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# EMIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

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**ANALYSIS**

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## Executive Summary

With a GDP per capita of \$2,716 in 2022 (according to World Bank Data) and \$2,622 in 2024, Bangladesh will have made considerable socioeconomic progress and will be in the lower middle-income range. With remittances of \$26.9 billion in 2024, migration is at the center of this change and has been recognized as a major economic catalyst. The observed migration patterns cover a variety of categories, such as displacement brought on by climate change, irregular migration and that of skilled and unskilled labor. Low-skilled workers migrate due to financial necessity, reflecting gaps in the local labor market, while skilled workers frequently choose to leave their home countries in search of better opportunities abroad due to the lack of adequate domestic infrastructure. Poverty and environmental crises are the main causes of illegal migration, which puts migrants at risk of exploitation and human trafficking. Displacement is made worse by climate change, as millions of people are impacted by natural disasters like floods and sea level rise every year. Remittances raise household incomes and lower poverty despite migration-related issues like brain drain and irregular migration. Priorities for policy include regulating middlemen, preventing human trafficking, building climate resilience and increasing employment opportunities in the country through programs like Smart Vision 2041.

## 1

# Introduction

Within just a few decades, Bangladesh has experienced an extraordinary shift in its socio-economic status, moving from a low-income country to a lower-middle-income country. In fact, it is estimated that Bangladesh's GDP per capita peaked to \$2,687 in June 2022, up from \$84.825 in June 1960 (*Bangladesh GDP per Capita | Economic Indicators | CEIC*). This shift certainly marks a change in economic development and stability. It is often suggested that remittances are increasing the rate of change. For individuals and families, remittances have significantly impacted Bangladesh's economy and contributed to its GDP. Laskar et al. (2025) demonstrated that remittances have served as an essential element of GDP and foreign exchange reserves. Remittances have not only contributed to improving socio-economic indicators such as nutrition, education and healthcare, but have also played a pivotal role in poverty reduction and enhancing national savings (Barai, 2012). Historically, emigration from Bangladesh has had a complex trajectory, dating back to colonial times. However, the post-independence period saw a substantial increase in labor migration, driven primarily by economic necessity and instability in the domestic labor market (Mahmood, 1995). This trend has continued, and Bangladesh has now developed into a source of international migrant labor. An estimated 7.5 million Bangladeshi citizens currently work abroad, with approximately 0.3 to 0.4 million citizens migrating internationally each year (Islam, Md. Nurul., 2010). Approximately 1.3 million Bangladeshi citizens left the country to work abroad in 2023, marking an increase from the previous year (*Bangladesh, Labor migration outflow | Statista*). In 2024, the total number of migrant workers dropped to 1,009,146, reflecting a 27.4% decrease compared from 2023.

Understanding emigration from Bangladesh is crucial for several reasons. First, it is essential for grasping the dynamics of the country's economy, given the substantial contribution of remittances to its GDP and the balance of payments. Second, emigration impacts social structures, influencing family dynamics and community development through the flow of

remittances and the return of migrants with new skills and perspectives. Finally, understanding the emigration process is relevant to the wider policy debates around labor market management, poverty alleviation and sustainable development issues, because they are related to maximizing potential benefits and minimizing potential “negative” implications for the country’s economy. Of course, the importance of this study is relevant considering the current complexities of empire and migration generally, which are becoming increasingly securitized. This is pressing owing to the increase in migration flows driven by climate change, conflicts and economic instability, which have heightened security concerns.]

This paper provides an in-depth examination of the complex processes of emigration from the country —particularly focusing on the economic dimensions and the wider social and economic implications, especially those of illegal migration and climate displacement. The paper provides an examination of these interrelated dimensions, written with hopes of adding to our understanding of how emigration shapes the economic dynamics of Bangladesh while also providing policy recommendations to handle migration for economic benefits to the country.

## 2 The dichotomy between skilled and low-skilled emigration from Bangladesh

Emigration from Bangladesh is a spectrum with many different motives and circumstances. One way of classifying the emigration of Bangladeshis is based on skill levels, to better analyze this complex process.

