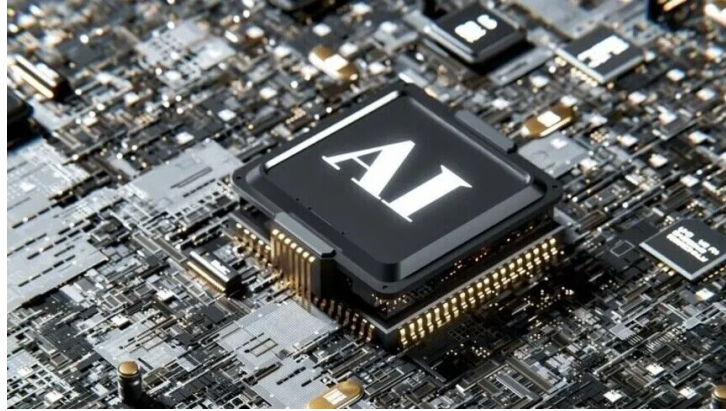

World Bank Sees AI as Key Driver for Development



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WASHINGTON: August 4 (RKI): Developing countries should remain optimistic about the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence (AI), but must invest in infrastructure, skills, institutions and data systems to benefit from the technology, according to the World Bank's latest report.

The World Development Report 2026: Decoding AI for Development highlighted that AI could help

developing economies accelerate growth and reduce development gaps by improving access to expertise and boosting productivity.

Gaurav Nayyar, director of the report, said AI could complement human capabilities by providing knowledge and support in areas facing shortages of skilled professionals, including healthcare, agriculture and public services.

He told Anadolu that developing countries could benefit significantly if they adopt, adapt and advance AI according to their local needs. However, he warned that without proper preparation, the technology could increase inequalities and widen the digital divide.

The report noted that AI benefits would not emerge automatically and countries needed strong digital infrastructure, better education systems, skilled workforces and reliable data frameworks.

Nayyar said concerns about job losses were understandable, but previous technological transformations showed that while some roles disappear, new jobs and professions are created.

He emphasized that governments should focus on building adaptable skills, supporting innovation and creating a trustworthy environment for responsible AI use. Young populations and strong startup ecosystems could provide developing countries with additional advantages in adopting the technology.