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Political Leaders, Social Organizations from Multiple Countries Blast Pelosi's Visit to China's Taiwan

Reunification at New Starting Point

China Deserves Praise for Poverty Eradication

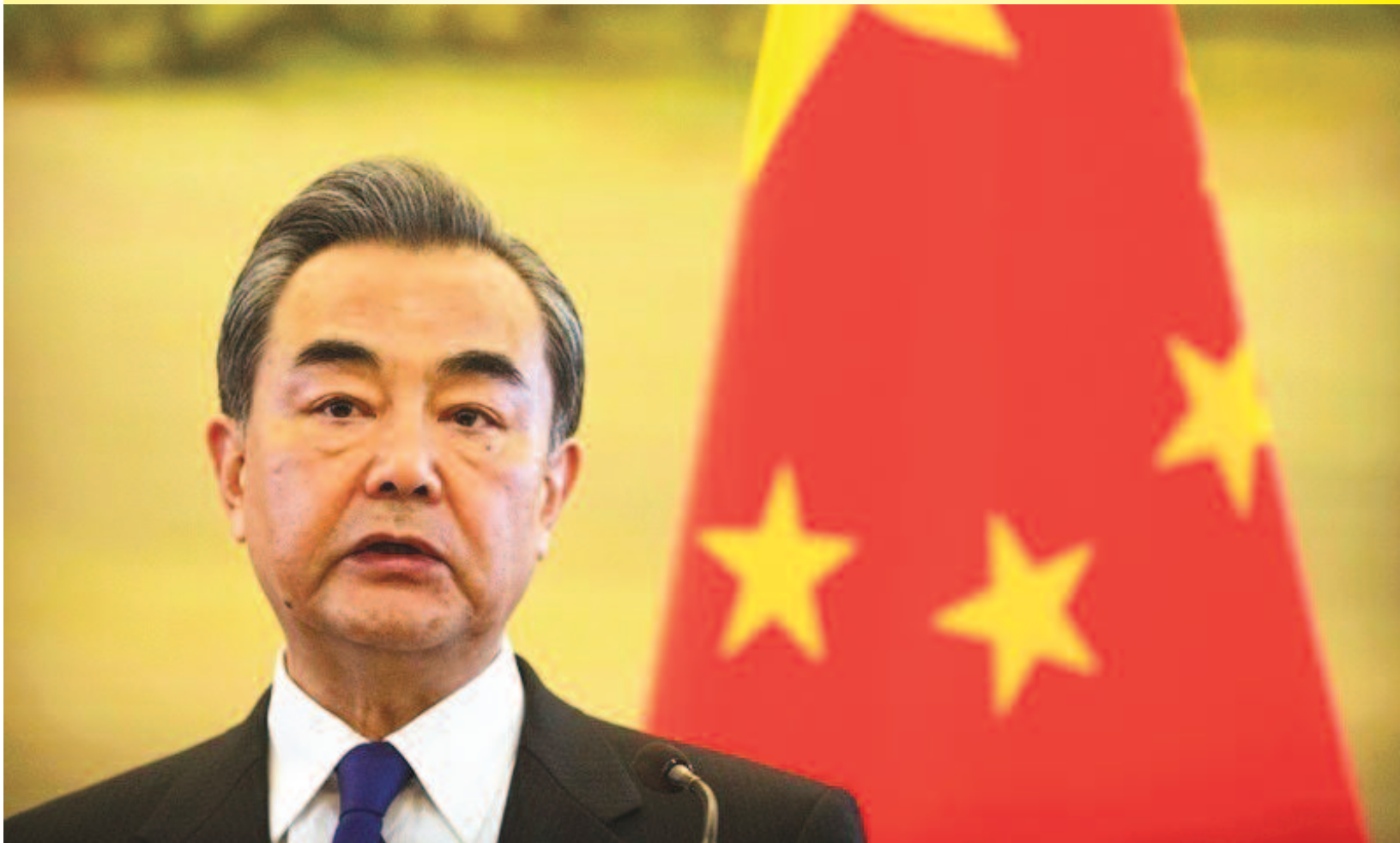
A Brief History of China



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# The Belt and Road

July - September 2022 Issue 2

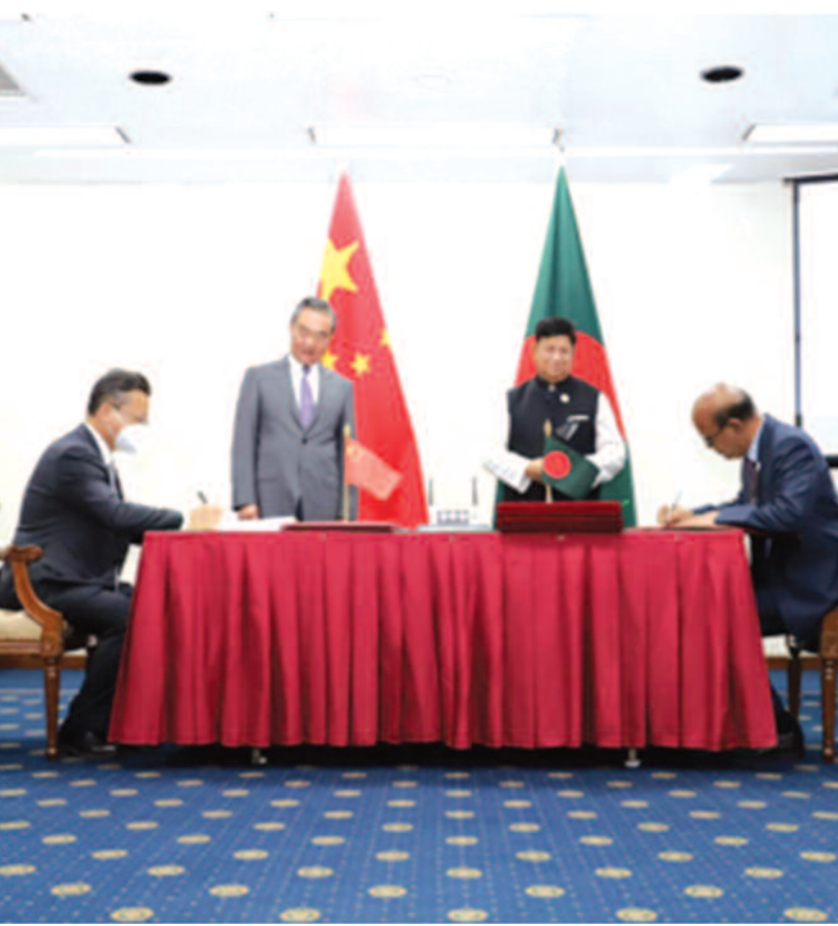


*Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was on a regional tour seeking to shore up ties in South Asia including Bangladesh on August 6, 2022*



**Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh  
Centre for East Asia Foundation, Bangladesh**

# In Pictures: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Recent Visit to Bangladesh





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# The Belt and Road

A Quarterly Magazine

一带一路  
季刊杂志

Issue-02

July-September, 2022

**The Belt and Road Initiative-One Vision to Make the World  
'Community of Shared Future'**

“一带一路”倡议——打造“人类命运共同体”的愿景

**Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh  
Centre for East Asia Foundation, Bangladesh**

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# The Belt and Road

A Quarterly Magazine

一带一路

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## President's Desk



### A New Era for China-Bangladesh Strategic Cooperative Partnership Development

The past decade has witnessed the thriving economy and fundamental improvement of people's livelihood in Bangladesh. The GDP growth of Bangladesh averages 7.0% for the past decade. The infrastructure facilities such as power grids, transportation facilities, water supplies, solid waste management and telecommunications have been substantially improved. In June 2022, Hon'ble PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Bangladesh's longest bridge to date, the 6.15 km road-rail Padma Bridge connecting underdeveloped South-eastern region to Dhaka, showing to the world Bangladesh Government's commitment to its people in sustained socio-economic development through improved infrastructure connectivity. In September 2022, China-funded green Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant with 5 million beneficiaries has been put into operation. The Karnaphuli tunnel is expected to be completed by December 2022 with 90% of works done, which will facilitate the industrialization of Karnaphuli River Basin and its neighbourhood as industrial clusters are formulated along the river banks now.

Yet it is a difficult time for Bangladesh. Bangladesh is recently confronting the flooding challenges such as economic vulnerability in the post-pandemic era, social unrest including sustained protests and hard clashes, and rise of geopolitical rivalry and international disputes.

The visit of Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi to Bangladesh in early August 2022 signals positive about the outlook of Bangladesh's economy and social stability in the challenging time with cooperation and support from China. China has always been the most reliable long-term strategic partner of Bangladesh, and is willing to promote the in-depth docking of the Belt and Road Initiative with Bangladesh's development strategy, accelerate the joint feasibility study of the China-Bangladesh free trade agreement, and share development and market opportunities as well as advanced experiences and technologies, which can by large facilitate the economic recovery of Bangladesh and bilateral trades in the long-run. During Wang Yi's state visit, China has signed with Bangladesh four MoUs in the field of cooperation on cultural issues, disaster management, educational programs of a Chinese university with Dhaka University on marine science and handed over of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Pirojpur.

The Belt and Road Initiative avails Bangladesh a great opportunity to enhance regional connectivity and embrace a bright future by facilitating bilateral policy coordination, connectivity facilities, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bond in cooperation with China. China has been Bangladesh's largest trade partner and the 98% Duty-Free Facility will further enhance the bilateral trade between China and Bangladesh. With the pandemic situation getting better, China and Bangladesh will for sure deepen trade, investment and industrial cooperation, and strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The better is yet to come.

**Ke Changliang**  
President  
Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB)

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## Editor's Note



China and Bangladesh are neighbors with lucent and long-standing civilizations, which naturally led to our communication 2500 years ago. In the process of interaction, we share more and more identical view, deepen mutual understanding and friendship, enlarged common ground and formed the theme of peaceful and symmetrical exchanges. We learned to draw on each other's strengths with mutual respects, embrace different and new opinions and supply each other's needs. Like the Yarlung Zangbo River and the Bramaputra River, Sino-Bangladesh friendship lasts from the past to the present and has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

The Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi, has ended his seventeen-hour tour to Bangladesh on 7 August 2022. The Chinese foreign minister's visit to Bangladesh comes in a watershed moment of global geopolitical, economic, and strategic dynamics. He met Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Momen. Probably both meetings were successful and fruitful.

The two sides agreed on strengthening cooperation in infrastructure, economic and industrial parks, and cultural exchanges, to expand cooperation in local currency settlement, 5G, and clean energy. The good news is that Bangladesh will now have 98 percent duty-free export facilities in China from 1 September 2022, up from 97 percent earlier. But it is disappointing that Bangladesh was unable to gain quota-free access due to its lack of product diversity and market understanding. Another excellent development was that Bangladeshi students are able to return to China from 8 August 2022 and their visas will be provided in accordance with their return.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina in a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for the One China Policy. Bangladesh firmly adheres to the 'One China Principle, believes that Taiwan is part of China, and supports the Chinese side in safeguarding its core interests and major concerns.

The Island of Taiwan is an integral part of China. This is an indisputable fact supported by history and the law. There is 'One China' in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Taiwan has never been a state, its status as part of China is unalterable. The 'One-China' principle' is a universal consensus of the international communities and a basic norm in international relations-confirmed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Regulation 2758 and 181 countries in the world, including the USA, UK, Europe, Japan and, Australia. The Communist Party of China (CPC) is committed to the historic mission of resolving the Taiwan question and realizing China's complete and peaceful reunification.

We strongly believe that once peaceful reunification is achieved under "One Country, Two Systems," it will lay new and sustainable foundation for China to make further progress and achieve national rejuvenation. At the same time, it will create huge opportunities for social and economic benefits in Taiwan and bring palpable benefits to the People of Taiwan.

**Nasim Mahmud**  
Chief Editor  
The Belt and Road Magazine  
Bangladesh, Dhaka

## PM Hasina Reaffirms Bangladesh's Support for 'One-China' Policy



*Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 7 August, 2022 reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for the 'One-China' policy, saying it values friendship with Beijing as she held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who promised better trade ties, investment and support for infrastructure development in the country.

In the midst of rising tension between China and Taiwan after the visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taipei, Chinese foreign minister Wang arrived in Dhaka on 6 August, 2022 evening and met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen. Wang's visit coincided with the tour of a senior US state department official.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh values its friendship with China and reiterated that Dhaka believes in One China Policy', premier's press secretary Ihsanul Karim told media after Wang called on her at her official Ganabhaban residence.

After winning elections in 2008, Hasina's administration closed the Taiwanese business representative office in Dhaka in response to a request from China, and since then China has increased its engagement in Bangladesh.

Hasina's comments came as Wang explained Beijing's stance over the Taiwan issue while she also said South Asia, South East Asia and China could work together for economic progress negating challenges arising from the Russia-Ukraine war.

Hasina said the Russia-Ukraine conflict resulted in sanctions and counter-sanctions and "people across the globe are suffering from all these reasons while South Asia, South East Asia and China can work together for economic progress, overcoming the contemporary challenges". The Chinese foreign minister said his country would support issues involving Bangladesh in the international forums and continue their cooperation for Bangladesh's overall development as a strategic partner.

China will continue supporting the development of Bangladesh as a strategic development partner,” Karim quoted Wang as telling the Premier. Discussing the Rohingya refugee crisis, Hasina said the forcibly displaced Rohingyas have now become an extra burden for Bangladesh, as she sought China’s cooperation to resolve the issue. Wang, however, said Beijing expected the issue to be resolved through bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

During talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Momen, Wang reiterated China’s commitment to do its level best to find a solution to start Rohingyas repatriation to Myanmar.

Bangladesh and China signed or renewed four agreements and memorandums of understanding on disaster management, infrastructure, cultural exchanges and marine science after Wang’s talks with Momen.

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar

Alam later told reporters that during the bilateral meeting, China promised to give duty-free access of another one per cent of Bangladeshi products to its market. “I think this is the major achievement of Chinese foreign minister’s visit in Dhaka that China will allow duty free access of an extra one percent of Bangladeshi products to their market,” Alam said. From September 1, Bangladesh would get 98 percent duty-free export facility in the Chinese market, he said, adding that the Chinese minister also showed interest to commence discussion regarding preferential trade mechanism with Dhaka.