Over 200,000 skilled workers emigrated in 2023, for instance, marking a 15% increase from the previous year. Around 40% of all Bangladeshi emigrants can be classified as a “brain drain”, a term used to describe the migration of skilled professionals and academics in the fields of health, education and technology (Skeldon, 2009). Indeed, the lack of sufficient infrastructure and resources in their own country can prevent Bangladeshi skilled workers from maximizing their potential, which can be an implicit motivation to explore other opportunities. These workers may be motivated to seek better wages or gain international experience while being exposed to advanced technologies and management practices. For example, the doctor-to-patient ratio in Bangladesh is only 5.26 per 10,000 people, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), far below its recommendation of 10 per 10,000. Bangladesh also loses approximately 70,000–90,000 students annually to studies abroad, many of whom do not return after completing their courses.

Migration involving low-skilled labor is typically motivated by the economic realities that workers face. Bangladesh has a significant labor force that cannot be fully absorbed into its own labor market. According to the reported estimates of 2023,

Bangladesh has an approximate labor force of 75.83 million people, with a labor force participation rate of 49.5%, and an unemployment rate of 4.49% (2.6 million people are officially unemployed), which includes a youth unemployment rate of 16.8% (Bangladesh job creation and economic diversification remains top priority for government, employers and workers in 2025). The extensive informal sector (85% of employment) demonstrates an economy that cannot absorb the domestic labor force (Bhuiyan & Rahman, 2024). Unfortunately, low-skilled Bangladeshi migrants face many obstacles, not least their language skills, which lead to communication issues and barriers to employment options. The high costs associated with arranging employment abroad can encourage workers to overstay their visas or engage in illegal practices, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse (Ainul et al., 2022). This highlights the blurred lines between regular and irregular migration in Bangladesh, where individuals may shift between categories due to pressures or the absence of legal migration channels (Azad & Vallentine, 2024).

Thus, while the dichotomy between skilled and unskilled migration is interesting, it is insufficient to present it to describe the reality of emigration from Bangladesh. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on illegal migration, which is crucial given that it exposes migrants to considerable risks, while also highlighting the shortcomings in existing migration policies and practices.



# 3

## **Understanding the complexities of illegal migration: Drivers, risks and exploitative practices**

Illegal migration refers to the movement of people across borders contrary to the immigration rules of the destination country, properly characterized as staying in a destination country with an expired visa, or moving in and out of a country with invalid travel documents, thereby violating the immigration laws (Yerenatovna & Baltabekovna, 2015). Illegal migration can take many forms and does not represent a single classification of migrant. Examples of illegal migration include low-skilled migrant workers who move abroad to seek jobs, humanitarian migrants who migrate to escape violent conflicts or environmental disasters and migrant workers who do not use formal or legal pathways to migrate for work. Illegal migration from Bangladesh is driven by economic instability, with nearly 19% of the country's population living below the poverty line, and high unemployment. Environmental crises also compel illegal migration, as in 2022 where 7.1 million people were displaced due to climate change and related events like cyclones or flooding (Mayilvaganan, 2019). Key destination countries include India (primarily due to proximity), with approximately 10-20 million undocumented Bangladeshis residing in the country, Gulf countries (due to demand for labor) and Europe (see section below). These countries are attractive for migrants due to better economic opportunities, an existing diaspora and (sometimes) more flexible immigration policies.

In Bangladesh, the migration landscape is complex, involving various intermediaries who play different roles in facilitating regular and irregular migration. Different actors are involved in this process: informal brokers, smuggling networks and human traffickers. First of all, *dalals* are informal brokers who are not officially licensed but play a crucial intermediary role in linking migrants with formal agencies, especially in rural areas where access to registered agencies is limited (Joarder & Miller, 2014). The services provided by *dalals* often overlap and may involve assisting clients in applying for passports and clearing pre-departure health checks and formalities. While some *dalals* are well-meaning in their intentions and are helpful to potential migrants, many other actors taking on the role of *dalals* exploit migrants by charging excessive fees and misrepresenting job offers available abroad. Smuggling and human trafficking networks are another type of intermediary that facilitate irregular migration, often by way of crossing international borders illegally, frequently with fake documents issued via border-crossing intermediaries/ *dalals* who charge up to \$3,000 per person (Azad & Vallentine, 2024). Traffickers utilize coercion or deception to control their victims through the confiscation of passports or limit their movements so they can maintain control once they cross borders. Human trafficking can happen within countries but also across borders and is typically associated with smuggling crimes, as many migrants start by seeking to be smuggled, but become victims of trafficking before or after crossing borders. Human trafficking is a more serious form of exploitation, and it can be defined as recruitment, transportation or harboring of people for exploitation through forced labor (45%), sexual exploitation (30%), forced marriage (25%) and organ removal. In 2023, the Bangladeshi government identified 240 trafficking victims in 2023, including 115 victims of sex trafficking, 92 of forced labor and 33 of other forms of exploitation (2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh).

