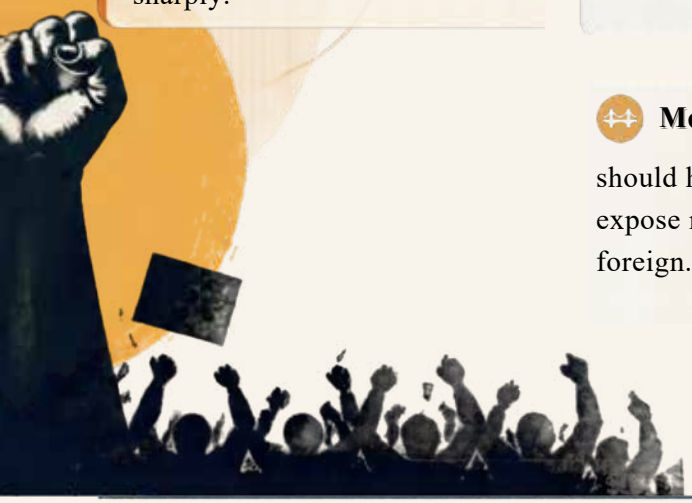
needs to move from protest to institution-building: parties, policy platforms, and accountable leadership. Toppling a government is easier than running one, and several post-revolution transitions show how fragile the aftermath can be.

Older generations

should listen before lecturing. Dismissing the young as "screen-addicted" ignores the very real economic squeeze they face.

Media and civil society

should help verify information and expose manipulation, domestic or foreign.



Dr. Hasan Mahmood
Lead, Learning & Development
Beximco Pharmaceuticals PLC

OCTOBER 24 • INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCE

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Commemorating the ratification of the United Nations Charter on October 24, 1945, UN Day celebrates the international consensus to prevent conflict, advance universal human rights, and build shared prosperity.

In an era of complex geopolitical transitions, the United Nations remains the indispensable summit for global dialogue, climate stewardship, and collective multilateral governance.

1945 — UN Charter Enters into Force	**193** — Sovereign Member States	**70+** — Peacekeeping Missions Worldwide	**17** — Sustainable Development Goals



SOVEREIGN REALISM & PAN-AFRICAN GEOPOLITICS

The Architecture of Lucidity: Strategic Maturity and Sovereign Realism in Morocco's Royal Diplomacy

Nazinur Rahim

In an international environment increasingly marked by systemic volatility, fragmented multilateralism, and heightened geopolitical friction across the Mediterranean basin, the recent Royal Address delivered by His Majesty King Mohammed VI stands out as an exercise in consummate statecraft. Far from reacting defensively to circumstantial turbulence, the discourse articulates a coherent doctrine of sovereign realism, rigorous mutual accountability, and transformative co-development. It marks neither an inflection point of grievance nor an expression of vulnerability. Instead, it represents a decisive benchmark of political and diplomatic maturity one in which Morocco positions itself not merely as a regional interlocutor, but as a proactive strategic anchor bridging Africa and Europe.

Beyond Rhetoric: The Courage of Internal and External Lucidity

The hallmark of mature statecraft is the capacity to scrutinize internal development with the same unyielding clarity applied to external alliances. The Royal Speech is, first and foremost, a testament to strategic lucidity. It methodically acknowledges the remarkable milestones achieved across the Kingdom over the past two decades ranging from world-class infrastructure undertakings and accelerated industrialization to pioneering energy transitions and proactive continental integration. Yet, unlike conventional political pronouncements, the address explicitly disdains complacency.

The Royal analysis frankly identifies the structural limitations of existing economic paradigms and systemic delivery mechanisms. It underscores that quantitative macroeconomic expansion must translate into equitable social dividends, institutional agility, and shared human dignity. This internal self-evaluation is fundamentally intertwined with Morocco's foreign posture. A state capable of conducting rigorous, transparent self-appraisal possesses the domestic legitimacy and moral authority required to demand equivalent transparency and seriousness from its international partners.

By dispassionately auditing national capacity and setting clear priorities, the Kingdom demonstrates that its external engagements are anchored not in aspirational rhetoric, but in pragmatic domestic resilience.

SOVEREIGN REALISM & PAN-AFRICAN GEOPOLITICS



The Paradigm of Reciprocity: A Dependable Ally with Uncompromising Standards

For decades, the Kingdom of Morocco has served as an indispensable pillar of regional security, maritime surveillance, counterterrorism coordination, and managed human mobility across the Atlantic and Mediterranean corridors. These contributions have not been mere tactical gestures; they reflect the actions of an honorable state that consistently respects international commitments and bilateral compacts.

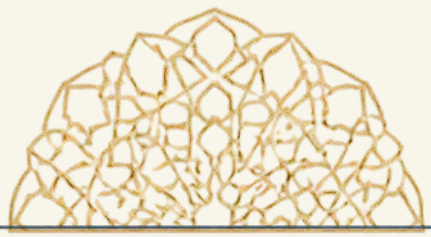
However, the Royal Speech draws an unambiguous red line: predictability cannot be conflated with passivity, nor loyalty with subordination.

Morocco operates on the bedrock principle of strict diplomatic reciprocity. A genuine partnership requires a shared burden of risks and an equal measure of respect.

When commitments are honored with uncompromising discipline on one side, equivalent fidelity is expected in return. The era wherein South-Mediterranean partners were treated as peripheral guardians of European periphery interests without voice, agency, or reciprocal strategic guarantees is definitively obsolete.

The Doctrine of Strategic Maturity

Principle	Strategic expression
1. Internal Lucidity	Objective Self-Assessment
2. Strict Reciprocity	Symmetry in Commitments
3. Constructive Action	Proposals Over Polemics
4. Structural Equality	Redefining North-South Ties
5. Sovereign Autonomy	Immunity to Coercion



Morocco's message to international partners is clear: The Kingdom is a dependable ally, but dependability demands parity, equity, and mutual loyalty.

Transcending Impasse: Proposing Where Others Merely Protest

International diplomacy is routinely dominated by posturing, diplomatic recriminations, and public polemics. When faced with geopolitical roadblocks, institutional inertia, or legal ambiguities, many emerging nations retreat into either defensive silence or rhetorical outrage.

The Royal Address fundamentally rejects this sterile dynamic. When confronted with obstacles, Morocco does not waste its capital on futile polemics. Instead, the Kingdom steps forward with concrete, bankable, and forward-looking solutions.