Both sides discussed bilateral, regional and global issues and expressed hope to elevate bilateral relations between Dhaka and Beijing into a new level, Alam said.

Wang visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi-32 on 6 August evening and paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Source: Desk Report

## From Archives China, Bangladesh lift ties to strategic partnership of cooperation



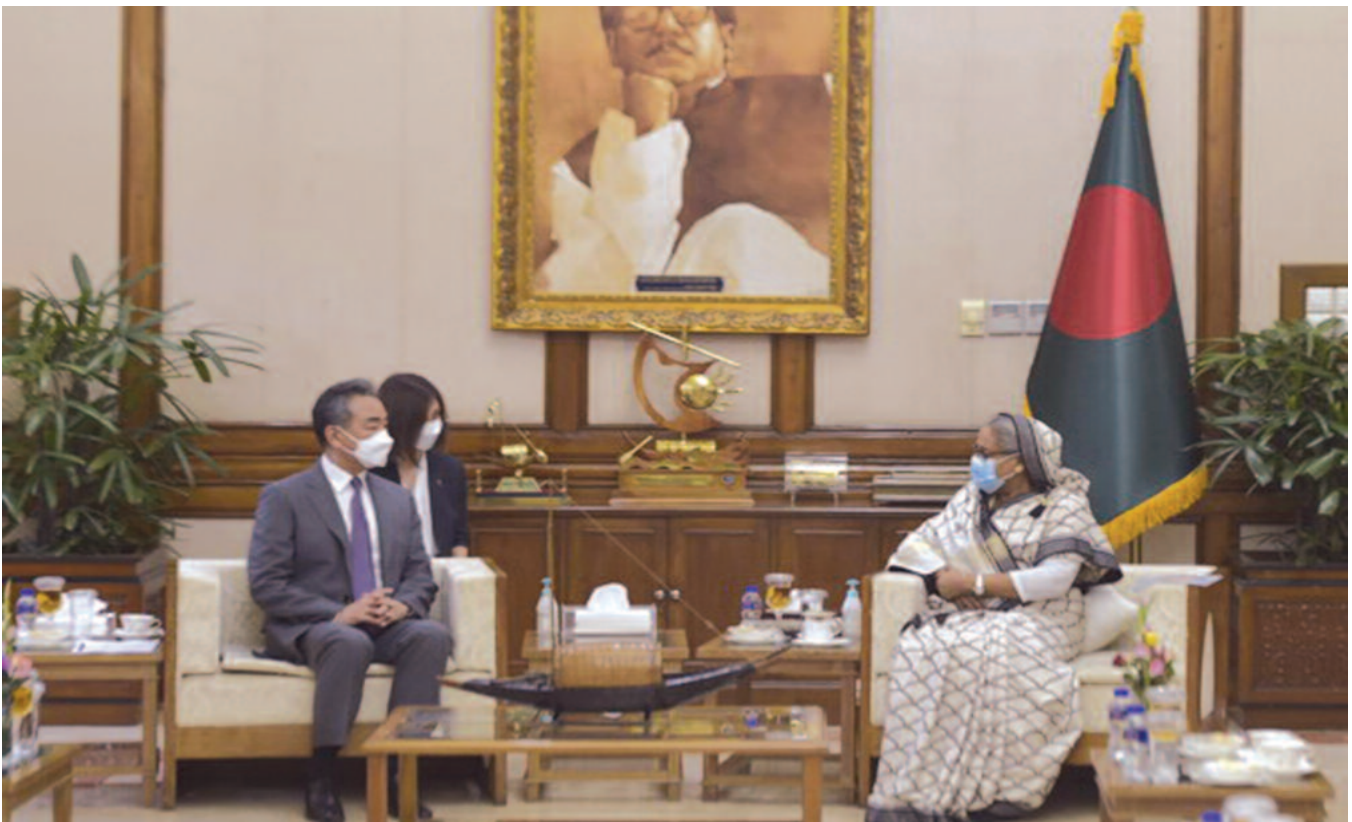
*Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 14, 2016. [Xie Huanchi / Xinhua]*

## Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Wang Yi first conveyed Chinese leaders' sincere greetings to Prime Minister Hasina. He said that the firm friendship between China and Bangladesh was jointly forged by the elder generation of national leaders of the two countries and enjoys a profound historical and social foundation and solid public support. The two countries have always trusted, respected, supported and helped each other. Last year, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina respectively exchanged video congratulatory messages on the centenary of Bangladeshi founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, releasing a clear political signal of promoting and developing China-Bangladesh friendship. China has always been a reliable strategic partner of Bangladesh, and will continue to

staunchly support Bangladesh in safeguarding national independence and national dignity, adhering to the development path suited to its own national conditions, and playing a bigger role in international affairs. China is willing to strengthen the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with Bangladesh's Vision 2041, share development experience and advanced technology, and deepen cooperation in infrastructure, digital economy, green development, clean energy, and other areas.

Hasina asked Wang Yi to convey her sincere greetings to Chinese leaders. She said that the Chinese delegation, upon their arrival in Dhaka, laid wreaths at the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum. It demonstrated the respect for and friendship with Bangladesh. My father, Bangladesh founding father and former Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur



Rahman visited China twice and was firmly committed to consolidating and developing Bangladesh-China relations. Bangladesh pursues the foreign policy of "friendship for all, no enemy for all", cherishes its traditional friendship with China, and regards China as an important partner in maintaining peace and seeking common development. Bangladesh looks forward to deepening the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides and learning from China's successful experience in poverty reduction and alleviation. Bangladesh firmly adheres to the 'One-China' policy, disapproves of the provocative behaviors of certain countries, and hopes to jointly safeguard a peaceful and stable environment for development.

Wang Yi appreciated the vast majority of developing countries including Bangladesh for openly standing up and supporting the 'One-China' principle and China's legitimate position. Wang Yi emphasized that the United States' act seriously violated China's sovereignty, crudely interfered in China's internal affairs, and severely violated the basic norms governing international relations. China's countermeasures are aimed at defending its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and truly maintaining peace across the Taiwan Strait, in Asia and the world at large.

Wang Yi emphasized that the 21st century is an era of revitalization for developing countries, and developing countries' jointly striding toward modernization is huge progress of human civilization. We should continue to support each other, remove disturbances, focus on development, and stride with confidence towards the stated goal of achieving the revitalization of respective nations.

The two countries also exchanged views on the issue of people seeking shelter in the border areas of Bangladesh and Myanmar. Wang Yi said that China welcomes the agreement which Bangladesh and Myanmar have reached in their recent consultations and supports an early start of the first batch of repatriation, and is willing to continue to play a constructive role to this end.

During his visit, Wang Yi also met with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen, and they witnessed the signing of cooperation documents on infrastructure, disaster prevention and mitigation, culture and tourism, and maritime affairs.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China  
Date: 2022-08-08

## From Archives **BANGLADESH AT 50: NAVIGATING STRATEGIC SURVIVAL**



## Wang Yi Holds Talks with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen

On August 7, 2022 local time, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen in Dhaka. Momen said that the strong Bangladesh-China friendship was forged and nurtured by the elder generations of national leaders of the two countries, and the two countries are partners with mutual trust and of common development. Deepening close ties and cooperation with China is an irreplaceable choice for Bangladesh. Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had visited China twice, and was deeply impressed by the firm will, honoring commitments and robust vitality of the Chinese people. Since the establishment of diplomatic relationship, Bangladesh-China relations have enjoyed a rapid development. President Xi Jinping paid a milestone visit to Bangladesh in 2016, and all outcomes have been effectively implemented. Momen thanks the Chinese side for providing the Bangladeshi side with valuable support, easing its immediate difficulties, and helping Bangladesh accelerate infrastructure development, changing the face of the country. China has created a miracle of economic development, and has become Bangladesh's biggest trading partner. Bangladesh expects to strengthen the alignment and cooperation between the "Sonar Bangla" dream and the Belt and Road Initiative, to speed up the achievement of Bangladesh's vision and goals.

Wang Yi said that the China-Bangladesh relations are founded on the basis of profound mutual trust of the elder generations of national leaders of the two countries, on the basis of jointly striving for national independence and dignity, and on the basis of jointly safeguarding legitimate interests of developing countries. Wang Yi congratulates Bangladesh on its flourishing economy and continuously improved livelihood of its people. The China-Bangladesh cooperation in various fields has been smoothly advanced delivering benefits to the two peoples. In the process of Bangladesh's realizing the "Sonar Bangla" dream, China has always been Bangladesh's most reliable long-term strategic partner. China stands ready to promote the greater synergy between the Belt and Road Ini-



tiative and Bangladesh's development strategies, accelerate the joint feasibility studies of the China-Bangladesh free trade agreement, share development and market opportunities with each other, and share advanced experience and technology.

Wang Yi elaborated on China's position on the Taiwan question, and appreciates Bangladesh's immediate support for China's legitimate propositions. He emphasized that China is ready to work with the vast developing countries to jointly safeguard respective national sovereignty and territorial integrity, jointly uphold the basic norm governing international relations of non-interference in other country's internal affairs, jointly maintain global and regional peace and stability, jointly oppose and contain any activity to split a country, and jointly strive for a favorable external environment for focusing on seeking development.

Momen expressed that Bangladesh firmly adheres to the 'One-China' principle, believes that Taiwan is part of China, and supports the Chinese side in safeguarding its core interests and major concerns. Some countries do not want to see developing countries grow and become strong, and do everything possible to create various obstacles. The world needs China's strength and voice, and Bangladesh will stand firmly with China. Bangladesh advocates multi-

lateralism, adheres to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and holds that the purposes and principles and the UN Charter must be upheld, and the UN General Assembly resolutions must be implemented. The separatism must be effectively forestalled; otherwise, it will be a catastrophe for the whole world.

The two sides agreed on strengthening cooperation in infrastructure, economic and industrial parks, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, to expand cooperation in local currency settlement, 5G and clean energy. The two sides will continue close communication and coordination in international and regional affairs.

Wang Yi announced that China's grant of zero-tariff treat-

ment for 98 percent of taxable items of Bangladeshi products exported to China will officially take effect on September 1. China welcomes more superior products from Bangladesh to China.

The two sides also had in-depth exchanges of views on issues of common concern.

After the talks, the two foreign ministers jointly witnessed the signing of cooperation documents on infrastructure, disaster prevention and mitigation, culture and tourism, and maritime affairs.

**Source:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Date: 2022-08-08

## Project Gallery: Rail Track Installation Started on Bangladesh's Largest Bridge



*Bangladesh Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan inaugurated the installation of rail track on the lower deck of Bangladesh's Padma Bridge on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 20, 2022. [Photo/Xinhua]*

## How Significant Was Chinese Foreign Minister's Visit To Bangladesh?

Dr. Rosy Shahjahan



*China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Photo Credit: Kremlin.ru*

**W**ang Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor, has ended his seventeen-hour trip to Bangladesh on 6 August, 2022. Mr. Wang with AK Abdul Momen, his counterpart from Bangladesh conducted discussions about bilateral, regional, and global issues during his visit. He also paid the honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a courtesy visit. During his visit he stated that his nation will continue to support Bangladesh's development and referred to Dhaka as a "strategic development partner".

The visiting Foreign Minister spoke about the pressing issue affecting Bangladesh, the "Rohingya Crisis," and expressed that China is very concerned and is honestly trying to find a solution describing Myanmar as a challenging country to deal with. He briefed by the officials that the presence of more than 1.1 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh is causing a serious social security and social

stability dilemma and is a threat to Bangladesh's national security. Even while Bangladesh has made a tremendous effort to promote the Rohingyas repatriation in all diplomatic, bilateral, and international forums, hardly any notable support has come from its well-wishers. However, China has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to mediate between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the Rohingya issue if required and notably, has joined the negotiation process in 2018 through a trilateral meeting. However, Bangladesh needs China's more active participation in negotiation table for successful repatriation of persecuted Rohingyas to their homeland.

The good news is that Bangladesh will now have 98 percent duty-free export facilities in China, up from 97 percent earlier. The decision was made during a bilateral meeting between Bangladeshi Foreign Minister and Chinese Foreign Minister. From September 1 of this year, the facility will be in use. But it is disappointing that

Bangladesh was unable to gain from quota-free access to such sizable China's import market of \$2.69 trillion due to a lack of product diversity and market understanding. According to experts, if Bangladesh can only capture 1% of the Chinese import market, it can generate \$20 to \$25 billion annually, which appears inevitable for an economy that will leave the Least Developed Country category in 2026. Before LDC graduation, it is necessary to gain a sizeable market share in China through product familiarization in order to facilitate exports even when quota-free access may not be available.

Besides, Wang expresses appreciation to Bangladesh for restating its stance on the "One China" policy. In fact, historically Bangladesh has maintained a strong stance against any unusual escalation anywhere in the globe. Bangladesh is not an exception to the global economic turmoil that has been caused from the COVID pandemic to the most recent invasion of Ukraine. It is imperative that we resist any further escalation that could worsen the global economy said Bangladeshi leaders.

Bangladesh and China on 7 August, 2022 signed four Memorandum of Understanding to boost cooperation between two countries over the transfer of 8th China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, Disaster management, cultural exchange (renewal) and marine science cooperation. As Bangladesh is a lower riparian country, it often suffers as climate victim from the non-considering decision of Upper riparian countries. Recent news of Dam development in China's the Yarlung Tsangpo and retaliatory dam in Indian Brahmaputra river raises concern as water flow to Bangladesh may hamper while it is common Interna-

tional River. The same river is named Brahmaputra in Bangladesh and India and Yarlung Tsangpo in China. So, where there is a shared interest, such as common rivers or flood occurrences, Bangladesh must be shared with information about any ongoing development. In addition, Bangladesh may work to share expertise of Chinese marine success to assess oil and gas extraction from sea blocks of Bay of Bengal to reduce energy tension in the long run.

