

Nafiz Basher Alif

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Education

University of Dhaka

August 2026

Bachelor of Social Sciences, Public Administration

Thesis: *When the State Falters: The Political Economy of Policy Failure in Migration Governance*

Supervisor: Dr. Akram Hossain

Experience

Institute of Policy Dynamics (IPD)

May 2026 – Present

Policy Research Fellow

- Conduct quantitative research across **5+ projects**, analyzing survey and policy data to examine governance, institutional performance, and public policy outcomes using R and SPSS.
- Synthesize academic literature and theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence to develop research frameworks and inform ongoing studies.
- Examine how political incentives, institutional structures, and administrative processes shape policy implementation and governance outcomes.

Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Bangladesh

January 2025 – December 2025

Research Associate

Supervisor: Ms. Khaleda Yasmin, National Coordinator

- Designed and conducted field research on governance failures in migration regulation, examining how administrative incentives and political intermediaries shape pre-departure decision-making.
- Applied a governance diagnostics framework to identify institutional choke points associated with political discretion and implementation failures.
- Conducted **30+ semi-structured interviews** with migrants, returnees, and government officials to examine institutional practices and experiences of migration governance.
- Developed a comparative analytical matrix mapping patterns of bureaucratic delay, rent-seeking, and informal brokerage.

VERNE (A Dhaka-Based Think-Tank)

August 2024 – February 2025

Research Assistant

- Managed and analyzed **600+ observations** for governance and development research using SPSS.
- Conducted regression diagnostics, correlation analysis, and data-quality checks while maintaining research codebooks and analytical documentation.
- Synthesized literature across political economy, administrative behavior, and development governance to support theoretical development in ongoing research.
- Assisted with methodological design and documentation, including sampling strategies, validity assessment, and mixed-methods triangulation.

Working Papers and Publications

1. The Profits of Dysfunction: Political Incentives and Institutional Failure in South Asia

Working Paper

Examines how institutional dysfunction may be sustained as a rent-generating mechanism in alternating-elite regimes, drawing on mixed-methods evidence from governance in Bangladesh, with comparative evidence from Sri Lanka and Pakistan using secondary governance data.

2. When the State Falters: The Political Economy of Policy Failure in Migration Governance

Thesis

Examines why formally capable institutions persistently underperform in migration governance, focusing on how political elites, bureaucratic actors, and intermediaries can benefit from delays, opacity, and discretionary enforcement.

DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.7288818

Research Interests

Political Economy, Institutional Persistence, Governance, State Capacity, Policy Failure, South Asian Politics

Professional Memberships

International Political Science Association (IPSA)

2026 – Present

Student Member

Leadership and Service

Public Administration Career and Communication Club (PACCC)

March 2024 – January 2025

Assistant Organizing Secretary

- Organized career and communication workshops by managing logistics, preparing outreach materials, and coordinating with speakers and faculty advisors.
- Assisted in planning event schedules, internal coordination, and communication with club members to support smooth execution of activities.
- Helped maintain participation records and documentation for club operations.

Research & Technical Skills

Research Methods: Mixed-methods research, qualitative and quantitative research design, semi-structured interviewing, fieldwork protocols, qualitative coding, thematic analysis, literature review, theory synthesis, policy analysis

Software: SPSS, R, Zotero, LaTeX, Microsoft Office & Excel

Languages

English – Native Proficiency

Bengali – Native Proficiency

Hindi – Intermediate Proficiency

Urdu – Basic Proficiency