SOVEREIGN REALISM & PAN-AFRICAN GEOPOLITICS

Whether proposing comprehensive regional security frameworks, pioneering Atlantic-African access initiatives for landlocked Sahelian nations, or engineering integrated renewable energy grids linking African potential to European industrial demand, Morocco translates diplomatic frictions into developmental roadmaps. Where other actors identify insurmountable constraints, Rabat conceives strategic architectures. This capacity to substitute sterile debate with operational proposals highlights a foreign policy apparatus that is comfortable in its sovereign prerogatives and committed to long-term systemic stability.



Inverting the North-South Dynamic: Redefining Euro-African Synergy

Historically, Mediterranean cooperation has been constrained by asymmetric North–South formulas, often characterized by conditional aid packages, donor-recipient patronization, and unidirectional policy transfers. The vision articulated in the Royal Address actively upends this paternalistic framework.

By approaching Europe with fully formulated, peer-to-peer initiatives, Morocco inverts the traditional trajectory of strategic engagement:



- **From Aid to Co-Investment:** Transitioning from passive financial aid mechanisms toward co-funded, high-yeild infrastructure and green hydrogen supply networks.

- **From Buffer Zone to Gestrategic Bridge:** Repositioning the Kingdom from a peripheral frontier to an indispensable nexus linking Europe, West Africa, and the broader Atlantic space.

- **From Rhetorical Solidarity to Tangible Value Creation:** Moving past empty diplomatic communiqués to establish concrete joint ventures in green tech, aerospace, and food security.

Through this structural recalibration, Morocco presents Europe with an indispensable partner capable of addressing European existential dilemmas such as supply-chain de-risking, clean energy transitions, and border stability not as a dependent petitioner, but as an indispensable continental equal.



Madrid and Rabat: A Sovereign Choice Beyond Extraneous Coercion

Among the most salient geopolitical dimensions addressed is the strategic relationship between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Kingdom of Spain. Bound by geography, centuries of shared history, and deeply intertwined economic interests, the bilateral nexus between Rabat and Madrid forms the linchpin of Western Mediterranean equilibrium.

The Royal Address underscores a core geopolitical axiom: the partnership with Spain is a deliberate, sovereign choice. It is constructed upon high-level strategic alignment, mutual economic interdependence, and reciprocal recognition of territorial integrity and vital national interests.

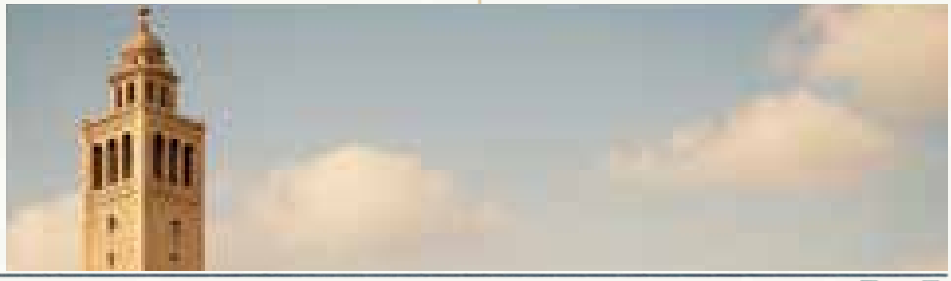
Precisely because it is a sovereign choice, it can neither be dictated nor held hostage by circumstantial pressures, ideological shifts, or external third-party blackmail. Bilateral relations between mature sovereign states cannot bend to opportunistic political currents.

Morocco makes clear that while it remains fully invested in deep, generational cooperation with Spain, that engagement rests upon mutual respect, good faith, and an absolute rejection of coercive diplomacy. In safeguarding this partnership from external destabilization, the Kingdom simultaneously preserves its own sovereign agency and anchors Western Mediterranean security.

Charting the Next Chapter: The Arc of Political Maturity

The contemporary world is undergoing a profound structural realignment. In this emerging polycentric order, nations that thrive are those that articulate a defined sense of purpose, demonstrate internal coherence, and build alliances based on candid realism rather than sentimental illusions.

The Royal Speech does not emanate from a position of crisis; it reflects a posture of profound political and diplomatic maturity. It represents a state that knows its worth, understands its geopolitical geography, and is conscious of its historic agency.



SOVEREIGN REALISM & PAN-AFRICAN GEOPOLITICS

By substituting grievances with tangible initiatives, rejecting clientelist dynamics in favor of authentic reciprocity, and reinforcing strategic alliances against extraneous blackmail, Morocco establishes an unmistakable standard for South-Mediterranean diplomacy.

SOVEREIGN WILL

INTERNAL RESILIENCE

- Continuous self-scrutiny
- Modern industrial model
- Inclusive human progress

EXTERNAL SYMMETRY

- Unconditional reciprocity
- Solution-driven statecraft
- Independent partnerships



(This speech inaugurates a decisive chapter in the Kingdom's modern history: that of a confident, stabilizing, and forward-looking nation that neither begs for validation nor shies away from complex realities. It charts a definitive path toward regional stability, institutional self-determination, and shared prosperity proving that the highest form of sovereignty is the courage to speak with lucidity and act with strategic purpose.)

Nazinur Rahim
Executive Editor



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Environmental Pollution:
Its Impact on Soil, Water & Food Security and Remedial Measures

Professor Dr. G.K.M. Mustafaizur Rahman



Gazipur is one of the rapidly industrializing regions of Bangladesh. The rapid expansion of unplanned industries coupled with inadequate waste management, has led to increasing environmental pollution in Gazipur and other parts of the country. This pollution is having a severe impact, particularly on soil, water the overall environment, and food security. This report presents key findings from research conducted by the Department of Soil Science, Gazipur Agricultural University through reviewing the origin, nature, and extent of environmental pollution in the Gazipur region. Furthermore, the study explores the impacts of this pollution on agricultural production, public health, and the environment, while proposing research-based control measures and strategies for sustainable environmental management.