These exploitative practices place illegal migrants at considerable risk and danger. Many migrants enter debt bondage, the act of being forced to work to pay off debts for transportation, recruitment fees or other expenses, usually under terms that make repayment impossible, thereby entrenching

their vulnerability and exploitation (O'Connell Davidson, 2013). Even if they manage to arrive in their destination countries, they risk exploitation, as well as detention and deportation. When migrants lack legal status, they are often defenseless against abuse and have limited access to services and basic rights. Migrants engage in informal or unprotected work, which means that there are no legal protections shielding them against poor working conditions. Migrants who traveled abroad for work indicated they encountered at least one form of modern slavery (Farand, 2025). Two-thirds had experienced six or more forms, often involving intimidation, threats, physical abuse or degrading living conditions and labor. Even in the Middle East, migrants have been known to become trapped in the exploitative kafala system, which forbids changing employers or staying within the country (Cholewinski & Guttman, 2023).

The complexities of illegal migration from Bangladesh highlight the challenges faced by migrants who often lack legal status and are exposed to exploitation. This phenomenon is not isolated but intersects with broader environmental factors, particularly climate change, which is increasingly recognized as a significant driver of migration.

## 4

## The impact of climate change on humanitarian migration in Bangladesh

Humanitarian migration from Bangladesh includes individuals displaced by conflict and climate change, the latter posing an existential threat to Bangladesh through natural disasters (Askland et al., 2022). As a low-elevation country, Bangladesh is especially susceptible to climate hazards—floods, cyclones and rising sea levels—that often lead to displacement and migration (Islam & Hasan, 2016). One study estimates that, by 2050, climate change could displace one in seven people in Bangladesh, highlighting the need for adaptive actions to mitigate the effects of climate change (M. A. Chowdhury et al., 2020).

In addition to these urgent threats, climate change poses longer-term threats or stressors, particularly to agricultural productivity and coastal communities, adding to Bangladesh's challenges (Bonna & Akter, 2023). Bangladesh faces some of the most acute climate change-related economic and social challenges, experiencing \$3.72 billion in losses due to climate disasters from 2000 to 2020 and \$1 billion annually from cyclones. Agriculture employs 40.6% of the population, and rising temperatures threaten agricultural production. The production of rice could decline by 28% and that of wheat by 68%, which could result in food insecurity and economic instability, both tied to migration pressures (Habiba & Abedin, 2024). Typically, climate change causes forced migration, as people are forced to find safer places to flee to after natural disasters and environmental degradation (Warner et al., 2010). Unlike voluntary migration, in which people decide to migrate, being forced to migrate may lead people to choose irregular or illegal migration due to the exigency of their situation, which creates considerable risk and vulnerability (McAdam, 2012).

To that end, emigration from Bangladesh is a complex system with many realities that are all interlinked and shaped by multiple factors. Broad classifications based on migrants' skill levels and legal status at their destinations provide a basis for analysis; however, it is essential to recognize that they cannot be separated. To understand the breadth of emigration from Bangladesh, other factors must also be accounted for, such as emigrant profile data and destination.

## 5

## Migration patterns and trends: A geographic and demographic analysis

The most recent trends in the emigration of Bangladeshi workers indicate a strong preference for the Gulf region and Southeast Asia as destinations for employment, fueled by economic needs and the availability of skilled and unskilled work in these areas.

In the Gulf region, Saudi Arabia remains the top destination for Bangladeshi migrants, absorbing a large percentage of the total migration from Bangladesh. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has been a leading destination of Bangladeshi workers, as there has been considerable labor demand by Saudi Arabia for infrastructure development and construction (notably as part of Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" project, which often has projected labor demands) (Abdul-Aziz et al., 2018). The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is also an important destination, especially for skilled and semi-skilled workers.

While Malaysia has been experiencing a decline in migration numbers due to foreign labor policies, it is nevertheless a key destination in Southeast Asia (K. Siddiqui, 2023). In 2023, the number of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia increased, with more than 50,000 migrants. The labor market in Malaysia is forecasted to further strengthen in 2024, providing better salaries and working conditions than some Middle Eastern countries. Within the same region, Singapore is known for its high demand for skilled labor in fields such as information technology, finance and healthcare, attracting a smaller but significant number of Bangladeshi migrants who can send back greater remittances thanks to higher salaries (Bhuiyan & Rahman, 2024).