Another astounding development comes from the Chinese Foreign Minister's statement as he said Bangladeshi students will be able to return to China from 8 August, 22 and their visas will be provided in accordance with their return. Bangladeshi students studying in China who have come back to Bangladesh in leave during COVID period have felt upset for the past two years as they cannot attend in person classes due to visa restrictions that made it difficult for foreign students to enter China. Approximately 11,000 of Bangladeshi students studying in China make up 12th of overall number of foreign students studying there. Bangladesh should endeavour to increase student scholarships from China and improve knowledge exchange at the scholar level.

There is ample scope of cooperation between the growing economy of Bangladesh and leading economy of China. Long-lasting, flourishing Sino-Bangladesh relations may be facilitated by planned experience sharing and active engagement of both countries.

**Dr. Rosy Shahjahan** is columnist at *Eurasia Review*.

## QUOTABLE QUOTE



## OPINION

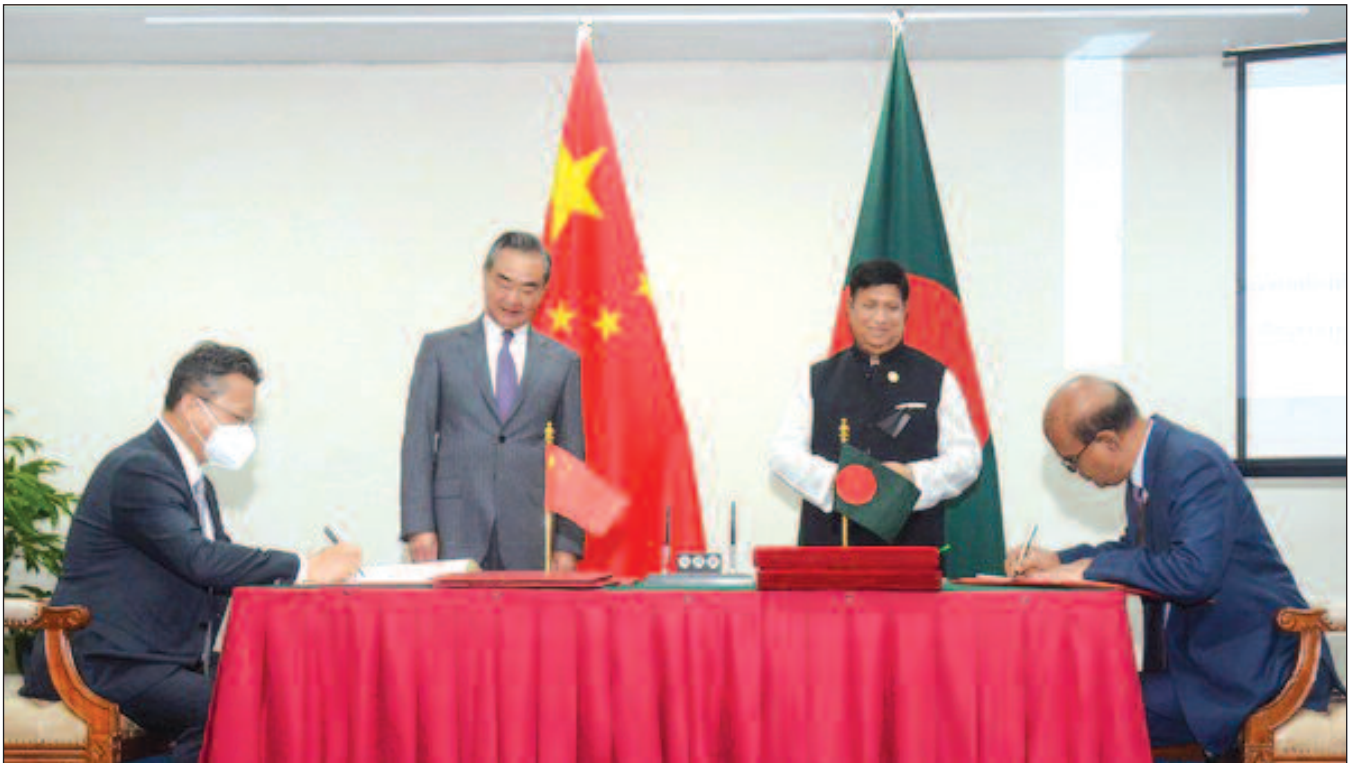
## Unpacking the Significance of Chinese Foreign Minister's Visit to Bangladesh

Emilia Fernandez

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi was on a two-day visit in Bangladesh as part of his multi-legged trips to South and South East Asian nations from August 6 to August 8. Wang's visit to Bangladesh is at a time when the world is sailing through turbulence due to heightened tension

but also in rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics.

During an hour-long bilateral meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart, the top Chinese diplomat signed four agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation between Dhaka and Beijing. These instruments are signed for cooperation



*Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (2nd L) and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen (2nd R) witness the signing of bilateral cooperation documents in Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 7, 2022. /Chinese Foreign Ministry*

over the Taiwan question and the Ukraine crisis. The multiple issues, ranging from bilateral to regional to global, discussed with Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen clearly testifies the significance of this official visit not only in the context of growing Sino-Bangladesh relations

on cultural exchange, disaster management, and marine science advancement. Upon successful implementation, these cooperative agreements will "elevate" the friendship between the two to a "new height."

Since the "Clearance Operation" in Rakhine State of Myanmar in 2017, Bangladesh has been generously host-

ing 1.2 million Rohingyas as “short-term” guests. For the last five years, Bangladesh has been bearing the substantial socio-economic burden of supporting the persecuted Rohingyas, which has now become next to impossible as there has been a significant slashing of external donations for supporting the Rohingyas. Besides, Bangladesh alone cannot afford to support this huge population because of its limited financial resources and capabilities.

During this recent visit, it was confirmed from the Chinese side that Beijing is committed to and sincerely working to find a peaceful solution to resolve the Rohingya crisis. As Bangladesh considers the Rohingya crisis as a big threat to national security, having assurance from a global partner like China for resolving the crisis is like a blessing for Dhaka.

In July 2020, China granted duty-free 97 percent of Bangladeshi products. At the very outset of 2022, China again granted duty-free access to 98 percent of Bangladeshi products. During this visit, China increased these scopes of duty holiday for Bangladeshi products to its market which is officially going to be effective from September 2022.

Apart from that, the Chinese foreign minister agreed to conduct a joint survey on probable prioritized trade agreements between these two countries. Besides, Bangladesh successfully convinced its Chinese counterpart to relocate Chinese companies, i.e. Sunset Industries, in Bangladesh. On top of that, China confirmed to share latest technologies and technological know-how with Bangladesh for the latter’s economic zones.

Wang Yi promised to start the activities in a special economic zone in Chattogram soon. Both parties also discussed ways to address the trade disparity, the biggest problems in their bilateral ties, which exist in the two-way trade between Beijing and Dhaka.

Apart from bilateral issues and the Taiwan question, both parties discussed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), a people-centered approach to put development on the global priority agenda to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the part of Dhaka,

it agreed to study the proposals that will be received under GDI. Apart from supporting Bangladesh’s development journey, the GDI will boost Bangladesh’s efforts in economic recovery in the post-pandemic era.

Around eleven thousand Bangladeshi students are studying in different Chinese universities who have been stuck in Bangladesh during the pandemic. This issue has been seriously discussed in the meeting with the Chinese delegation team. And, senior diplomats from Chinese side assured Bangladesh to issue visas for Bangladeshi students to pave their way to return to China as soon as possible.

After the recent “controversial visit” to China’s Taiwan region by the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Bangladesh reiterated its firm adherence to support the ‘One-China’ principle and requested relevant parties to resolve the issues through dialogue and discussion. During the visit, Wang highly appreciated Bangladesh’s long-standing commitment to the ‘One-China’ principle.

During a courtesy call with Bangladesh’s Prime Minister, Wang termed Bangladesh as a “strategic development partner” and assured to keep supporting Bangladesh “on all issues at international forums.” This statement clearly shows the growing convergence between China and Bangladesh on various regional and global issues. Apart from addressing the mutual concerns and interests, a clear roadmap was drawn for bolstering their future ties.

Also, this visit is expected to strengthen their bilateral relations in trade, investment and technological assistance. On the whole, this has been a “politically significant” and “economically productive” trip for both countries as it is a step towards strengthening strategic ties between Beijing and Dhaka.

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**Emilia Fernandez**, a security and political analyst with a focus on South Asian geopolitics, is a Ph.D. researcher at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. This article was first published in CGTN.

## Reunification at New Starting Point

Li Huan



On Aug 10, the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council and the Information Office of the State Council published a white paper titled “The Taiwan Question and China’s Reunification in the New Era,” setting out the positions and policies of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government

in advancing reunification in the new era. This is the third white paper on Taiwan issued by the government, the first two being “The Taiwan Question and China’s Reunification” in August 1993 and “The One-China Principle and the Taiwan Question” published in February 2000.

Each of these white papers functioned as both an explanation of national policy and a response to the situation in the Taiwan Strait. The first was published when the first Wang-Koo Talks ended and the situation was improving, but Taiwan’s authorities openly promoted the “participation in the United Nations” campaign. The second white paper was published when Lee Teng-hui dished out his “two states” statement shortly before Chen Shui-bian came to power. The latest white paper was published after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan and at the end of China’s military exercises in the Eastern Theater Command. Two points in the current paper are of particular interest:

- It mentions “a new starting point for reunification” for the first time.

In fact, even without Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan to stir up trouble, the situation in the Taiwan Strait has been troublesome in recent years. As the CPC is about to hold its 20th National Congress, it is necessary for the Chinese government to once again elaborate its position and policy and demonstrate its will and determination to promote unification. This can deter separatist elements advocating Taiwan independence, as well as external interference. And it can enhance the confidence of anti-in-

dependence forces on the island and overseas.

Five years ago, the political report of the 19th National Congress of the CPC officially declared that China had entered a new era, which is a historic starting point in its development. Over the past five years, in the face of increasingly complex Sino-U.S. relations and the situation in the strait, the Chinese government has responded calmly and concentrated its efforts on development and shoring up areas of weakness. It has fulfilled the First Centenary Goal of creating a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled and embarked on a new journey toward the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a modern socialist country.

From standing upright to becoming prosperous and growing in strength, the Chinese government is firmly on a positive path. This marks a new starting point for reunification. While the new era comes with new theories and strategies, it also faces new problems and conflicts, so it needs new plans and guidance. The latest white paper can be regarded as a prelude to the systematic elaboration of China’s policy toward Taiwan at the CPC’s 20th National Congress.

- Reflecting new considerations with regard to “one country, two systems”

The white paper reiterates the basic policy of peaceful reunification with Taiwan and a “one country, two systems” approach. One country, two systems is an institutional in-





novation that addresses the coexistence of different social structures and ideologies while unifying one country as a whole. It was first proposed for solving the Taiwan question, but was put into practice in Hong Kong.

In the 25 years of practice in Hong Kong, the concept has experienced storms and hardships, but in recent years it has helped achieve a major turnaround from chaos to stability, enabling the special administrative region to enter an important period of prosperity. The practice of Hong Kong and Macao for more than 20 years has proved that ‘one country, two systems’ has strong vitality and is a workable solution and an achievable goal welcomed by the people.

With the practical experience of Hong Kong and Macao, the Chinese government has more confidence in the implementation of the concept in Taiwan after peaceful reunification. Although some political forces in Taiwan refuse to accept one country, two systems and continue to misinterpret and discredit it, the fact that Hong Kong and Macao have developed is indisputable.

For the first time, the new white paper draws on the practice of one country, two systems in Hong Kong to explain the policy of peaceful reunification for Taiwan, demonstrating the Chinese government’s determination to adhere to the concept in the long run and ensure its sustained and steady progress.

The white paper also points out for the first time that the Chinese government firmly believes that compatriots in Taiwan will develop a better understanding of one country, two systems. This includes a better understanding of the concepts of peace, democracy, goodwill and win-win, so that Taiwan people will actively participate in cross-strait communication, dialogue and democratic consultation, and contribute their wisdom and strength to the two-systems solution of the Taiwan question.

In addition, compared with the previous two white papers, some of the contents of the new one have been repeated, but there is always something new in them. They show that the Chinese government is determined to promote reunification in different contexts.

Their content includes the following:

### **1. Adhering to the basic policy of peaceful reunification and the one country, two systems concept**

In the 1950s, the Chinese government envisioned a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question. In the 1970s and 1980s, it formulated the one country, two systems policy. In 1992, it said it would unswervingly follow a policy of peaceful reunification using the one country, two systems approach and actively promote national reunification. In the new era, the Chinese government worked out the overall strategy for resolving the Taiwan question. All the way, the Chinese government has encountered difficulties and resistance, but it has been persistent in striving for peaceful reunification, believing that a non-peaceful way is the least-desirable choice and a last resort.

### **2. Opposing all forms of Taiwan independence secessionist activity and interference by external forces**

The white paper mentions that actions of Democratic Progressive Party authorities are obstacles that must be removed in advancing the process of peaceful reunification. Without the fiddling of agitators for independence and the interference of external entities, China’s road to peaceful reunification would not have had so many twists and turns.

### **3. Promoting the integrated development of cross-strait relations**

The terms “exchanges and cooperation,” “peaceful development” and “integrated development” are used by central authorities in reference to the deepening process of cross-strait relations. In pursuing integrated development of relations in the new era, China will learn from the lessons of Hong Kong – for example, that “territories and people’s hearts did not return at the same time.” It sees the need to promote integration through increased links, benefits and understanding, and to start the work of ensuring that people’s hearts return early by building a cross-strait integrated development demonstration zone as part of a good foundation for the peaceful reunification of the nation.

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## China, Bangladesh Pledge to Strengthen Partnership, Deepen Cooperation

**B**angladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 7 August, 2022, with both sides vowing to strengthen partnership and deepen bilateral cooperation.

Wang said China and Bangladesh enjoy a strong friendship forged by the older generation of the leaders of the two countries, which features a deep historical, social foundation and profound public support, and both sides have always trusted, respected, supported and helped each other.