The environment is a fundamental basis of human life. Without a healthy environment, it is impossible to ensure human health, agricultural production, and food security. Rapid industrialization and urbanization in Bangladesh coupled with inadequate planning in many areas, have made environmental pollution a serious concern.Gazipur region is particularly at in danger. Against this backdrop, a team of soil and environmental experts-led by Dr. GKM Mustafizur Rahman, a professor in the Department of Soil Science at Gazipur Agricultural University- is conducting ongoing research into the sources, nature, and extent of environmental pollution in the region, its impact on agricultural production, public health, and the environment, as well as potential remedial measures. Gazipur Agricultural University, known as the `Centre of Excellence' in higher agricultural education is a research-based university with international standards. In 1979, with the aim of developing skilled agricultural professionals as part of the vision of the "Green Revolution" of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, the institution "Bangladesh College of Agricultural Sciences" was established as a "Center of Excellence in Agriculture." Following this visionary initiative and with support from JICA, USAID and the Government of Bangladesh, the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) was subsequently established, opening new horizons for internationally standard higher education and research in agriculture. With the objective of transforming IPSA into an autonomous institution, the then Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, approved the IPSA Act in the National Parliament in 1994. In 1995, attending the institution's first convocation in her capacity as Chancellor, she expressed a firm commitment to ensuring its continued progress. Subsequently, through an institutional transformation, the entity was elevated to the status of a university and on February 12, 2025, it was designated as "Gazipur Agricultural University" via a Presidential Ordinance.

To realize the visionary plans that the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had for this institution, and to continue the progress initiated under the leadership of the late Begum Khaleda Zia, Gazipur Agricultural University is moving forward under the guidance of a new administration that took charge after July 2024. The driving forces behind this advancement are the nationalist ideology, the core mottos-"We shall work, we shall build the nation" and "Bangladesh First"-as well as the 31-point state reform proposal announced by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Through the dedicated efforts of the university community, initiatives have been launched to bring about significant transformations in the wings of education, research and outreach activities. Since its inception, the university has received various highly competitive and prestigious national and international awards in recognition of its excellence in higher education and research-notably the Islamic Development Bank Award (2011), the Prime Minister's National Award (2014), Spain-based `SCImago' international ranking (2021 to on) and Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking (2024 to on). In 2024–2025, the university has maintained its glorious success at both national and international levels across the 'Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings,' the 'World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI),' and the 'QS Rankings.' Most recently, in the 'THE Impact Rankings 2026,' the university secured the top position among public universities in Bangladesh and ranked within the 401–600 range globally.

'THE' published these rankings on its official website on Wednesday, June 24. This edition included 1,646 universities from 116 countries and regions, among which are nine public universities from Bangladesh. Universities are evaluated based on their overall performance-encompassing education, research, innovation, and social impact- in relation to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. According to the published results, GAU has secured the 82nd position globally for SDG 1 (No Poverty) with a score of 74.8; the 66th position globally for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) with a score of 78.3; and a ranking within the 101–200 range internationally for SDG 4 (Quality Education), with a score between 68.5 and 74.5.

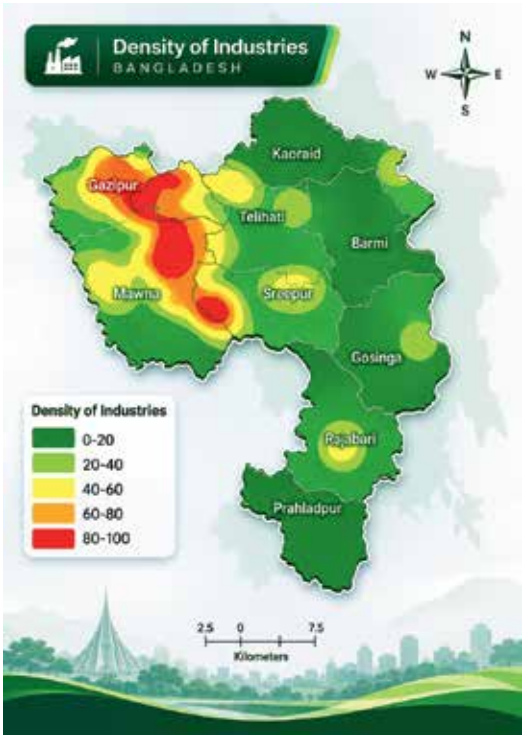


Figure 1. Map showing the density of industries in Sreepur Upazila.

The university's advancement from a global ranking of 801–1000 in the previous year to 401–600 within just one year reflects the Vice-Chancellor's leadership, well-planned progress, academic excellence, research capacity, and a steadfast commitment to sustainable development. Furthermore, GAU has achieved notable results in other international rankings. In the 'THE' (Times Higher Education) rankings for 2025 and 2026, it has been recognized as a leading agricultural university at the national level; specifically, in the 'Life Sciences' category, it has secured the top position among all public and private universities in Bangladesh.

The university has opened new horizons by securing the top position among all public and private universities in the country. Furthermore, it has ranked 23rd globally in the 'Financial Impact-Driven Technology Transfer' category of the WURI 2026 rankings- the only public university in Bangladesh to achieve such a distinction. In the 'QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026,' the university has secured the first position among agricultural universities in Bangladesh, reflecting its leadership in sustainable development and innovative education.

In response to this achievement, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. GKM Mustafizur Rahman stated, "This success is not merely an achievement in terms of rankings; rather, it is a recognition of the collective efforts of our faculty, researchers, students,

officers, staff, alumni, and all stakeholders. This achievement also heightens our sense of responsibility. We are firmly committed to contributing significantly to national development and the achievement of global sustainable development goals through international-standard agricultural education and research, as well as by fostering leadership grounded in human values." The 'Times Higher Education Impact Rankings' is described as the only global university ranking that assesses how higher education and research institutions contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- including addressing the impacts of global climate change and pollution. Since this leading university is located in Gazipur, the Vice-Chancellor and his expert research team have conducted research on the impacts of rapid and unplanned industrial expansion, inadequate waste management, and the discharge of untreated industrial wastewater- all of which adversely affect soil, water, and food security- and have documented potential remedial measures. The Gazipur region encompasses extensive industrial zones, agricultural land, forests (the Bhawal Garh), and various rivers and canals. Currently, there are over 1,000 industrial establishments in Gazipur district, more than 300 of which are situated in Sreepur Upazila (Figure 1).

Research indicates that industrial factories in Gazipur generate large quantities of chemical waste. In many instances, wastewater containing heavy metals is discharged into canals, rivers, and drains without undergoing proper treatment in an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP)- and is even used for irrigating agricultural land (Figure 2). Consequently, the water quality in the various ponds, canals, wetlands, agricultural lands, rivers, and drains across Gazipur is progressively deteriorating.

For the study, untreated industrial wastewater from different industrial sources was collected and analyzed. The analysis revealed the presence of several heavy metals and toxic chemical substances, many of which were found at concentrations exceeding the established permissible limits. The research findings were published in the `Journal of Earth Science and Engineering (David Publishing)' in 2015 **(Tables 1–2)**.