Another common destination remains India, particularly for illegal migration, as it shares a border with Bangladesh, which allows for higher chances of crossing illegally (Datta, 2004). It is impossible to get accurate numbers on illegal migration (because they are estimates at best, as they are illegal and off the record), but there are still some trends and statistics to provide some insights into the scale of this issue. For example, in recent years, there have been regular deportations, with almost 30 individuals deported by the legal system from December 31, 2024, to January 2, 2025 (Bawa, 2025). In the first two months of 2025 alone, the Thane police arrested 76 Bangladeshi nationals for illegal immigration, compared with a total of 60 arrests in 2024 (Nishikant, 2025).

Besides migration to the usual destinations, there is a new trend of Bangladeshi migrants moving to places in Europe and North America. However, these movements typically rely on irregular migration routes that place migrants at risk of various forms of exploitation and legal vulnerabilities. For example, in 2022, Bangladesh was one of the top nationalities in terms of irregular maritime arrivals to Europe, with more than 16,487 arrivals (Azad & Vallentine, 2024). During the first half of 2024, Bangladesh led the list of nationalities involved in illegal border crossings to Europe via the Central Mediterranean Route, with a total of 5,644 incidents reported by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (Ahmad, 2024).

In addition to the changing geographical patterns of Bangladeshi migration, there is a notable shift in the demographics of migrants. Historically, Bangladeshi migrants have consisted of mostly male, rural migrants working in low-skilled occupations (Islam, Md Nurul., 2010). They are typically young adults who migrate out of Bangladesh with the intent of providing financial support to their families and improving their socio-economic status. Additionally, there is a growing proportion of females engaged in overseas employment, with the proportion of women who registered for BMET nearly doubling in 2024 from the previous year, up from 2.78% to 4.79% of total registrations (Overseas migration from Bangladesh drops 27.4% in 2024). This signals a broader transformation in gender roles and responsibilities within Bangladeshi society, as women are increasingly migrating

independently for employment, marking a shift towards greater autonomy and economic empowerment (Sultana & Fatima, 2017). Nonetheless, female migrants face greater exposure to harsh working conditions, violence and abuse in host countries.

Thus, the geographical and demographic trends of Bangladeshi migration are key elements to be considered to accurately comprehend the phenomenon of Bangladeshi migration. Moreover, throughout our analysis, we note that migration has a strong economic impact. This impact takes various forms, which are correlated to the type of migration.



## 6

## The economic implications of emigration: Remittances, labor market dynamics and migration challenges

Remittances are vital to Bangladesh's economy, supporting economic development and stability. Additionally, they are necessary to maintain foreign exchange reserves, accounting for a sizeable share of its GDP. Bangladesh has experienced a significant rise in remittance receipts in recent years, with \$22 billion in 2023 and \$26.889 billion in 2024 (Mannan, 2024). This trend persisted into the new year, with a 23.8% rise in remittances during the first eight months of 2024, reflecting the ongoing role that remittances play in the overall economic resilience of the economy (Asaduzzaman, 2025). Major sources of remittance included India at USD 6 billion (26%), Saudi Arabia at USD 4 billion (19%) and the United Arab Emirates at USD 4 billion (17%) (*Remittances*, 2023).

The level of remittance is determined by the skill level of migrants; migrants from skilled occupations send home significantly more, on average, than their unskilled counterparts, at Tk 2.55 lakh per month, compared to Tk 1.55 lakh per month, respectively. Yet, while unskilled labor accounts for less in terms of individual remittances, the amount of unskilled labor is substantial. In fact, unskilled labor constitutes a greater share of migrant labor from Bangladesh, accounting for around 50% of total foreign jobs in the year 2023, while skilled labor accounted for about 25% and semi-skilled workers accounted for the remaining 3.26% (Labor Market

Shrinking, Unskilled Migration Increasing: RMMRU Report | The Business Standard, 2024). It's logical to conclude that skilled and unskilled migration will continue to be significant actors, as both types of migrants can make meaningful contributions to the maintenance of economic growth in Bangladesh. Indeed, remittances have been instrumental in enhancing household incomes, facilitating investments in education and healthcare and stimulating local economic activity. They have also helped reduce poverty by providing financial support for small businesses and community development projects. Furthermore, remittances have enabled Bangladesh to maintain a current account surplus, despite being a trade deficit country, thereby ensuring economic stability and supporting the country's development goals.