China has always been a reliable strategic partner of Bangladesh, and will continue to firmly support the South Asian country in safeguarding its national independence and dignity, adhering to a development path suitable to its own national conditions, and playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, Wang said.

He noted that China is willing to enhance the dovetailing of the Belt and Road Initiative with Bangladesh's Vision 2041, share development experiences and advanced technologies, and deepen cooperation in infrastructure, digital economy, green development and clean energy.

For her part, Hasina said Bangladesh pursues a foreign policy of "friendship for all, no enemy for all," values its traditional friendship with China, and regards China as an important partner in maintaining peace and seeking common development.

Bangladesh looks forward to deepening the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides, and would like to learn from China's successful experiences in poverty reduction and alleviation, she said.

She pledged Bangladesh's firm commitment to the 'One-China' policy, saying Bangladesh disapproves of the provocative acts of certain countries, and hopes to jointly maintain a peaceful and stable environment for development.

China appreciates the vast majority of developing countries including Bangladesh for having openly stood up and voiced their support for the 'One-China' principle and China's legitimate position, Wang said.

Wang stressed that the U.S. action seriously infringed on China's sovereignty, acutely interfered in China's internal affairs and severely violated the basic norms governing international relations.

China's countermeasures are aimed at defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity and truly maintaining peace across the Taiwan Strait, in Asia and the world at large, he noted.

Wang stressed that the 21st century is an era of revitalization for developing countries, and most developing countries' jointly striding toward modernization is huge progress of human civilization.

"We should continue to support each other, remove disturbances, focus on development and stride forward with confidence towards the stated goal of achieving the revitalization of our respective nations," he said.

The two sides also exchanged views on the issue of people seeking shelter in the border areas of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Wang said China welcomes the consensus that Bangladesh and Myanmar have achieved in their recent consultations and supports the early start of the first batch of repatriation, and stands ready to continue to play a constructive role to this end.

During his visit, Wang also met Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. K. Abdul Momen and the two witnessed the signing of cooperation documents on infrastructure, disaster prevention and mitigation, culture and tourism, and maritime affairs.

Source: Xinhua

## Social and Economic Impact of China's Digital Presence in Bangladesh

Md. Rakibul Hoque Ph.D



Bangladesh has a rapid-fire growth in internet connectivity as well as some supporting measures for digital entrepreneurs. Nonetheless, access to finance is one of the major constraints for digital thresholds-ups. Besides, to promote digital platforms, ease of payment for online deals is necessary. Bangladesh is now the second largest supplier of on-

line labor in the world, with a 16 percent share of the global online workforce, following India which has a 24 percent share of the global online workforce. By the end of 2022, there will be an increase in the number of Bangladeshi online employees on creative and multimedia platforms.

By profoundly committed to the digital transformation in every sphere in Bangladesh, the government of Bangladesh has been making the required policies and infrastructure for a long time. As a part of continuous advancement in digital transformation, the government of Bangladesh has signed multiple big deals with the government of China. For instance, the government of Bangladesh has signed for receiving assistance from China to implement a USD692.2 million digital connectivity project aiming for ensuring fiber optic connectivity to every village. China also signed an agreement for developing an 'ICT Intra-network' for the government of Bangladesh and the modernization of the telecommunication network in Bangladesh. The country is also building the first tier IV data center and 5G infrastructure in Bangladesh, which will be supporting future smart city projects in Bangladesh. In the fintech sector, a Chinese company, Ali-

pay, has acquired 20% of bKash, the largest fintech company in Bangladesh. In the agriculture sector, Chinese experts have assisted Bangladesh to develop E-Village devices that can give crucial information about soil, environment and crop health to farmers. The farmers will receive ICT training so they can become entrepreneurs and market their products for a profit. They will also study cutting-edge farming methods to increase production.

Chinese companies will implement a Tk3,975 crore project that provides Bangladesh with the most up-to-date ICT infrastructure, digitizing government services and boosting ICT usage. The government will set up a central cloud platform, a frontier technology center, digital and specialized labs, IT infrastructure in various district and Upazila complexes, and ICT training facilities. The project will also build a digital literacy center with an ICT lab and other relevant infrastructures, such as cutting-edge virtual classrooms and distance learning platforms. Overall, by 2030, China plans to invest about USD 10 billion in the ICT sector in Bangladesh following its 'Belt and Road Initiative' project propositions. Since Bangladesh is a low-/middle-income country and the rapid digital transformation in the country is aimed to reduce the digital divide and improve the well-being of the common people, the community participation in the impact assessments of Chinese projects for digital transformation in Bangladesh is significant. Further, community participation in any project impact assessment is deemed as a useful way to collect important information and deeper insight into local circumstances such as economic and social changes.

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## INTERVIEW

# China-Bangladesh Currency Clearance Agreement Can Increase Trade by ‘an unimaginable scale’: Li Jiming, Ambassador of China

In a recent interview with *The Business Standard*, Ambassador Li Jiming said currency clearing arrangements between the two central banks to help use the RMB and Taka in transactions can increase trade by “an unimaginable scale”



**T**he Ambassador of China, His Excellency Li Jiming, has said Bangladesh can increase its exports to the \$17 trillion to Chinese market by participating in various Chinese trade expositions and fairs to familiarise Chinese consumers with its products.

In a recent interview with *The Business Standard*, Ambassador Li Jiming said currency clearing arrangements between the two central banks to help use the RMB and Taka in transactions can increase trade by “an unimaginable scale.” He also underscored the need to encourage more Chinese market-oriented investment by Bangladeshi

businesses and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTA).

In response to a question, Ambassador Li Jiming explained the significance of the visit of Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi to Dhaka on 6 and 7 August and commented that the visit would “deepen strategic integration, and further enhance practical cooperation” between the two countries.

He also explained the Chinese government’s position on US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s recent visit to Taiwan and the Chinese reaction to the visit.



The following is an edited transcription of the interview:

**What was the significance of the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Dhaka? Was it looking for ways to improve regional security amid heightened tensions? Or was it for more economic integration as the Bangladesh Prime Minister suggested that South Asia, Southeast Asia and China could work together for economic progress overcoming the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and sanctions?**

China and Bangladesh are amicable neighbours and strategic partners of cooperation. The visit of the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi aims at continuing traditional friendship and upgrading mutually beneficial cooperation. Upon arrival in Dhaka, Mr Wang first visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, where he recalled the history of friendly interactions between the two countries, and felt the solid historical, social and people-to-people bases for our bilateral relationship.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appreciated the Chinese side for the tribute to Bangabandhu and highlighted that Bangladesh cherishes friendship with China. She underscored that Bangladesh sees China as an important partner for maintaining peace and achieving common development, and it is an irreplaceable option for Bangladesh to deepen solidarity and cooperation with China. Bangladesh will stick to the 'One-China' principle and see Taiwan as an integral part of Chinese territory.

The two sides agreed to strengthen mutual political trust. Based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, we support each other to defend independence, national dignity and core interests, and to follow a development path suited to our respective national conditions. We are willing to keep exchange on the governance of the country.

The two sides agreed to have an even closer coordination on development strategies. The Belt and Road Initiative and the Vision 2041 perspective plan will further integrate. Cooperation will be deepened in the fields of infrastructure, digital economy, green development and so on. In order to further encourage Bangladesh's export to China, the Chinese side announced duty-free treatment of 98% tariff lines goods originating from Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to tighten social and cultural exchange. We signed a new culture and tourism exchange program, and decided to elevate exchange and cooperation on poverty reduction. China welcomes Bangladeshi students to return to China to resume studies. Flights between the two countries will be increased gradually.

Through the visit, China and Bangladesh renewed commitments to traditional friendship, reiterated the 'One-China' principle, agreed to deepen strategic integration, and further enhanced practical cooperation, thereby jointly infusing power of stability to the region and beyond against an uneasy international environment. The visit was fruitful and of great success.

**Now almost all Bangladeshi products (98%) have come under China's duty-free offer. How can Bangladesh businesses make best use of the offer? What are the strengths you see in Bangladesh's private sector and what more do you think will be needed for them to gain bigger footprints in the huge Chinese market?**

The Chinese Government has granted duty-free treatment of 97% tariff line goods originating from Bangladesh exported to China on July 1st of 2020 and it has had a positive effect. The duty-free treatment of 98% tariff lines goods originating from Bangladesh exported to China will take effect on September 1st 2022, which will further help to boost Bangladesh's export to China.

To boost Bangladesh's export to China, here are some points I would like to share:

**First**, we recommend Bangladesh's enterprises and exporters to participate in China's International Import Expo (CIIE). Exporters from Bangladesh have been invited to CIIE for four consecutive years. Like previous CIIEs, standard booths for Bangladeshi enterprises will be set up during the 5th CIIE to be held this November. Bangladeshi enterprises are also welcome to the China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming, which is my hometown. Again, free booths are always provided to our Bangladeshi friends. And the China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou (Canton Fair) is another influential fair that is worth participating in.

**Second**, Bangladesh needs more Chinese market-oriented investment. Be it 97% or 98% duty-free treatment,



Bangladesh needs to produce what the Chinese market needs in order to boost export. China's investment in Bangladesh in 2021 amounted to 1.26 billion dollars and grew almost threefold. With an accumulated investment of nearly \$3 billion, China remains a prominent FDI source for Bangladesh. The good news is that the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone, as the first industrial park, will soon be built in Chattogram, which is of landmark significance. It is hoped that more Chinese enterprises could be attracted to invest here to improve the manufacturing industry and industrial structure of the country, therefore, Bangladesh will have more diversified exportable products and thereby enjoy more opportunities to grasp the Chinese market.

**Third**, Bangladesh needs to advance studies on the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). In preparation for Bangladesh's graduation from the LDCs in 2026, we are glad to notice that the Bangladeshi side has shown a positive attitude and opened consideration on FTA with trade partners, including China. It is the proper time for our two countries to promote mutual consensus and deepen a joint feasibility study on FTA. FTA between China and Bangladesh would definitely help to make a preferable arrangement.

**Last but not the least**, bilateral financial and currency cooperation is strongly recommended to help facilitate trade and economic cooperation. If we could use RMB and Taka in bilateral trade, it will reduce transaction costs and mitigate exchange risk. If we could have a currency clearing arrangement between the central banks of our two countries, the cross-border payment and settlement of RMB will boost Chinese investment in Bangladesh and China's import of Bangladeshi goods on an unimaginable scale.

**China had granted zero-duty market access to 97% of Bangladeshi products in July last year, which was later raised to 98%. Trade data shows in nine months till March (July-March of FY21), Bangladesh's exports to China saw their lowest growth (9.68%) among major trading partners. What are the factors, you see, that held Bangladesh back from gaining much from the duty-free offer?**

According to statistics from China's customs, in 2021,

Bangladesh's export to China amounted to 1.05 billion dollars, exceeding \$1 billion for the first time, and registering a year-on-year growth rate of 30.9%. From January to May of 2022, Bangladesh's export to China reached 410 million dollars. So Bangladesh's exports to China are gaining momentum.

As to measures to further enhance Bangladesh's export, I have just shared my views on the question above, namely, we recommend Bangladesh's enterprises and exporters participate in various expositions to China to make Bangladeshi goods known to more Chinese consumers. We also encourage more Chinese market-oriented investment, the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and bilateral financial and currency cooperation to help facilitate trade and economic cooperation.

**Which Bangladeshi products do have the potential to be among China's top 20 import goods?**

At present, according to statistics from the Bangladesh government, more than 60% of Bangladesh's exports to China are garment products. So garment products are still the top product exported to China.

To Bangladeshi exporters' main concern, several kinds of basic leather products are added into the duty-free treatment of the 98% lines, providing more opportunities to Bangladesh's leather industry. It is noticed that programs such as the "Bangladesh leather and leather products promotion webinar" are undergoing and helping Chinese manufacturing enterprises related to leather products form business relations with Bangladesh's leather exporters.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has many high-quality agricultural, livestock and fishery products. For example, the national fish of Bangladesh, the hilsa, is among both the 97% and the 98% zero tariff lines and has already acquired inspection and quarantine access to the Chinese market. Bangladesh's mango, jackfruit, guava, honey, and beef, are all listed as duty-free products in both the 97% and the 98% tariff lines.

All of the goods mentioned above in Bangladesh have the potential to become star products in the Chinese market. And we are happy to see the brand of "made in Bangladesh" is earning its reputation.



**What are the areas you feel Bangladesh and China have scope to cooperate more? Development of infrastructures for regional connectivity by road, rail and sea; or anything else?**

China and Bangladesh enjoy a wide range of cooperation areas and a sound basis for cooperation. On the basis of our traditional cooperation in infrastructure construction, we will encourage more Chinese companies to expand their investment areas and carry out cooperation in agribusiness, food processing industry, ICT, wind and solar power, exploration and exploitation, etc.

**Why is China reacting so strongly towards Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan?**

Taiwan has been an inseparable part of China's territory for 1,800 years. In 1943, the leaders of China, the United States and Britain issued the Cairo Declaration, which clearly states that all territories Japan stole from the Chinese, such as Taiwan, shall be restored to China. The Potsdam Declaration of 1945 affirmed that the terms of the Cairo Declaration would be carried out. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758, passed in 1971, recognised that the representatives of the government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. When China and the United States established diplomatic relations on Jan. 1, 1979, the US recognised in the joint communique with China that the government of the PRC is the sole legal government of China.

However, the US unilaterally provoked the current crisis. Despite China's many representations, the US still allowed its Speaker of the House of Representatives and the third top official of the US Government Nancy Pelosi to visit Taiwan, which is a major event upgrading the substantive relations between the US and Taiwan and sends a very wrong signal to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces. Faced with this, China has no choice but to fight back. The responsibility and consequence of the current tensions are all on the US and the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

As a legitimate response, the Chinese armed forces conduct military exercises in waters off China's Taiwan island to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

China. Our measures are open and proportionate. They are in line with both domestic law and international law and practices. They are beyond reproach.

**What is China's future plan for Taiwan?**

Taiwan is part of China. It is an indisputable fact. China's complete reunification is a process that cannot be halted. The Communist Party of China is committed to the historic mission of resolving the Taiwan question. Peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" are our basic principles for resolving the Taiwan question and the best approach to realising national reunification.