Figure 2. Untreated industrial wastewater discharging in the agricultural fields.

Table 1. Potential sources of industrial waste in Bangladesh



This untreated industrial wastewater enters canals, wetlands, rivers, and drains; it is used for irrigation and can also seep into various soil layers, creating a risk that drinking water extracted from tubewells may become contaminated with heavy metals and chemical substances. Survey results indicate that heavy metals and toxic chemical substances are degrading the quality of water used for various purposes (Table 3), while also leading to a decline in crop production (Table 3 and Figure 3).

A comparative study on the concentration of heavy metals (mg L^{-1}) in water collected from industrial waste sources, nearby agricultural land, and unpolluted control sites (such as local ponds or tube wells) reveals that heavy metal concentrations are significantly higher in water from waste sources and adjacent agricultural land compared to the control sites. These concentrations decrease as the distance from the source increases (Figure 4). This indicates that untreated industrial wastewater is a source of heavy metal pollution.

Table 2. Concentrations of Heavy Metals in Different Industrial Wastewaters (mg L^{-1})

Type of Wastewater	Heavy-metal Concentration (mg L^{-1})				
	As (Arsenic)	Pb (Lead)	Cd (Cadmium)	Cr (Chromium)	Ni (Nickel)
Control	0.005	0.13	0.001	0.003	0.03
Polyvinyl	0.008	0.10	0.006	0.03	0.08
Dyeing	0.006	2.51	0.013	0.15	0.25
Pharmaceuticals	0.006	4.29	0.014	0.14	0.24
Beverage	0.005	0.06	0.009	0.02	0.03
Tannery	0.006	3.94	0.018	0.38	0.16
Municipal Waste	0.007	3.04	0.009	0.05	0.11
Mixed Waste	0.007	4.01	0.010	0.09	0.12
Permissible Level in Water (mg L^{-1}) *(Ayers and Westcot, 1985)*	**0.01**	**5.00**	**0.01**	**0.10**	**0.20**



Figure 3. *Rice plants die and crops are damaged whenirrigated with untreated industrial wastewater.*

Table 3. Distribution of respondents' opinions on the deterioration of water quality

Type of use	Quality characteristic	LD (number)	LD (%)	MD (number)	MD (%)	HD (number)	HD (%)
Drinking	Taste	-	-	-	-	50	100
	Colour	-	-	-	-	50	100
	Odour	-	-	-	-	50	100
Cooking	Taste	-	-	5	10	45	90
	Colour	-	-	7	14	43	86
	Odour	-	-	—	—	50	100
Bathing	Taste	12	24	7	14	31	62
	Colour	7	14	3	6	40	80
	Odour	—	—	20	40	30	60
Use for livestock	Colour	10	20	25	50	15	30
	Odour	13	26	27	54	10	20
Irrigation	Odour	-	-	5	10	45	90
	Odour	-	-	25	50	25	50

LD = low degree of decrease; MD = moderate degree of decrease; HD = high degree of decrease.

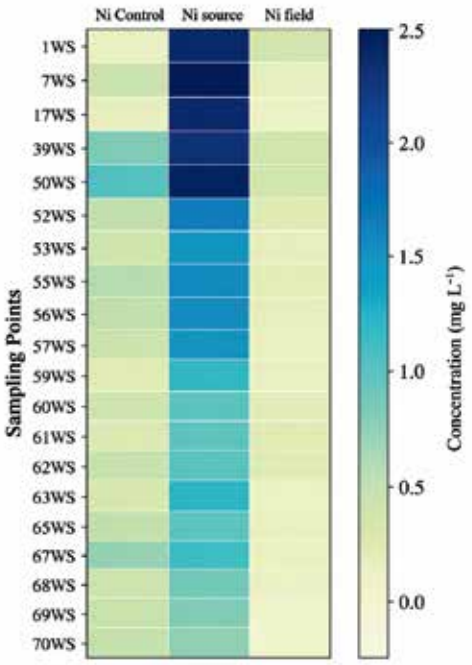


Figure 4. *Heavy-metal concentrations in water from industrial waste sources, agricultural fields and uncontaminated control sites (mg L^2).*

Irrigating agricultural land with untreated industrial wastewater leads to the accumulation of heavy metals in the soil (Figure 5), which exacerbates soil pollution. These metals can subsequently enter the food chain from the soil (Figure 6), potentially increasing the risk of cancer.

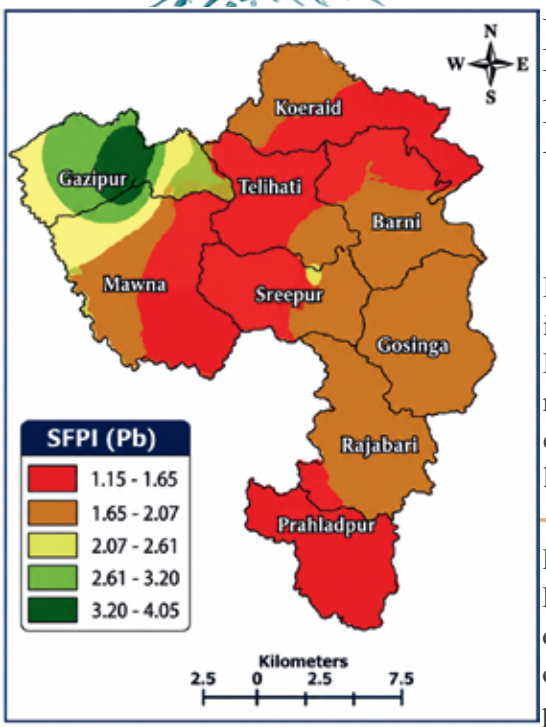
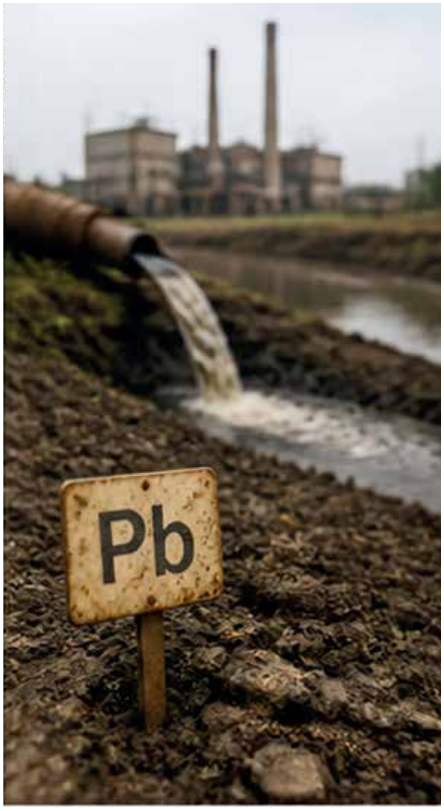