The act of emigration from Bangladesh has considerable ramifications in the domestic labor market, as it impacts the supply of workers and the economy. Emigration also impacts the domestic labor supply, where wages may increase in some industries. When large numbers of workers migrate abroad, it reduces labor competition in Bangladesh, which can drive up wages for those remaining in the workforce. For instance, studies have shown that emigration can increase male agricultural wage rates in rural areas by 4.5-6.6% and available work hours by 11-14%, benefiting landless village residents by reducing labor competition (Akram et al., 2017). However, this effect can vary depending on the sector and the skills of the departing workers. Additionally, the loss of skilled workers due to emigration can result in a brain drain, potentially depriving Bangladesh of essential human capital (Rahman, 2013). Brain drain is particularly problematic for developing nation states, as it limits young people's job opportunities, leads to talent shortages and negatively impacts education and research institutes. However, if these skilled migrants return to their home countries or can contribute remotely, it may ameliorate the loss in knowledge capital and may benefit local innovation and entrepreneurship. This phenomenon, known as brain gain, occurs when expatriates contribute to their home country's development through knowledge transfer and international networks, especially when they return to their origin country with new skills and experience.

Illegal migration from Bangladesh has far-reaching socio-economic impacts stemming from high remittance costs and limited access to formal financial services. While remittances are crucial for families left behind, 46% of remittances are sent through informal channels like the “hundi” due to higher exchange rates and convenience, despite the government’s 2.5% cash incentive for formal remittances (T. Siddiqui & Abrar, 2003). However, these informal methods lack transparency and security. These challenges reduce the financial benefits for families, compounding their economic instability. Additionally, families can face increased economic instability if they bear the financial burden of paying for illegal migration services, which can lead to debt bondage (O’Connell Davidson, 2013). This cycle of vulnerability warrants comprehensive policy formulation to protect migrants and their families from the root causes of illegal migration and its reach. Climate-driven migration, primarily that of individuals of rural origin working in agriculture for their livelihood, falls within this sphere.

The destruction of food resources due to climate-related disasters, combined with the loss of skilled and unskilled labor, creates a devastating combination that exacerbates the decline in agricultural output (Alam & Mamun, 2022). This dual impact on rural areas can significantly compromise food security and increase reliance on imports. The long-term effects include heightened vulnerability to food price volatility and increased poverty among rural communities, further complicating the economic and social stability of the region.

No matter what kind of migration takes place, host countries encounter serious setbacks in integrating these groups into their countries (Stewart et al., 2008). Granting migrants housing, jobs and social inclusion quickly becomes problematic since host communities have nowhere to relocate migrants to, struggling to provide them with services. For example, migrants without legal residency are even more challenged in their incorporation or integration. In the case of skilled migrants, several studies have indicated that they can contribute to lowering home countries’ domestic product, welfare, energy consumption and carbon emissions, the inverse being true for host countries (Abbas

et al., 2024). Illegal migrants are likelier to be totally excluded from holistic services, including health care and education, becoming even more publicly vulnerable. Similarly, climate-displaced migrants, who generally migrate irregularly lie at the highest levels of vulnerability. Apart from impacting housing and jobs, illegal migrants may cause increased urban pressure on host communities, specifically through overcrowding and informal settlements or slums (Darling, 2017). Because informal settlement areas in a community lack fully developed infrastructure and public services, poverty and homelessness levels generally increase, while only further worsening the migrants' vulnerability and creating public health crises.

Consequently, understanding the diverse realities of the migration phenomenon and its economic impacts is essential to developing policies that maximize its benefits and minimize its fallout.