We will work with the greatest sincerity and exert our utmost efforts to achieve peaceful reunification. But we will not renounce the use of force, and reserve the option of taking all necessary measures. The future of Taiwan lies in China's reunification, and the well-being of the people in Taiwan hinges on the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Once peaceful reunification is achieved under "one country, two systems", it will lay new foundations for China to make further progress and achieve national rejuvenation. At the same time, it will create huge opportunities for social and economic development in Taiwan and bring tangible benefits to the people of Taiwan. Peaceful cross-Straits reunification is of benefit not only to the Chinese nation but to all peoples and the international community as a whole.

**Will Nancy Pelosi's visit accelerate the unification of Taiwan with mainland China?**

Pelosi's visit proved to be a complete farce. It has not only backfired on the US but also irritated the Chinese people and made our minds tougher and solidarity stronger to achieve the reunification of the country. The international community has taken this opportunity to further enhance consensus on the one-China principle, too. Ever since Pelosi's visit, more than 170 countries and international organisations, including Bangladesh, have reiterated their commitment to the one-China principle.

**Courtesy:** Daily The Business Standard, Bangladesh



## Political Leaders, Social Organizations from Multiple Countries Blast Pelosi's Visit to China's Taiwan

Political leaders and heads of social organizations from many countries have criticized Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region.

In messages addressed to the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, they said Pelosi's visit was a grave infringement upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a serious breach of international law and the basic principles governing international relations.

Evo Morales, Bolivia's former president and president of the Movement Toward Socialism party, said Pelosi's visit was a political provocation against China and a violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tiong King Sing, president of the Progressive Democratic Party of Malaysia and the Malaysian prime minister's special envoy to China, said Pelosi's visit to Taiwan violated the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiques, adding that Malaysia will always abide by the one-China principle.

Ayad Allawi, Iraq's former prime minister, said Pelosi's visit interfered in China's internal affairs. He said Washington's real concern is not democracy but its own interests.

Noting that Pelosi's visit grossly interfered with China's internal affairs, Belete Mola, chairman of Ethiopia's National Movement of Amhara and minister of Innovation and Technology, said the international community recognizes the one-China principle and the Ethiopian side supports China's efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Winston Alarcon, general secretary of the Communist Party of Ecuador, said Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region violated the one-China principle universally recognized by the international community, posing brazen

provocation to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and putting world peace at risk.

Vlad Batrincea, executive secretary of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova and deputy speaker of the parliament, said that the dangerous manipulation of the Taiwan question by the U.S. side triggered further escalation and jeopardized global security, adding that Moldova has always supported the 'One-China' principle and sees Taiwan as part of China.

Jimson Tanangada, president of the Ownership, Unity and Responsibility Party of the Solomon Islands, said Pelosi's visit, in disregard of China's strong opposition, violated the basic principles of international law and infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Chairman of the People's Party of Kazakhstan Yermukhamet Ertysbayev, Leader of the Communist Party of Kyrgyzstan Ishak Masaliev and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Democratic Patriots' Unified Party in Tunisia Mohamed Jamour also expressed firm support for the 'One-China' principle in different ways.

Others who expressed support for the 'One-China' principle following Pelosi's visit include General Secretary of the Dominican Republic's United Left Movement Miguel Mejia, former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf, former Guinea-Bissau's Prime Minister Rui Duarte de Barros, Member of the Presidential Advisory Council of Indonesia and former Speaker of the People's Representative Council Agung Laksono, Executive Secretary of the World Peace Council Iraklis Tsavdaridis and President of Peace Committee of Armenia Grigor Petrosyan.

Source: Xinhua



## 20th CPC National Congress to Set China's Main Tasks in Next 5 Years

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), scheduled for the second half of this year, will look ahead to China's two-stage development plan toward the middle of the 21st century and outline strategic tasks in the next five years in particular.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a workshop for provincial and ministerial officials, held recently in Beijing in preparation for the key Party congress.

The CPC drew up a two-stage development plan for the period from 2020 to the middle of this century at its 19th National Congress in October 2017. According to the plan, socialist modernization will be basically realized in China by 2035, and China will be developed into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by the middle of the century.

### 'Brand new chapter'

Xi said the 20th CPC National Congress will be a very important event taking place at a crucial moment, with China embarking on a new journey to fully build a modern socialist country. He called for efforts to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and write a "brand new chapter" of fully building a modern socialist country.

The 20th CPC National Congress will make arrangements on strategic tasks for the country and important measures to be taken in the next five years, he said, adding that the period is crucial for achieving the Party's second centenary goal. More efforts should be made to solve problems in terms of "unbalanced and inadequate development" in the next five years, he also said. The CPC has set two centenary goals: The first was to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2021 when the CPC celebrated its centenary, and the second is to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of the century to celebrate the centenary of the People's Republic of China. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, which have been accelerating, Xi said, stressing that China faces risks and

challenges more complex than before. The rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is not an easy task, he said, calling for more strenuous efforts to achieve the goal. He also stressed that there is no fixed model for modernization in the world, and underscored the CPC's leadership in China's socialist modernization drive. On the journey ahead, the Party must adhere to its fundamental aim of serving the people heart and soul and always maintain close ties with the people, he said.

### 'Extraordinary' achievements since 2017

Xi reviewed China's development since the 19th CPC National Congress, hailing the past five years as "extraordinary." The Party has united and led the Chinese people to effectively address the "severe and complex" international situation and "huge risks and challenges" coming one after another, he said.

He said, China has striven to advance the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, promote high-quality development, deepen reforms in a rapid and steady manner, and fight poverty. China had declared a victory in eradicating absolute poverty nationwide by the end of 2020. It had also announced the completion of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

During the past five years, China has made great efforts to boost ecological civilization, resolutely safeguard national security, modernize national defense and the military, and advance the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, Xi said.

China has followed a people-first approach in the fight against COVID-19 and made maximum efforts to protect people's lives and health, he said. China has achieved the best outcome worldwide in coordinating economic development and epidemic prevention and control, he added.

Facing "drastic changes" in the international situation, China has striven to safeguard its dignity and core interests, he said.

He also underscored efforts made in the anti-corruption campaign that aims to guarantee officials "do not have the audacity, opportunity, or desire to engage in corruption."

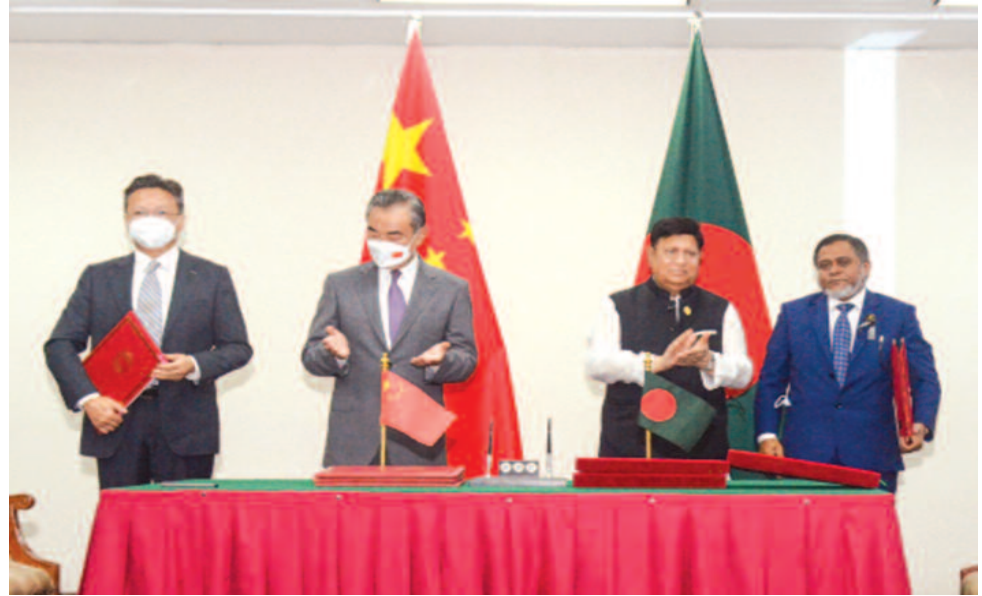
The CPC National Congress is held every five years to set the Party's national policy goals and elect its top leadership.

Source: CGTN

## The 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge Project is Officially Handed Over

On August 7, 2022, during the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Bangladesh, Mr. Wang and Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. K. Abdul Momen jointly witnessed the signing of the "Certificate of Handover and Acceptance of the China-aid Project of the 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge" by the two governments. So far, the project has been officially handed over from China to Bangladesh. Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming and Bangladesh Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary A B M Amin Ullah Nuri signed the above document on behalf of the two governments.

The 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge is the 8th bridge aided by the government of the People's Republic of China to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It is lo-



cated 5km to the east of Pirojpur of Barishal Division in the southern Bangladesh. The project work started construction in June 2018 and was completed in May 2022, with excellent quality. And in June, it passed the joint technical acceptance inspection of the Chinese and the Bangladesh sides.

The 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge connects Khulna and Barishal Divisions of Bangladesh with land transportation. After the bridge opens to traffic, it will directly contribute to the commercial and cultural exchange of the both divisions and effectively improve the local road network there. It will also promote the better development of various industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, aquatic fishery and tourism in southern Bangladesh.

**Source:** Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Bangladesh website



## China-funded Green Sewerage Treatment Plant Felicity for Millions in Dhaka

The China-funded green sewerage project in Bangladesh, Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant, has been put into operation that provides modern sewerage service to about 5 million people in Dhaka and is of special significance for the friendship between China and Bangladesh.

For millions of dwellers in Aftab Nagar area on the eastern side of the Bangladeshi capital, it is like a dream come true with a China-funded green sewerage treatment plant, the largest in South Asia, is in operation since April, 2022.

Bangladeshi Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Tazul Islam and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming jointly inspected the Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant project, which can provide modern sewerage service to about five million people in Dhaka.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the groundbreaking of the plant construction project in August 2018. It took HydroChina Corporation, the contractor, less than four years to complete the project, which

features green technology that aims to minimize human impact on the natural environment.

“It is my pleasure to get the chance to visit this project again,” the minister told Xinhua while expressing his government’s deep satisfaction with the timely completion of such an enormous project.

He considered the project to be of special significance for the friendship between China and Bangladesh, and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chinese engineers, managers and technicians for their hard work.

Liu Zhenhua, economic and commercial counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, Le Liwen, cultural counselor of the embassy, and Taqsem A Khan, managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), accompanied the inspection.

Historically, Bangladesh and China are maintaining very friendly relations and many projects have been implemented here with China’s finance, technical support and know-how, said the minister.



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 24, 2022, shows the China-funded Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Xinhua)

He noted that many new projects are being implemented in various sectors where Chinese companies are participating.

In the course of the inspection, the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka said in a Facebook post, both sides expressed recognition and praise for the team and the completion and operation of

the project, and expected the Chinese and Bangladeshi governments and enterprises to continue deepening cooperation in the future.

He Li, design manager from PowerChina Chengdu Engineering Corporation Limited, the design institute for the project, had earlier said the design for Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant was based on China's sewerage discharge standard.



*Bangladeshi Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Tazul Islam and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming jointly inspect the Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant project in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aug. 21, 2022. (Xinhua)*

“This is an environmentally-friendly and green project. After the wastewater is treated at the sewerage treatment plant, some of this effluent water is further processed with a filter to produce reclaimed water for landscaping and cleaning purposes to create a good environment for the local ecosystem,” he said.

The wastewater treatment process includes pre-treatment, AAO, secondary sedimentation tank, and UV disinfection, he said. The accumulated sludge is further processed through dewatering, spray drying, and incineration, and the slag produced can be further used for the production of fertilizer, brick and cement, which can significantly save sludge disposal land that is very precious in Bangladesh.

The project director engineer, Md Mohosain Ali Miah from Dhaka WASA, the executing agency of the project funded by the Export-Import Bank of China, earlier told Xinhua that the project includes a sewerage lifting station, sewerage conveyance pipeline, and a sewerage treatment plant with a sewerage treatment capacity of 500,000 cubic meters per day.

Source: Xinhua



*Aerial photo taken on Aug. 16, 2022, shows the China-funded Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Xinhua)*

## The First Unit of Mirsharai 150 MW Dual Fuel Power Plant Project Built by SINOHYDRO has been Successfully Started and Synchronized

On July 25, 2022 the First Unit of Mirsharai 150 MW dual fuel power plant project built by SINOHYDRO (A Company of POWERCHINA) was successfully started and synchronized by first time, achieving the key milestone target, was highly praised by the client BRPL and other participating companies.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the project management team has negotiated with the local government and the client to carry out enclosed management of the construction site to ensure the safe and healthy during construction. With the help of Embassy of China in Bangladesh and Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh, all the members of the project team were vaccinated with covid-19 vaccine, which provided the reassurance for smoothly implementation of



the project. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Unit 1 was ignited successfully. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, all public systems commissioning of the project was completed successfully and the Unit 1 was successfully synchronized by first time. All performance indicators met the design requirements, creating favorable conditions for the subsequent 8 units to successful synchronization.



The project is located in economic zone of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN), and is one of the key projects of Bangladesh government to achieve “golden Bangladesh”. After completion of the project, this power plant will effectively improve the power shortage situation and make an significant contribution to the development of BSMSN economic zone and grid stability in Chittagong district.

Source: CEAB

## Chinese State-Owned Contractor to Complete BRAC University New Campus Project by June 2023

Located in the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh, BRAC University's new campus construction is a nearly 100 million US dollar project that is in its final stage to finish the mechanical and electrical installation including interior decoration. This new campus is going to be a 13 Storey building with three basements with other facilities.

A joint venture between Beijing Urban Construction Group (BUCG), China's state-owned construction group and Bangladesh's Associated Builders Corporation Ltd (ABC) as a general contractor rewarded by the employer, BRAC University. More than ten subcontractors and vendors are working together on the project in many interfaces. structural steel and all the civil part are done for the project.