Figure 5. *Heavy-metal, Pb contamination in soil through untreated industrial wastewater.*



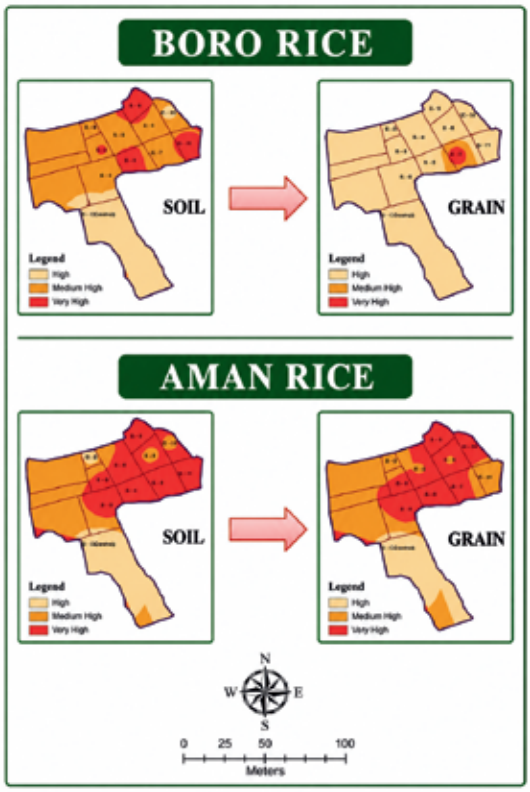


Figure 6. *Nickel (Ni) distribution in soil and rice from contaminated areas.*

Remedies and Recommended Measures

Industrial waste control: The installation of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) should be made mandatory for all industrial establishments, and environmental laws must be strictly enforced.

Improving waste management: In Bangladesh, it is possible to utilize organic sludge (mud-like waste) and other waste generated from food processing, sugar mills, poultry, textiles, and agro-based industries to produce the following:

- Organic fertilizer
- Electricity from biogas
- Biochar

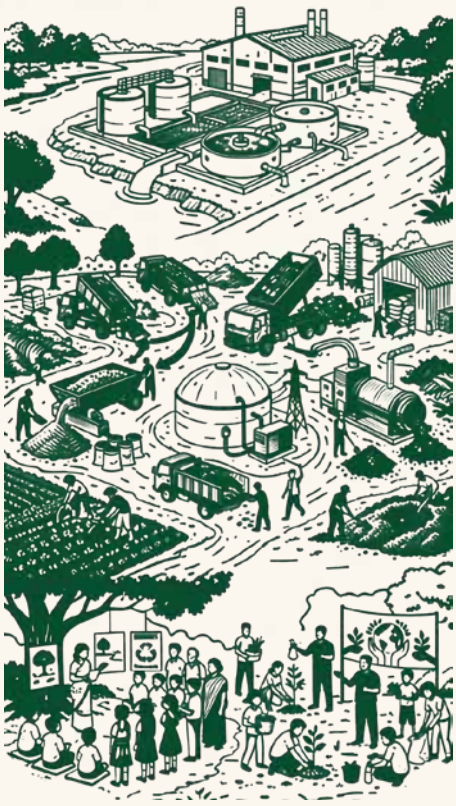
This would lead to improved waste management, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the creation of additional income opportunities for these industries.

Raising public awareness:

- Education regarding environmental pollution
- Raising awareness through public and community campaigns







Conclusion

Rapid industrialization and urbanization in Gazipur have turned environmental pollution into a major challenge. Contamination of soil, water, and food poses a threat to human health, agricultural production, food security, and ecological balance.

This problem can be brought largely under control through appropriate planning, eco-friendly technologies, and effective law enforcement. Therefore, a concerted effort involving the government, the industrial sector, expert researchers, and the general public is essential.



Prof. Dr. G.K.M. Mustafaizur Rahman

Soil and Environmental Expert,
and Vice-Cancellor,
Gazipur Agricultural University.



Maldives Showcases Sustainable Fisheries, Culinary Heritage and Tourism at 'The Great Tuna Gala' in Dhaka



Flavours from the Sunny Side — Expanding Seafood Trade and Direct Air Connectivity

Sheraton Dhaka | 250 Diplomats & Leaders

The High Commission of Maldives in Bangladesh hosted 'The Great Tuna Gala–Flavours from the Sunny Side' at Sheraton Dhaka to promote sustainable fisheries, culinary heritage, and tourism, while strengthening bilateral trade ties.

Bangladesh's Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, M. Rashiduzzaman Millat, attended as Chief Guest alongside 250 diplomats, government officials, and business leaders. Maldivian High Commissioner H.E. Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed emphasized the nation's traditional pole-and-line tuna fishing a sustainable method practiced for generations and explored expanding fisheries exports to Bangladesh alongside enhancing air connectivity. Minister Millat highlighted promising avenues for collaboration in sustainable marine management and tourism development.

The evening featured a live culinary demonstration by renowned Maldivian Chef Maha Naseer, showcasing authentic tuna dishes. Ultimately, the gala served to boost market access for Maldivian seafood, celebrate island culture, and position the Maldives as a premier travel destination for Bangladesh tourists.



High Commissioner H.E. Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed speaking



Minister M. Rashiduzzaman Millat speaking







Navigating a Fragmenting World: The IMF's Role in a Changing Global Economy

MULTILATERAL MONETARY STATECRAFT & GEOECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION

Imran Khan



The global economy faces slowing growth, depleted policy buffers, and deepening structural shifts from geoeconomic fragmentation, artificial intelligence, climate change, and demographic pressures. Against this uncertain backdrop, the world's policymakers must make trade-offs.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now in the midst of a review of its core frameworks, spanning economic surveillance, lending programs, assessment of debt sustainability for low-income countries, financial stability, and external balances.

In this backdrop, I have attended in the conversation: "Navigating a fragmenting world: The IMF's role in a changing global economy". This was the program of Atlantic Council at Washington D.C. USA.

Mr. Christian Mumssen, director of the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department of IMF was the keynote speaker of the session. He examined how the IMF is adapting its tools and thinking to support countries in an era of uncertainty, shocks, and major transformations.