## 7

## **Comprehensive policy/ strategy recommendations for sustainable migration management in Bangladesh**

Comprehensive and interconnected policies must be in place to facilitate the management of migration from Bangladesh. These policies must address illegal migration and climate change, ensure economic development and promote employment opportunities for nationals on home soil, while guaranteeing proper monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

These elements will not only facilitate continuous management of migration but also promote socio-economic development. Illegal migration represents a significant challenge to the governance and socio-economic stability of Bangladesh. Effective border management is necessary for addressing irregular migration (Das, 2008). Border management can also be implemented through better monitoring systems, which can be used to address situations that migrants deal with, while simultaneously limiting travel to their intended destination. Effective tackling of human trafficking also requires stricter punitive measures against traffickers alongside general access to victim services. The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, which established a legal definition of trafficking and therefore a legal framework to deal with trafficking within Bangladesh (Runa, 2023), is an early step in this direction. It has also been recognized that the signing of international agreements provides additional legislative protection of migrants' rights and enhances preventative measures to address human trafficking. Lastly,

public awareness campaigns help inform prospective migrants of the dangers of illegal migration and steer them towards alternative methods of migration.

The situation brought about by climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh is extremely serious, with millions of people at risk of being displaced due to sea level rise and erosion pressures (Moitree et al., 2024). Investment in climate-resilient livelihoods and infrastructure will need to be at the center of adaptation to climate changes, particularly in regions already facing significant vulnerabilities. Projects such as Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) (Sarwar, n.d.) have been effective in supporting displaced families by providing stable housing and alternative livelihoods. Regional cooperation is equally important, working with neighboring countries to establish a shared agreement and framework for appropriately supporting climate-change displaced border-crossing migrants, while minimizing disruptions that may engender conflict (Glukhov & Ivanova, 2024).

As discussed, migration is an important contributor to Bangladesh's economy through remittances and knowledge transfer. Creating formal remittance channels that lower transaction costs and expand access to banking in rural areas will amplify these effects. Likewise, leveraging "brain gain"—skilled migrants returning to their country or supporting it from abroad—can enhance innovation and development at home. Knowledge transfer approaches can tap into the knowledge of expatriates to advance the national capacity. Also, a sustainable approach to migration requires creating domestic jobs so that people have opportunities with lesser reliance on migration. Investment in key sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and technology can generate jobs locally. Bangladesh's Smart Vision 2041 demonstrates this approach (Pal & Sarker, 2023). This is a national strategic plan that aims to further develop the socio-economic condition of the country and focuses heavily on strengthening a competent workforce by developing jobs and quality education, especially in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the expansion of vocational training and technical education. Finally, effective monitoring systems can help ensure effective migration management. A

comprehensive database that tracks migration, remittances and employment impacts will provide information valuable for improvement in policies.

By implementing these interconnected policies, Bangladesh can transform migration from a challenge into an opportunity for socio-economic advancement. These strategies align with international frameworks like the Global Compact for Migration, ensuring that migration management supports national development goals and global standards (Klein Solomon & Sheldon, 2019).

## 8

## Conclusion

In summary, emigration from Bangladesh presents a multifaceted landscape characterized by diverse types of migration, including that of skilled and low-skilled labor and illegal migration driven by economic necessity and environmental factors. The significant role of remittances in bolstering Bangladesh's economy cannot be overstated; they contribute substantially to GDP, enhance household incomes and stimulate local economic activities. However, the challenges posed by brain drain, illegal migration and the socio-economic vulnerabilities of migrants must be addressed to fully realize the potential benefits of emigration.

Looking ahead, it is imperative for Bangladesh to strengthen comprehensive migration policies that not only facilitate safe and legal migration pathways but also address the root causes of irregular migration. The coming years may see an increase in climate-induced displacement, necessitating proactive measures to build climate resilience within vulnerable communities. It is recommended that policymakers implement strategies that enhance domestic employment opportunities through investment in key sectors, improve education and vocational training and foster an environment that encourages the return of skilled migrants. Additionally, strengthening regulatory frameworks to protect migrants and combat human trafficking is crucial.

By leveraging the economic contributions of migrants and integrating their experiences and skills into national development strategies, Bangladesh can transform emigration from a challenge into a robust opportunity for sustainable economic growth. Emphasizing collaboration with international partners and adhering to global migration frameworks will further enhance the country's capacity to manage migration effectively, aligning national interests with global standards. Ultimately, the goal is to suppress forced and illegal migration by creating conditions that encourage individuals to remain in the country, while ensuring that any aspirations to migrate abroad are fulfilled through legal, safe and voluntary channels.



## 9

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## About the Author

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Major General Muniruzzaman (Retd) is a distinguished former military officer with 38 years of service in the Bangladesh Army. Commissioned in the Field Artillery, he commanded multiple artillery and infantry units. He held key operational roles, such as Chief Operational Staff Officer of an Infantry Division, and served as Military Secretary to the President of Bangladesh. A

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