Team Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB) had an opportunity to pay a visit to the construction site of the project. During the visit, Project Executive Manager, Yuan Liang told he has been there to manage the project's overall progress and ensure the quality, safety including cost as well. Mr. Yuan said, "at the moment we are taking part in the interior decoration in its final stage of the project besides earthwork, reinforced concrete structure, steel structure, and mechanical and electrical installation work."

The entire architectural design has been done by WOHA from Singapore and approved by RAJUK. Following the design, the highly skilled and expert team is there to build ensuring the robustness to save the building from collapse and BUCG-ABC JV is ensuring the quality. The building was designed according to Bangladesh National Building Code and ASCE 7-10 for seismic and wind design and

effective horizontal and vertical ties are provided in all supporting columns.

On a similar note, he mentioned the design is done to make the building eco-friendly in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability. This building will have natural ventilation in most of the area. The Mechanical Electrical Plumbing designers design the hybrid cooling system to reduce 40% of the electrical load for cooling compared to any conventional building. "We are making sure the daylight is used to reduce the electric load for lighting. The water will also be recycled to reduce water consumption."

Li Zhenhai, Health-Safety and Environment Manager for the project talked to CEAB about the overall project safety and environmental balance. According to him, safety is the priority at BUCG which is being strictly followed and maintained in every project. He revealed "We provide basic training on safety for the site workers and organize them to watch construction accident videos to strengthen their safety awareness. Helmet, safety belt, shoes, raincoat, goggles, and protective masks are mandatory to join the work for every worker which has been provided by us. We organize a safety inspection every Monday and a safety meeting on Wednesday. We have installed safety nets on



the outer scaffolding, protective railings along the adjacent cave and a protective shed for the pedestrian passage, and hanging warning signs on the site.”

There are 20 project management personnel, 75 Subcontractors management personnel and 600 Bangladeshi workers occupied.

Nazmul Hasan, a Bangladeshi worker has been there since the inception of the project. We have been trained in safety.

We have medical facilities as well. We are used to working for eight hours.

Mainuddin Hossain has been there for three years and expressed his satisfaction working there. Talking about the pedestrian and works safety Mr. Zhenhai said pedestrians are strictly prohibited to come close to the construction site and mechanical equipment operating radius. Non-mechanical operators are strictly prohibited to operate mechanical equipment. The hoisting equipment is installed strictly according to the construction plan and put into use after commissioning, testing, trial run and acceptance. We perform the daily inspection of mechanical equipment, maintain mechanical equipment and make maintenance records.

Mr. Yuan has expressed gratitude to the employer, BRACU, for their support to implement the project successfully. In terms of quality control, Mr. Yuan said “We have the effective QA and QC system. the construction is executed in the compliance with BNBC code and Chinese code as well. One laboratory is set up on-site to monitor the raw material quality, and many hold points are set for a joint inspection before the construction.

The project is located in Merul Badda, Dhaka. It is a 13 Storey building with 3 basements. The whole site area is



22,200sqm and the built-up area is 148,600 sqm. There is an auditorium with 700 seats, a multipurpose hall with 1850 seats, classrooms, labs, design studios, lecture theatres, 475 car parking places, rooftop playground, park, vertical transportation, substations, data centre for IT-related use, UPS, CCTVs, solar panels, lifts, escalators, stairs, fire escapes, faculty and administrative offices, teacher’s lounges, an e-library, recreation facilities and a lake. It has facilities to accommodate around 12,000-15,000 students. The advanced, eco-friendly and attractive campus will enhance the University’s spirit, thereby creating a healthy and positive environment for the students. The advanced, eco-friendly and attractive campus will enhance the University’s spirit, thereby creating a healthy and positive environment for the students.

BUCG, Beijing Urban Construction Group, is the General Contractor for this project. BUCG is a large integrated construction enterprise group that has nine main branches of Project Contracting, Design, Real Estate Development, Landscaping, Investment & Financing, Property Management, International, Culture Tourism as well as Modern Service, with an integrated upstream-downstream industry chain from early investment planning to late service operation.

Source: CEAB

## The Prime Minister Inaugurated the 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the ‘Bangmata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eighth Bangladesh China-Maitri Setu’ built at Bekutia Point on the Kacha River in Pirojpur on the Barisal-Khulna highway. She has inaugurated the bridge by connecting virtually from Ganobhaban on September 4, 2022, with the inauguration of the bridge, another dream

on August 7. A recreation area 220 meters long and 55 meters wide has been built on the river bank at the eastern end of the bridge. Obaidul Qader, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Division, ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, Secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division and Li Jaming, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh also attended the ceremony.



of the people of the south-western part of the country has been fulfilled. Two rallies have been organized on the west and east banks of the river to mark the inauguration. Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim, Member of Parliament for Pirojpur-1 Constituency in West Par and former Minister and Member of Parliament Anwar Hossain Manju for East Par were present. It is to be noted that on March 19, 2013, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the construction of a bridge over the river Kacha in a public meeting in Pirojpur. Then she inaugurated the construction of the bridge on November 1, 2018. The Roads and Public Transport Department has completed the construction of the bridge with a length of 1,493 meters and a width of 13.40 meters at a cost of 894.8 crore taka. The Chinese government has given project assistance of Tk 654.80 crore and the Bangladesh government has spent Tk 239.80 crore for the construction of this bridge. Although it was supposed to be completed in December this year, the contractor completed the construction work five months ago and handed it over to the bridge division

Chinese Ambassador Li Jaming delivered a speech in the ceremony. The envoy said Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib 8<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge stands as a perfect illustration of how the integration of Bangladesh’s Vision 2041 perspective plan and the Belt and Road Initiative would benefit the people of Bangladesh and the region beyond. To continue the tradition of friendship, China is determined to build the 9<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge. Experts from the two countries are already preparing for feasibility study on the project.

The Chinese Ambassador also said under the phenomenal leadership of PM Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has impressed the world with its fast and steady growth in the past decade, and is graduating from the least development countries category. He also added that Chinese dreams of the great national rejuvenation and ‘Sonar Bangla’ dream are well connected. Let us join our hands to realize our dreams together.

Source: Desk Report

## China-Based Construction Corporation Expanding Economic Tie Between Bangladesh-China by Running Inner Bar Area's Dredging Project at Mongla Port Channel

**D**redging at the Inner Bar Area of Mongla Port Channel will essentially increase the water depth to 10m. upon completion which will allow the anchoring of container ships with a 10 m draft enabling the inner bar of the Mongla port channel. Mongla is the second biggest seaport in the Bengal delta and lies on the bank of the Poshur River where ships are frequently harbouring over there.

However, large ships are not able to harbour due to the lack of depth of the water level. Consequently, inner bar dredging is required to make the Poshur channel deeper so that bigger ships can come to Mongla port and solve the navigability problem of its key Pashur channel.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is the contractor for the project, a large-scale China state-owned enterprise providing design, consultancy, international contracting, global investment and rail transit operation. The company has a huge business network in 105 counties and regions that cover railways, highways, bridges, airports, dredging and marine works.

Dredging at the Inner Bar Area of Mongla Port Channel project has been funded by the government of Bangladesh which has planned to dredge the 23 kilometres long navigation channel from the Harabari Area to the Mongla Port jetties. The total dredging quantity is more than 20 million cubic meters.

The earthen dyke and geotube dyke will be constructed around the designated plots to form the dumping areas. These dumping areas will accommodate the

dredged materials from the channel. The project started its operation at the beginning of march of 2021.

During a day-long visit to the project location team Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB) has met the Project Manager Li Huisheng. He said that “we have deployed three most advanced dredgers. One is a Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger and two are Cutter Suction Dredgers. After the completion of the project, the ships with a draft of 10 meters can go upstream and anchor at the Mongla Port Jetty directly. We believe, that once the project is completed, the Mongla Port will attract more and larger ships, and will promote global economic development. The anchor boats are the auxiliary vessels of the Cutter Suction Dredgers mainly designed for shifting the anchors of CSD. The cutter suction dredgers are non-propellered therefore, the anchor boats are also used to adjust the locations of CSD or even tow the CSD within a certain distance.”

Chattogram seaport is Bangladesh's largest seaport, however, due to the growing congestion, many international





shipping firms have turned to Mongla as an alternative, in addition, Padma Bridge and Padma Rail Link Mongla, the two major projects in Bangladesh are expected to connect the Mongla port to the capital Dhaka. Furthermore, under the Belt and Road Initiative Bangladesh has become an important centre on the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road and a significant part of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor. This will attract international traders and the port transport service can be an option for the neighbouring countries for reducing shipping costs significantly. As well as, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed China for port use to be connected with China and other countries too which will be a win-win for all. As part of this mutually beneficial cooperation mission, Bangladesh and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop Mongla Port in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese contractor China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) with strong infrastructure capabilities helping Bangladesh develop the Mongla Port into deep-water ports.

After paying a visit to a discussion, Li Huisheng revealed that “There are totally more than 100 Chinese Crew working on board. In the management team, there are 12 Chinese and 13 local staff. We also have 100 to 150 workers at the site for earthen dyke and geotube dyke construction. The efficiency of Mongla Port will be increased through this project. This will save time and time is money. Our real purpose is to make Bangladesh-China closer and upon completion, we will be able to do more business with Bangladesh through seaports as this route is cost-effective. This will boost the economic growth in Bangladesh and strengthen the Economic tie with China.”

### **Dumping compartment**

This is enormously surprising because the project office is located in the Mongla port in the Bagerhat district in the Khulna division which has been reported as a highly disaster-prone area and adversely affected by existing salin-

ity throughout the year as well as cyclones. The project team undoubtedly has taken the challenge to set up the office there to get the entire work done successfully.

Talking about the quality he said, “at the beginning of the project, we did many trials to find out the right dredging parameters and the best dredging arrangements to achieve the best dredging efficiency and guarantee the construction quality. During the dredging operation, we carry out the bathymetric survey regularly within the dredged area. In case we find the water depth after dredging does not reach the required depth, our technical team will analyze the reasons and then adjust the dredging parameters or even the dredging arrangement to guarantee the construction quality.”

The contractor is also taking measures to save the environment. The dredgers engaged in this project are environment friendly. They are equipped with world level facilities to reduce noise, exhaust, and vibration. During the bunkering, “we have the standard operating procedure to avoid the leakage of fuel. Thirdly, all of the crew are well-trained to guarantee that all the rules can be followed strictly. We also carry out regular Health Safety Environment training for all the crew, as well as the management team”, Li Huisheng told.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is also taking part in a social activity like in the dumping compartments 5 and 6 areas, there is a relief for Muslims which has been donated by the contractor for the floor casting. In addition, there is another lane to the DC-6 which will be constructed to raise the plinth for the local community soon.

The main challenge is the Covid-19 in the project according to Li Huisheng. They have taken strict Covid-19 prevention regulations to protect the safety of the crew. Due to the Pandemic situation and official complexities, Mongla Port Authority is still working to acquire more than 700-acre land for dumping.

Source: CEAB

## Chinese Enterprise NEW HOPE Feed Mill Bangladesh to Form 1000 Model Farms by This Year to Win Together

Ms. Tasmia

**B**usiness is not just to maximize the profit that has been well-proved by the China-funded enterprise NEW HOPE Feed Mill Bangladesh. Since its inception in 2006 in Bangladesh, the enterprise has focused on the development of poultry, livestock and fishery farming aiming to win together with the company slogan 'Profiting the Farmers, Benefitting the Consumers'.

NEW HOPE Bangladesh has three existing running companies in Bangladesh including New Hope Feed Mill Bangladesh Ltd in Gazipur, New Hope Agrotech Bangladesh Ltd. in Munshiganj and New Hope Farms Bangladesh Ltd in Mymensingh. Mr. He Quan Shui is the Managing Director of the Region of NEW HOPE BANGLADESH, which Business covers Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal 3 Countries. NEW HOPE Group started its journey in China in 1982 which has over 600 factories all over the world at the moment. The group covers feed industries, food, Chemical and financial businesses, etc.

Recently, Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB) team has paid a visit to New Hope Feed Mill Bangladesh Ltd situated in Sreepur in Gazipur to learn about the forming and establishing 1000 model farms initiative as well as their service excellence. CEAB has learned in the interview with Mr. He Quan Shui that the team at New Hope Feed Mill is continuously making an effort to meet the farmer's expectations. They are always customer-focused to win the farmers which is inevitably worth the business.

Explaining the function of the feed mill Mr. He Quan Shui said that to make the farmers' lives better on the business side, we always follow three parts, the first part is to ensure the best quality products as we have the most advanced formulas from China to give the best quality products in Bangladesh, the second part is technical parts, we have brought most advanced machinery and technologies





of using the machinery. For the breeder to hatch, we brought the most advanced managing system as per the USA standard. The third part is after we have come to Bangladesh according to the farming situation here, we decided to provide the best services to the farmers in Bangladesh. The best service is included in three parts. Firstly, the farming development initiative. We have more than 48 highly experienced veterinary doctors across Bangladesh who have been trained by the company. The doctors are responsible to sensitize the owners of the farms on medical issues of poultry, fishery and livestock, precaution to keep the farm safe, and on vaccination. Secondly, providing technical support to the farmers like we have introduced the most advanced farming technologies like a modern automatic watering system for poultry to avoid the wastage and pollution of water. Currently, our veterinary doctors are sensitizing them about the technology to use and buy from the local market as this is available in the local market. It also avoids bacterial infection as manual watering usually wet the feed which creates bacteria. Thirdly we have the best dispatching system for the farmers to minimize the gap between farmers and the feed industry.

New Hope Feed Mill Bangladesh Ltd has around 700 enlisted dealers from over the country who regularly buy the feed from the mill with free transportation support from the mill. They all are instructed to dispatch all the products in 45 days to the local farmers.

He Quan Shui revealed that “we are not just producing feed. We are also working on developing the farming sectors in Bangladesh. Our objective is to make the farms more developed and make the owners financially sufficient. Aiming to give the best service and provide the best technologies to the farmers, this year we have a target to form more than 1000 model farms including poultry, fishery and livestock farms all over Bangladesh. We have our standards to select the farms to be the model and idol for other farmers which includes the convenient location, business stability of the owner of the farm, educational level of the owner of the farm, compacity of the farm which is a minimum of 1000 poultry.”