New Economics of Fragmentation:

The global economy is being reshaped simultaneously by several forces: geopolitical fragmentation, technological transformation, climate change, demographic shifts, recurrent economic shocks, and the changing structure of global trade and finance. The challenge, therefore, is not simply that the international system is experiencing another crisis. It is that several structural transformations are occurring at once and interacting with one another.

The postwar economic architecture was designed around the assumption that international cooperation could provide a framework for managing economic instability. Yet today's environment is increasingly defined by strategic rivalry, supply-chain vulnerabilities, sanctions, trade restrictions, technological competition, and divergent national interests.

The institutional anxiety within the IMF reflects a broader structural reality. Global supply chains were once designed primarily for cost efficiency. They are now dependent on strategic choice and national security concerns. Capital flows are also becoming increasingly influenced by geopolitical alignment, rather than risk-adjusted returns.

Article IV of IMF are designed to assess the economic health of individual countries. However, they struggle to capture the existing systemic risks. Cross-border digital currency initiatives has been added as another new risk. Some of these initiatives are also designed to reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar-based financial system.



Imran Khan, Banker & Policy Analyst; Member of Chatham House, UK, speaking at the Atlantic Council.



Stagnation of Sovereign Debt:

Sovereign debt stagnation is testing the IMF's relevance. Debt crises are no longer purely financial. They are increasingly formed by geopolitics and fragmented creditors. The IMF can provide financing and policy credibility. But it cannot force creditors to reach agreements.

The Common Framework has exposed this weakness. Restructuring remains slow. Debtor countries face rising borrowing costs and prolonged uncertainty. Meanwhile, creditor interests are increasingly divided.

IMF must therefore expand its role beyond financial stabilization. It needs stronger convening power and greater diplomatic leverage. Without faster coordination, sovereign debt could become another casualty of a fragmented global economy.



Can the Bretton Woods Institutions Survive Geopolitics?

The Atlantic Council's dialogue raises a central question: can institutions built for a Western-led order remain credible in a multipolar world? IMF is facing a difficult choice. Political neutrality may satisfy no one. Emerging powers may see the Fund as outdated. Western shareholders may see it as irrelevant.

A tilt toward Western economic statecraft carries another risk. It could weaken the IMF's claim to universality. It could also accelerate parallel financial systems, including local-currency settlements and regional swap networks.

The IMF's future will depend less on economic models than on geopolitics. The key question is simple: will major powers still prefer a shared financial system over competing monetary blocs?



Global South and the South Asia:

During the discussion, I raised the experience of South Asia, particularly Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Nepal. Despite their differences, this region has faced various combinations of economic instability, political upheval, balance-of-payments pressures, inflation, currency depreciation, and geopolitical constraints.

The question was whether the IMF's evolving framework could move beyond a broadly uniform approach and develop more country-specific and context-sensitive responses to economies confronting very different combinations of vulnerabilities.

Mumssen's response was significant. He stressed that the IMF is rethinking its institutional tools. Focus is shifting toward tailoring, agility, scenario analysis, and stronger economic buffers. They are reviewing its surveillance and lending programs. It is also reassessing debt-sustainability analysis, financial-sector assessments, and external-sector analysis. The aim is clear: prepare for a world of repeated shocks and greater uncertainty.

This marks a conceptual shift. For decades, international economic management focused on adjustment. The priorities were stability, fiscal discipline, confidence, and growth. Those goals remain essential. But vulnerability is changing.



Mr. Josh Lipsky (left), Senior Director of the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, in conversation with Mr. Christian Mumssen (right), Director of the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), at an Atlantic Council event.



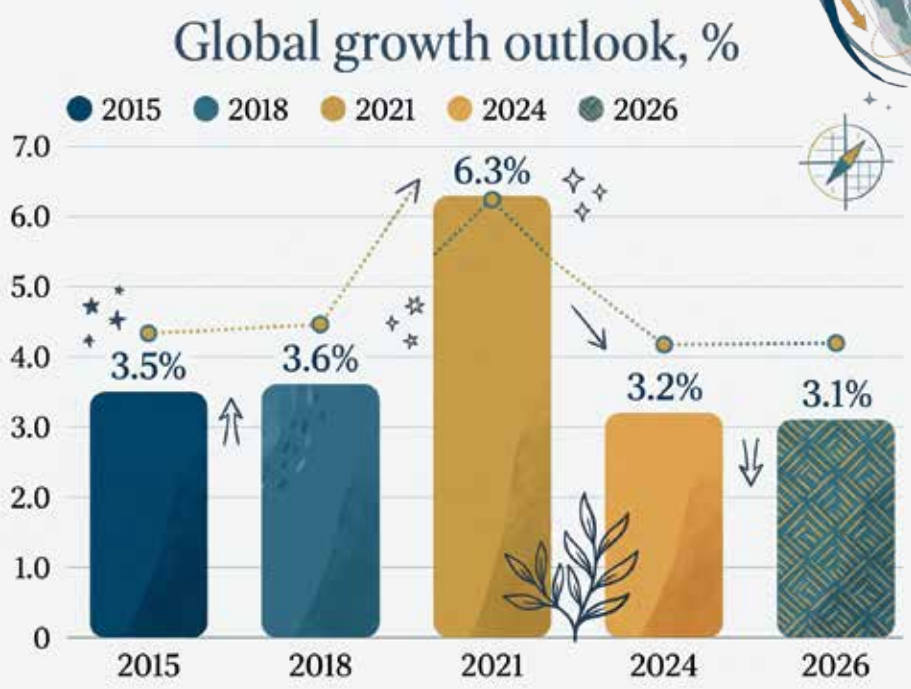
A stable balance sheet does not guarantee resilience. Fiscal discipline cannot shield an economy from commodity shocks, climate disasters, capital flight, geopolitical disruption, or higher global interest rates. A banking system can also appear sound until an unexpected shock exposes hidden weaknesses.

Resilience must therefore mean more than surviving the last crisis. It means preparing for the next one. This matters deeply for South Asia. The region contains some of the world's fastest-growing economies. But it also faces major geopolitical, demographic, environmental, and economic pressures.



South Asia's challenge is no longer purely domestic. Trade routes are shifting. Capital flows are being redirected. Energy security is becoming more strategic. Partnerships are being recalibrated. The IMF must adapt accordingly. Its task is no longer simply to help countries adjust aftershocks. It must help them build the capacity to withstand shocks before they arrive.





