Bangladesh begins a new chapter as UNESCO President



Collected picture

For the first time in history, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative and Ambassador, Khandakar Mohammad Talha, has assumed the role of President of UNESCO's General Conference. On Thursday (October 30), he formally took office, presiding over the opening session of the General Conference.

Talha was elected to this position earlier in October, defeating the candidate from Japan. Under his leadership, Bangladesh now enters a new era at UNESCO's highest forum.

In his address, Ambassador Talha said, "In today's world, cultural diversity is being used as a tool for division, while scientific progress often creates new threats for humanity." He urged the global community to work together based on human values, ethics, and a sense of responsibility.

He further warned that the uncontrolled use of artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and neuroscience could bring disaster to global society. According to him, even 80 years after UNESCO's founding, its ideals and goals remain highly relevant—though the world of 2025 faces far more complex realities.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay congratulated Bangladesh, stating, "This is a historic moment not just for Bangladesh, but for the global community as a whole." Former President Ambassador Simona also extended her best wishes to Talha, describing his experience as a valuable asset for the international community.

During the opening ceremony, Ambassador Talha's presidential chair was decorated with ceremonial honors. The event was attended by Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Serbia's President Aleksandar Vučić, and Slovakia's President Peter Pellegrini.

This year's General Conference is particularly significant—it is being held outside the UNESCO headquarters for the first time in 40 years, adding new diplomatic importance in global politics.