The veterinary doctors and dealers along with the sales team of the Feed Mill have shortlisted the name of the 1000 farms to train the owners to be the model. The tech-

nical team and veterinary doctors visit the farmer’s farm in person to train them on modern farming and the exclusivity of our feed. “That is how our feed will be more valued by them and other owners will be aware of our feed. After the owners of the selected farms will learn all of the skills, other owners of the farm will learn from them. Through this countless effort, every farm across our country will be advanced very soon. We already started to train them. This is not the only WIN-WIN solution, what we are trying to do is benefit our industry, dealers and farmers simultaneously to have a win-win-win solution, shared He Quan Shui.

Maize, soybean meal, broken rice, rice polish, DORB, DDGS, CGM, wheat flour, poultry meal, fish meal, EFF, rapeseed meal, biscuit powder, salt, vitamin, and minerals are the main ingredients to produce the feed for poultry, fish and livestock.

In 2021, NEW HOPE GROUP has achieved the 28 million tons sales target which ranked worldly number one in the feed industry. The Group has ranked 390 among the top 500 industries in the world because of its distinctive feed.

The mill has been producing organic feed using the best raw material that comes from enlisted suppliers from different parts of the world including Bangladesh. Mr. Zhu Chuanliang is the Head of Quality Assurance of New Hope Bangladesh.

According to Mr. Zhu, maintaining the standard of the raw materials as per New Hope and Bangladesh Government is always in priority. “We conduct more than 500 tons of raw material lab tests per day right after reaching the factory in a few minutes with all the chemists. Our equipment is from Germany and we are using Chinese technologies.”

MD. Jahangir Mondol has been a dealer and poultry farm owner in Sreepur. He has been an enlisted dealer since the inception of the NEW HOPE Feed Mill in 2006. His farm has 4000 poultry farming capacity and 3500 egg production volumes per day. According to MD. Jahangir, the weight of the poultry is usually bigger and egg size is also larger due to using NEW HOPE Feed. In addition, there are fewer chances to catch the bacteria. As a dealer, he is used to selling the feed to the fixed 100 farmers.

However, team CEAB has learned about the recent chal-

Challenges in this business which is concerning for both the Feed industry, dealers and farm owners. “Due to the recent price hike of raw materials, the finish product’s price has also increased, on the other hand, poultry chicken price did not increase, egg price also did not increase much compared to the feed price as well as virus infection like bird flu is in the upsurge, therefore, farm owners are not making profit like before which is a business challenge to us while both the farmers and New Hope group are trying their best to come up with a solution.

Team CEAB has talked to He Quan Shui about this matter. Expressing concern Mr. He Quan Shui told “the first challenge of this business is COVID-19 as this virus has infected several employees in the factory many of our dealers, suppliers. In our company, we are maintaining a strict policy to combat the virus. We already provided medical facilities and vaccinated all the local employees. Secondly, we have enlisted suppliers to provide raw materials from all over the world therefore, the war between Ukraine and Russia has increased the price of raw materials. Consequently, the production has been affected and we incurred a loss. The economic recession is prevailing in the market. People have less money in their pocket and the feed industries are suffering a lot. Because of the market situation, raw materials prices keep increasing for example maize price was last year 20 BDT per kilo which is now

35 taka. 75% has increased same as other materials. Because of the price hike in raw materials, the feed price also increases slightly but is not making a profit. At this moment there is not much profit. This third challenge is business for poultry farms. The virus in poultry also affects our farm. We are trying our best to be consistent to cope with the ongoing situation.”

As part of social activity and to strengthen the tie between Bangladesh and China the feed mill donates to the people who are in need with food, and school bags to the schools, during covid they dispatched so many medical facilities to the police station, local govt, and some other places. last year NEW HOPE donated oxygen to Pan Pacific Hospital Dhaka. To maintain a healthy work atmosphere the mill is used to organise several activities to encourage the workers to like on the occasion of the Muslim Eid festival they will provide their groceries and Daily supplies as gifts. New Hope Bangladesh provided accumulated more than 5000 jobs for Bangladeshis.

Before coming to Bangladesh, the feed conversion ratio was 1.8-1.9 in 2008 and after NEW HOPE Feed Mill upgraded the technology it reaches now 1.4-1.5 which is a milestone because of the management system and manufacturing process that make sure the quality of feed. The livestock and fisheries department was praised for their effort.

*The writer is Journalist of CEAB*

## Photo Gallery: Inauguration Ceremony of the 7th Board Meeting of CEAB



## Sinotrans Overseas Development Co. Ltd. Showing Excellence in Bangladesh in Providing Project Logistics and Forwarding

The Chinese state-owned company has been making countless efforts in providing quality logistics to the projects as required since 2014. Recently, Shi Yang, Managing Director, Sinotrans Bangladesh Ltd. was talking about their operations and services in Bangladesh with the Team CEAB in an interview.

Sinotrans Bangladesh Ltd., registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC). This is the branch office of Sinotrans Overseas Development Ltd. (Sinotrans Overseas). Sinotrans Bangladesh Ltd. is mainly a project logistics and forwarding company.

“We are providing a one-stop service to our clients. We provide complete logistic solutions to our clients. Most of our clients are from the energy and power sectors, setting up various types of power plants. Besides, we also provide Logistics services in other sectors, e.g., the Rail link section of Padma Multi-Purpose Bridge, Dasherbandi Sewerage treatment plant, Karnaphuli Tunnel project, and Road construction projects and setting up sub-stations all over Bangladesh”, shared Mr. Shi. Explaining the service he said, our door-to-door service includes several areas of logistic service like; transporting project construction materials, equipment and machinery from abroad for our clients including ship chartering and arranging loading of project cargo at load port then sea transportation. The primary supply source is China including other countries too.

On arrival in Bangladeshi ports, they take Custom clearance and then local transportation of cargo to the project site. Once cargo reaches the project site jetty, they

arrange delivery of the cargo to the project storage yard if the Client wants placement of the machinery to its foundation.

On a similar note, Captain M. Mosadeq, Director for the company in Bangladesh told at the project site we have our team to supervise safe unloading and transportation and if the required placement of the machinery to its foundation.

Mr. Shi explained well in his interview that safety is key in the business. “Our well-trained and well-experienced local employees are supported by Chinese experts to ensure the full safety of cargo starting from arrival port to its final delivery to project sites. We also support our clients for safe transportation of Heavy Cargo (HC) and over-dimensional Cargo (ODC). We also operate a Freight Forwarding service for our customers. Our company’s head office is in Beijing and Dhaka is the headquarter of the Bangladesh branch of Sinotrans. We have our cargo operation team stationed in ports and at project sites. There are 33 Bangladeshi as well as Chinese employees employed to operate the entire work efficiently.”





Discussing the duration of the project supply Capt. Mosadeq shared the service continues during the entire construction period of that particular project and even after that, we provide similar service for spare parts required for maintenance work. The duration of the projects depends on several factors. The major factor is the size of the project etc. Project cargo is mostly sourced from China and also from other foreign countries.

Expressing gratitude Mr. Shi said that Bangladesh is a prosperous country for investment. This is an investment-friendly country with very positive support from the Government.

According to him, the project owner selects Sinotrans for several reasons. Globally Sinotrans is one of the leading integrated Logistic and forwarding service providers at the same time, all major companies around the world are well aware of the capability, efficiency, commitment and professionalism of Sinotrans. We are capable of providing all the services required by a client to set up a new industry e.g., integrated ocean freight, air freight, ocean transportation, road, river transportation, placement of heavy project machinery to its foundation at the site and many others.

Capt. Mosadeq has specified some specific names of the logistics that they usually supply to the projects. “We are a project-based logistic company. Provide one-stop logistic service for setting up new projects in Bangladesh or BMRE of existing projects. We provide our service to different types of projects. But our main target area is to provide complete logistic support to the project owners to set up new Power Plants in Bangladesh, besides this sector, we also work for other sectors e.g., Padma Multipurpose Bridge Rail Link Project, Dasherbandi Sewerage Treatment Plant, Coal lightening operation for Payra Ultra Critical Thermal Power Plant, Power Grid Network Strengthening Project (Sub Stations) etc. Our service includes but not limited to, sourcing project machinery and equipment’s from abroad, Ocean and air shipments, arranging Custom clearance at the port of discharge then after Custom clearance delivering the cargo to project sites by road/waterways. Then finally we deliver the cargo from

the project site jetty to the site warehouse or placement on the foundation. During this whole process, our priority is the safety of cargo and timely delivery. Our team of expert supervisors constantly monitor the cargo operation both in port and at project sites.”

There are various challenges that we had to overcome first to get the projects and then to complete the work, revealed Captain Mosadeq. It will be difficult to explain all in this short space. Few main challenges are, first to get the best rate of price to participate in the tender bidding, as pricing is the most important deciding factor to get or not to get the contract. Then comes the shipping document part which we receive from the Client, we check to see documents are all in order also, and we arrange all supporting documents for getting duty exemption (if applicable). If cargo clearance gets delayed, then port charges go up and the client has to pay those extra charges and no Client is happy to do that. Therefore, this is a big challenge to clear the cargo in the fastest possible way. Then the next challenge is the safe delivery of cargo to the site, without any damage during transportation (including physical damage or water damage). Another challenge is to make sure that no cargo gets lost whether in port or during delivery to the site. There are challenges in every step, so we try our best to efficiently handle the crisis and overcome the challenges. Many more remaining.

Project cargo supply is mainly arranged by the project owner or EPC contractor. We have our own office with adequate qualified support staff. The company is a branch office of Sinotrans Overseas, a Chinese Government-owned company. Sinotrans Bangladesh Ltd. has its main office in Dhaka and also has representatives stationed in all Sea Ports & at several projects sites. For C&F work we employ our experienced, reliable, financially solvent and trustworthy vendors. The company is registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC). We fully comply with all Government and Customs rules and regulations.

Source: CEAB

## China Deserves Praise for Poverty Eradication

Nafees Sakhawat



On July 1, 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Grand celebrations were held nationwide. Under its leadership, China has achieved spectacular development and succeeded in eradicating extreme poverty all over the country. Chinese President Xi Jinping formally declared complete victory in alleviating absolute poverty in the country during a conference in Beijing on 25 February 2021. The announcement of this great miracle in the human history of poverty alleviation came four months before the centenary of the founding of the CPC which leads the world's most populous nation. Over the past century, the CPC has united and led the Chinese people in the battle against poverty with unwavering faith and will. The CPC leadership made historic achievements in wiping out absolute poverty facing the Chinese nation for thousands of years. No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time. This is one of the greatest world stories of the 21st century.

Moreover, China has already achieved its first centennial development goal- building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and is marching in confident strides toward the second centennial goal of building the nation into a great modern socialist country. And the country meets its poverty alleviation targets under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals 10 years ahead of schedule. Eliminating poverty in a country with a population of 1.4 billion may sound too ambitious as a mission of impossible for some western critics. But it is a mission that must be accomplished for China because achieving mutual prosperity is a goal of socialism. The CPC has achieved such commendable achievements without following the western path.

Chinese poverty alleviation is a political economy theory of distribution conducive to both poverty reduction and development. Its core principle is to maintain the goal of national common prosperity and relies on precise means to build a 'pro-poor market' in which the government, market and society jointly work to emancipate the productivity of the poor and make them contributors to growth. The result is a more balanced and fairer development by turning the recipients of targeted poverty alleviation into productive members of society.

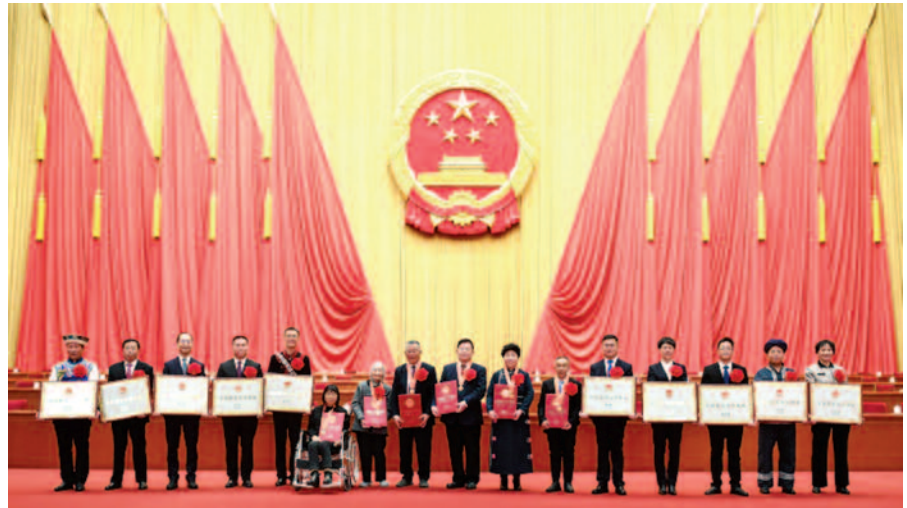
The key to effective poverty alleviation lies in identifying the real poor people. The strategy of targeted poverty alleviation is a magic weapon for China to win the battle. China has identified every poor individual in every village and a personal file is created in the national poverty alleviation information system. The Chinese government has established a poverty eradication management network with the central government acting as the coordinator, provincial governments taking overall responsibility, and municipal and county governments overseeing implementation. China has been applying 10 poverty models to alleviate rural poverty since reform and opening-up started in 1978. The models are poverty alleviation through financial aid, micro-finance, industrial development, relief for work, education, science and technology, relocation, village-wise advancement, mobilize the social forces and, systematization of individual's positive factors.