Imran Khan
Banker | Policy Analyst
Member of Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs), UK



COASTAL ECOLOGY, MARITIME STEWARDSHIP & HERITAGE DIPLOMACY

A Shore Held in Light

Syeda Zainah Binte Habib

It is during the early hours of dawn, the tides and the waves express harmony and continuity; of stories, legacies and the undeniable history of Kuakata. A subtle, yet beaming ray of light graces the horizon, revealing the water. The evening depicts the other side of the same shore, calm and tranquil, departing the sun. Between the two instances breathes a coastal life beyond beautiful views.

The sea resides in Kuakata, in the Patuakhali district, celebrated for its vast eighteen kilometres of beach, a shore rejoicing in both sunrise and sunset over the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh Tourism Board, n.d.a). Its familiar name, Sagar Kannya, affectionately means the daughter of the Sea.

However, the affectionate rhythm speaks of something more meaningful: its magnetism for those who call it home, the histories within its settlements, and the rising pressures against its shores. For beauty alone cannot shelter a place from the tides of neglect.

For Bangladesh, this coastal stretch harbours a compelling question; how does a beloved shore flourish while remaining anchored to the history that gives it character? The answer demands that we look beyond the mesmerising hues of the sea to protect the life residing there.

The Memory Within a Name

Undoubtedly, the tale of Kuakata begins with water. Even its name is rooted in kua, meaning well, and kata, meaning to dig, recalling the early Rakhine settlers who hollowed the sands for fresh water along a saltwater expanse (Bangladesh Tourism Board, n.d.b). Within that quiet labour rests a history of arrival, endurance, and taking root by the sea.

Such beginnings deserve a place in how Kuakata is perceived. A well speaks of necessity before leisure, of families establishing ordinary life. It reminds the visitor that the shoreline had meaning long before it became a destination.

The spirit of the Rakhine people belongs entirely to the identity of this area. Authentic appreciation must therefore look past the charm of monuments and handmade goods, offering consideration for their privacy, reverence for their sacred traditions, and space for the community to shape its own story.

The journey towards respect begins modestly: seeking permission before capturing a portrait, observing the sanctity of holy sites, and listening without feeling that every moment is owed. These gestures seem slight, but their neglect casts a heavy shadow. Traditions survive through communities granted the grace to live them proudly.





The Lives Beside the Water

A traveller often reads a day on the shore through the quality of its sunshine. For those drawing their livelihood from the waves, the day is defined by gathering winds, the weight within the nets, and the sustenance brought home. A timber boat completing a scenic view remains, fundamentally, a place of hard work, holding duties far beyond any camera frame.

This awareness must shape the footsteps of travellers in Kuakata. Spread nets must be left alone, and passing interest should never impede a local hand. Sharing a meal or following a local guide becomes an act of solidarity when respect is tendered alongside payment.

The real potential of tourism reveals itself only when residents claim a rightful share of its prosperity. Indeed, Sarker (2024) highlights community involvement as a profound opportunity for Kuakata, even amidst the complications of development.

This calls for local ownership, proper training, and a decisive voice in matters that alter their neighbourhoods. The true wealth of a destination should be judged by what endures after the guests depart. Does the passing trade put food on local tables? Are the young mastering trades that secure their future? Answering these questions lends the pursuit of profit a human soul.

A Coastline Held in Trust

When the Shore Slips Away







The sheer expanse of a coast can easily disguise its vulnerability. A wide stretch of sand projects permanence, until the ground begins to wash away. For Kuakata, erosion has become the central shadow over its future; as Sarker (2024) observes, it poses the greatest threat to any enduring model of tourism.

The damage is no longer abstract. Dispatches from October 2025 describe fallen timber, torn protective barriers and the drift of plastic debris across the tide line (Kamal, 2025). These visible wounds disrupt the fantasy of a shore whose grace might endure without human effort.

A wounded shore disrupts much more than a holiday, shaking communities whose daily bread requires a welcoming beach, and asking harsh questions of our collective stewardship.

Safeguarding this coast requires evidence rather than impulse, and effort that outlasts a single storm. Any structural defence must be judged for its ripple effects along the bay, while clearing refuse must become an unbroken habit. A shoreline that is visibly safe, clean and accessible offers residents stronger proof of loyalty than another hollow pledge.

The Shape of Enduring Prosperity

Expansion brings alluring temptations. A rush of construction, congested roads and soaring visitor numbers can easily be mistaken for a thriving future, while the settlement fills with noise and loses the subtle magic that first invited people to linger.

Examinations of the coast reveal deep-seated challenges: structural limits, environmental decline, social unease and the habits of tourists themselves (Sarker, 2024). A sanctuary cannot be preserved merely by inviting the crowds. The true experience of a place begins with sound management and the quiet respect shared between merchants, locals and visitors.

Transparent costs, proper sanitation, thoughtful pathways and restrained building ought to be non-negotiable, as should consulting the people whose horizons are altered by the arrival of strangers. Growth commands respect only when residents are assured that their livelihoods are protected and their voices heard.





Rather, the task is to choose a path that deepens the quality of life while shielding the soul of the bay, a burden shared by governing bodies, businesses and every traveller.

A country's regard for its coastline is laid bare in daily actions: a clean walkway, patience for fishermen hauling their nets, reverence at a local temple. Kuakata commands this mindfulness because its natural splendour is bound to its human presence.



Visitors must equally shoulder responsibility. Clearing away refuse, holding back loud disruptions and observing regional customs are basic obligations rather than acts of special grace; they protect a hospitality no brochure can manufacture. A gentle evolution would let Kuakata receive its guests without the locals forfeiting their comfort, or the waterline paying for economic ambition.

There is quiet room for hope along this shore, so long as it is paired with genuine stewardship: not trapping the town in an unchanging past, nor surrendering it to every tide of commercial development.

A Promise Kept to the Waterline





> The sea merely provides the view; it is the residents who give the shore its enduring memory. To cherish the water whilst looking past the people is to read only half the story.

As dusk settles, the waves borrow the last hues of the sky, and the crowds retreat into town. For those left behind, dawn promises another cycle of toil and belonging.

To truly honour the Daughter of the Sea is to ensure tomorrow breaks over a coast that remains easy to love, and a life beside the water that remains beautiful to build.

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Syeda Zainah Binte Habib
Creative Writer



01 | SINGAPORE – BANGLADESH | PORT INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT

Singapore CDA Philip Ong Meets Invest Bangladesh Chairman Ashik Chowdhury on Port Expansion

Chargé d'Affaires H.E. Philip Ong of the Singapore High Commission held an introductory meeting with Invest Bangladesh Chairman Ashik Chowdhury in Dhaka. Discussions focused on investment opportunities for Singaporean enterprises following the unification of BIDA, BEZA, and PPPA into a single apex agency, alongside PSA International's potential participation in Bangladesh's port expansion.



02 | BANGLADESH – THAILAND | 4TH FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS

4th Foreign Office Consultations in Bangkok Fast-Tracks Direct Maritime Shipping Route

The 4th Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Thailand was held in Bangkok, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam and Thai Permanent Secretary Eksiri Pintaruchi. Both sides welcomed the direct Chattogram–Ranong maritime shipping route reducing transit time from 15 to 4 days, while accelerating bilateral FTA discussions and reciprocal trade concessions.



03 | CHINA – BANGLADESH | LAW ENFORCEMENT & SECURITY COOPERATION

Chinese Chargé d'Affaires Dr. Liu Yuyin Meets Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Security Ties

On October 27, H.E. Dr. Liu Yuyin, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of China, met with H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, Honorable Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh. The two sides conducted in-depth strategic exchanges on deepening bilateral law enforcement cooperation, capacity building, and institutional border security.



04 | NETHERLANDS – BANGLADESH | BILATERAL SUMMIT & DELTA GOVERNANCE

Dutch Trade Minister Sjoerd Sjoerdsma Meets PM Tarique Rahman on Delta Plan 2100

Mr. Sjoerd Sjoerdsma, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, held a high-level summit with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka. Deliberations centered on climate resilience under Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, port logistics modernization, sustainable water infrastructure, and European market trade facilitation.



05 | MALDIVES – BANGLADESH | PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE AT BANGABHABAN

Maldives Envoy Shiuneen Rasheed Calls on President Mirza Fakhrul on Bilateral Trade

High Commissioner H.E. Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed paid a courtesy call on President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at Bangabhaban, conveying warm greetings from Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. Discussions emphasized direct air links between Malé and Dhaka, maritime fisheries collaboration, health workforce mobility, and regional SAARC rejuvenation.



06 | UNITED KINGDOM – BANGLADESH | CLIMATE STATECRAFT & COP31 DIPLOMACY

State Minister Shama Obaed Meets UK Climate Envoy Rachel Kyte on COP31 Priorities

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, MP, met with Rachel Kyte, the UK's Special Representative for Climate, in London, accompanied by Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith. Talks focused on concessional climate finance, renewable grid transition, and loss-and-damage architecture ahead of COP31.



07 | EUROPEAN UNION – BANGLADESH | INSTITUTIONAL CYBERSECURITY & GOVERNANCE

EU Delegation Visits BPATC to Advance Institutional Cybersecurity & Digital Governance

Commemorating European Cybersecurity Month, the EU Delegation visited the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC). The bilateral mission reviewed digital governance programs, cyber hygiene protocols, and executive institutional training to empower modern, resilient civil administration.



08 | BANGLADESH – ALGERIA | STRATEGIC HYDROCARBONS ACCORD IN ALGIERS

State Minister Humaiun Kobir Signs Strategic Hydrocarbons MoU with Algerian FM Ahmed Attaf

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir held bilateral talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf in Algiers, concluding a milestone Memorandum of Understanding on hydrocarbons cooperation. Both ministers underscored joint ventures in energy exploration, urea fertilizer supply, pharmaceuticals, and textile commerce.



09 | OIC SUMMIT | 52ND COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BAGHDAD

State Minister Humaiun Kobir Addresses 52nd OIC CFM in Baghdad on Rohingya Return & Gaza

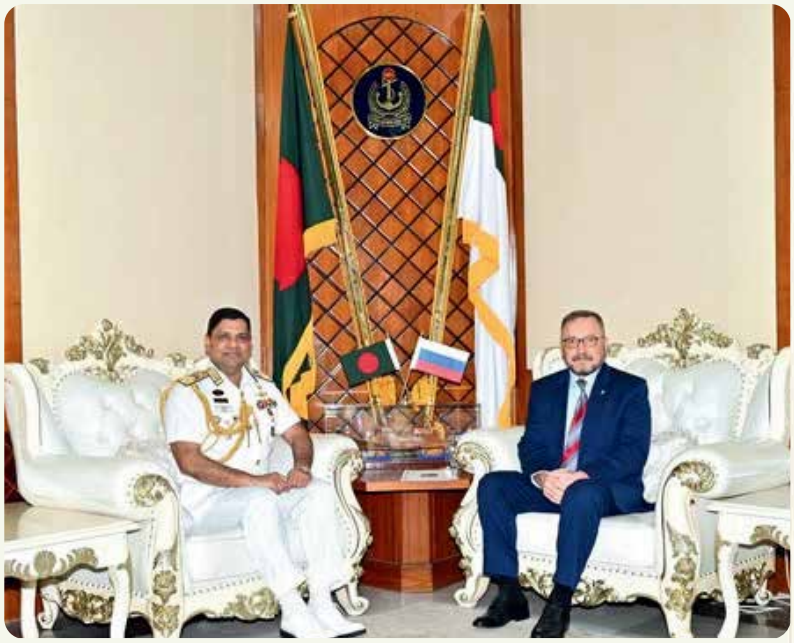
Leading the Bangladesh delegation at the 52nd OIC CFM in Baghdad, State Minister Humaiun Kobir delivered a comprehensive address urging a reformed, proactive OIC. He called for unwavering multilateral solidarity for an independent Palestine on 1967 borders, decisive international mechanisms for safe Rohingya repatriation, and united action against Islamophobia.



10 | ALGERIA – BANGLADESH | ENVOY CONSULTATIONS IN DHAKA

Algerian Ambassador Saidani Meets State Minister Humaiun Kobir on Fertilizer Security

Ambassador of Algeria H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir at MoFA Dhaka. Following the Algiers hydrocarbons pact, consultations focused on guaranteeing uninterrupted phosphate and urea fertilizer supply lines, initiating direct maritime routes, and scheduling ministerial reciprocal visits.



11 | RUSSIA – BANGLADESH | NAVAL DEFENSE & MARITIME COOPERATION

Russian Ambassador Alexander Khozin Calls on Navy Chief Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim

On October 18, 2026, H.E. Alexander Khozin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh, paid a high-level courtesy call on Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim, Chief of Naval Staff of the Bangladesh Navy. The high-level conference focused on regional maritime security, hydrographic coordination, naval defense cooperation, and freedom of navigation across the Bay of Bengal.

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