The political will of the ruling CPC has played an important role, which put the fight against poverty and China's rural revitalization high on the agenda of the leadership. From 1978 to 2020, China's GDP rapidly increased from 367.9 billion Yuan (\$ 56.67 billion) to 101.6 trillion Yuan (\$ 15.7 trillion), upgrading the country from a low income to a middle-income one. The per capita disposable income of the rural poor people increased from RMB 6079 in 2013 to RMB 12,588 in 2020, up by 11.6% per annum on average. By the end of 2020 impoverished areas had gained 1.1 million kilometers of reconstructed highways and 35000 kilometers of new railways, and over 98% of

poor villages had access to Optical Fibre Communications (OFC) and 4G mobile network. A total of 10.21 million unprivileged women had received skills training, and 11.2 million children had benefited from nutritional improvement projects for unprivileged areas.

All the 200,000 dropouts from the compulsory education coming from poor families have returned to school. More than 8 million middle and high school graduates from poor families have received vocational training and 5.4 million poor students have received higher education. Moreover, a social welfare system for the poor population of advanced age, incapable seniors and the disabled person had been fully established, benefiting 36.89 million seniors and over 24 million disabled people. The number of e-businesses in all 832 poor counties grew from 1.32 million in 2016 to 3.11 million in 2020. E-commerce has helped 500,000 poor people increase their income, and their per capita income derived from this sector rose from 430 Yuan in 2015 to 930 Yuan in 2020.

Those lifted out of poverty are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing, as well as clean drinking water. Furthermore, by the end of 2020, China has built more than 300,000 industrial bases, created 12,000 local agro products brands, 14,400 leading enterprises above the city level, and 719,000 rural cooperatives operated by farmers with a team of 289,800 technicians and a fund of over RMB 20 billion. China has set up 1290 innovative platforms and business start-ups. And over 9.6 million people from inhospitable areas have shaken off poverty through relocation. The government channelled 1.6 trillion Yuan (\$251 billion) into this endeavour. What is worth mentioning here that China's corporate sector also invested over 1 trillion Yuan (\$157 billion) in poverty-stricken areas. The above figures are a vivid manifestation in explaining the Chinese government's "people-centered"



governance. Despite the achievement in poverty alleviation, China remains the biggest developing country globally. It still faces acute problems caused by unbalanced and inadequate development.

Globally, there has been marked progress on reducing poverty over the past decades but the Chinese experience remains unparalleled. Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million unprivileged rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty and in this period, China has invested 1.6 trillion Yuan (\$246 billion) for combating poverty. All the 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list. According to the World Bank's report, more than 700 million Chinese people have been lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years, contributing to over 70% of global poverty reduction. China considers extreme rural poor are those with annual per capita income of less than \$620, or about \$1.69 a day at current exchange rates, which compared closely with the World Bank's minimum standard of \$1.90 a day.

President Xi Jinping has guided China's battle against poverty. His important discourses on poverty reduction have laid the ideological and theoretical foundations for Chinese poverty alleviation. It comprises the CPC's goals and the spirit of the Chinese nation, and reflects patriotism, socialist ideas and Chinese values. In the past nine years, President Xi Jinping has presided over the Central Poverty Alleviation Work Symposium seven times and conducted more than 50 studies on poverty alleviation.

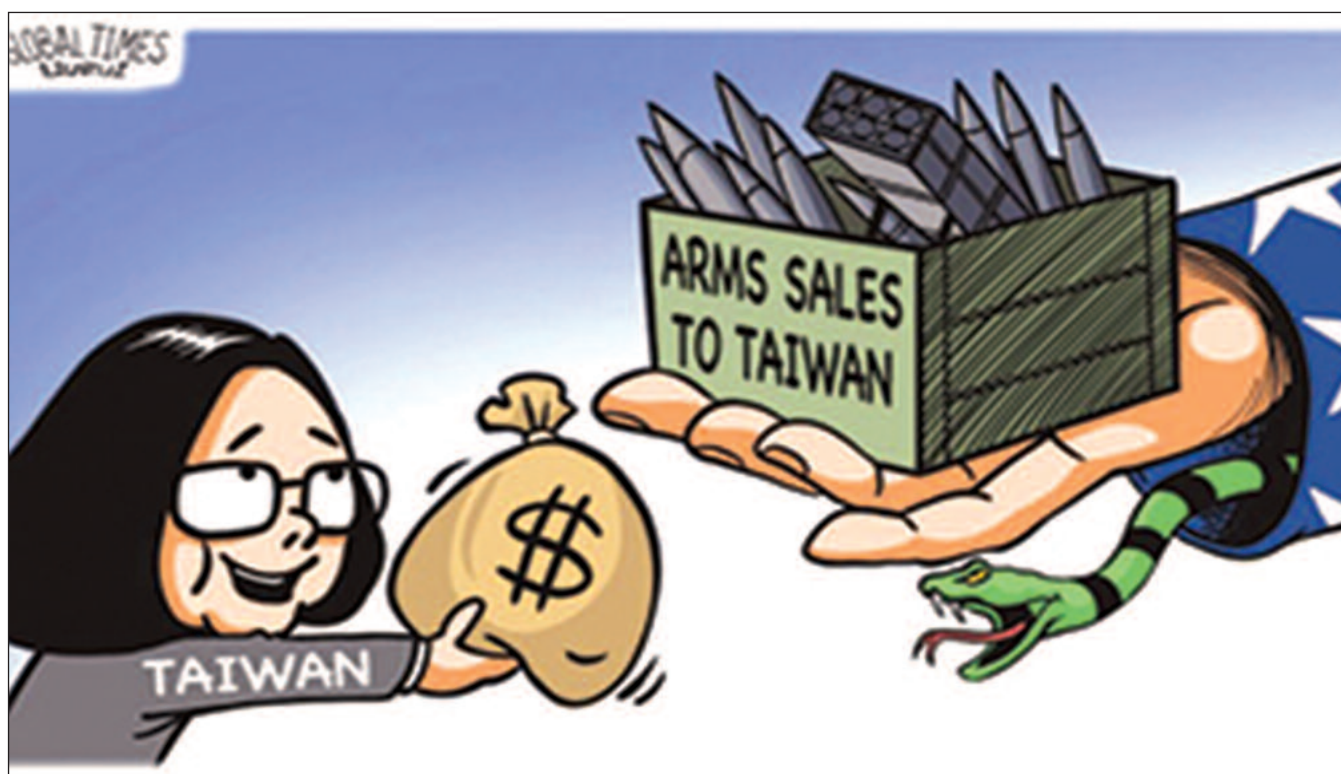
He travelled through 14 contiguous poor areas and talked face-to-face with impoverished rural residents about their family lives and incomes. Despite China's remarkable success in the anti-poverty battle, President Xi Jinping also stressed that shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting point of a new life and new endeavour.

Poverty alleviation is a great cause for the prosperity and happiness of the people. Poverty relief work has been led by the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC with its 93 million members. Party chiefs at all levels were required to assume the primary responsibility for achieving the campaigns of these ambitious targets. More than, 3 million well-educated civil servants and bureaucrats were sent from cities and towns to villages to fight against poverty on the front lines. They exchanged hard work sacrifice for the happiness of the people. Over 1800 party members and, officials have lost their lives in the case of poverty alleviation..

It is believed that China's long practice of poverty eradi-

ation and, the experience accumulated can be a classic example for developing countries especially for the South Asian countries. Though the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic added a new dimension to the poverty challenges globally, China's 40-year experience with poverty reduction remains relevant for developing countries including Bangladesh. China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka all have great development potential. They have much to offer each other and contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. Their foreign ministers agreed at a virtual meeting to create a China-South Asia Poverty Reduction and Development Centre to share best practices. China strongly considers South Asian countries not only its good neighbours but also its trusted friends for years and reiterated its commitment to provide all necessary cooperation for the economic and social development of these countries.

*The Writer is Assistant Editor of the Belt and Road Magazine, Bangladesh.*



# China's PLA Search for Global Peace and Development

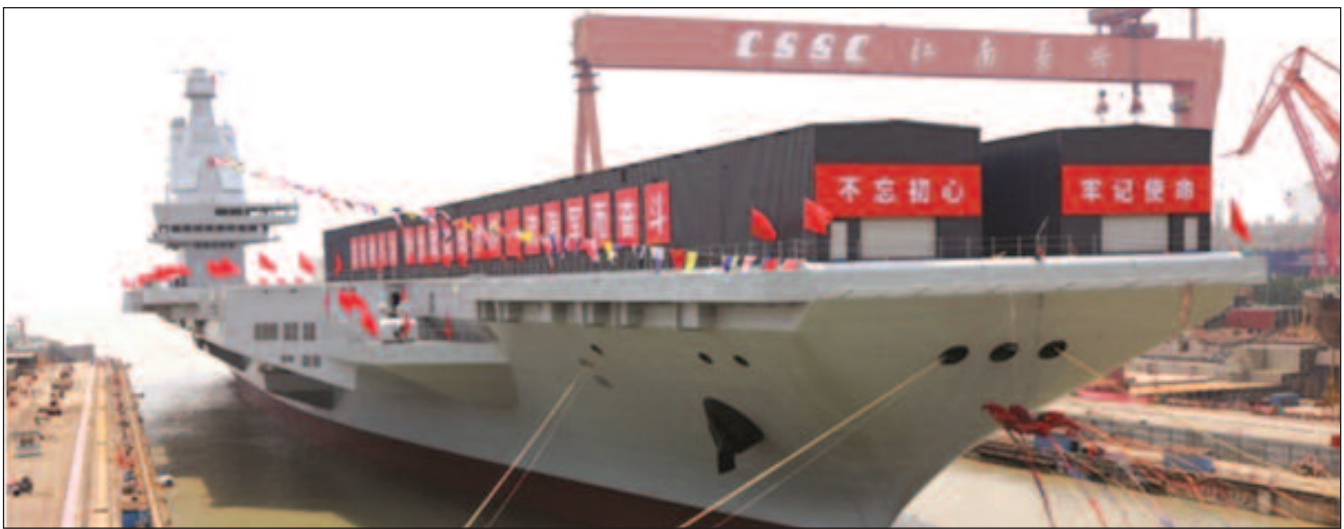
Nasim Mahmud

August 1, 2022 marks the 95th founding anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China. The PLA is an army of the people built and led by the Communist Party of China (CPC). Over the last 95 years, the PLA has built on past achievements and grown stronger through a battle with good development results. The PLA has won timeless honors for the CPC and the Chinese people. They are the backbone for China to preserve the nature governance as well as national dignity. The Chinese people have always loved peace. They have never started a war or infringed on an inch of foreign soil. China sticks to the path of peaceful development as outlined in the constitution of the CPC and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The PLA has reshaped its leadership and management system, optimized its structure, and reformed its military policies and institutions since 2015. Under the pragmatic leadership and guidance of President Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the reform of national defense and the modernization of the military have expanded significantly. The PLA has transformed from a quantity-oriented to a quality conscious force. President Xi Jinping laid out plans in 2017 to complete the modernization of the PLA by 2035 and transform it into

a world-class military by 2049. The Chinese defense budget in 2022 is 1.45 trillion (about \$230 billion), which is an increase of 7.1% over the last year. The increased defense expenditure will help to provide the forces with better training and more advanced equipment. It will also support the military in tackling non-conventional security threats. Therefore, the increase in defense expenditure is not only to maintain its own security but also to help maintain world peace. China has also reassured that it will not pose any military threat even as it has accelerated its military modernization and ramped up its defense expenditure.

The PLA has changed over the last two decades due to expanding defense budgets, technological acquisitions, and a raft of reforms that focus on making the defense sector more competitive. China now has the ability to develop advanced fighters, aircraft carriers, and new-generation intercontinental ballistic missiles, drones, and other advanced platforms. The PLA has also sought to modernize its capabilities and improve its proficiencies across all warfare domains so that as a joint force it can conduct a range of land, air, and maritime operations as well as space, counter space, and electronic warfare, and cyber operations. China has been boosting up research into all sorts of missiles, from those that can destroy satellites in space



*The launching ceremony of China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, on June 17, 2022, in Shanghai, China*

to advance nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, as part of an ambitious modernization scheme. The PLA should now endeavor to become a higher-caliber military, conduct training under computer-simulated conditions, and enhance its integrated combat capability based on extensive application of information technology. The Chinese military forces have significantly downsized their active forces, with the previous 18 group armies reorganized into 13 new ones.

Chinese armed forces have made great progress in independent innovation in strategic, cutting-edge, and disruptive technologies, and succeeded in developing strategic high-tech products such as the Tianhe-2 Supercomputer. The PLA is optimizing the overall composition of weaponry and equipment. A system is created that mainly comprises new high-tech weaponry and equipment, such as Type 15 tanks, type 052D destroyers, J-20 fighters, and DF-26 intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles.

Among the most crucial areas of Chinese military modernization is the expansion of its naval capabilities. China has launched a new-generation aircraft carrier on 17 June, 2022. The launch marked a milestone in the country's push for a "blue water navy" capable of operating far from Chinese shores as well as President Xi Jinping's multiyear drive to modernize the country's military. The launching ceremony was held in Shanghai's Jiangnan shipyard and the event was attended by General Xu Qiliang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the CMC. The aircraft carrier Fujian, also known as the Type-003, is the 'first electromagnetic Catapult' aircraft carrier wholly designed and built domestically in China. Its full load displacement is over 80,000 tonnes. Paris-based Naval News says this carrier catapults China's navy into the 21st century and that it's the first non-US carrier in the world "to even come close" to a US carrier. China has two other aircraft carriers in service. The Liaoning was commissioned in 2012, and the Shandong entered service in 2019. These warships use a Ski-Jump style platform for jets to take off and do not have a catapult system. It's heard that the next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

China's Blue Helmets have become a key force in United Nations Peacekeeping. Chinese armed forces are actively

participating in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO). China is the biggest contributor of peacekeeping troops among five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the second-largest financial contributor to the UN Peacekeeping program, has the potential to become a world leader in Peacekeeping. Since the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic around the world, the Chinese military has not only made outstanding contributions to the prevention and control of the pandemic in China but also has been actively cooperating with other countries' defense establishments. Currently, the PLA is more engaged in international military and 3 security dialogues. What is worth mentioning is that the military-to-military ties China seeks to strengthen are not based on alliances, are not confrontational, and do not target any third country.

Peace needs to be fought for and safeguarded. China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development and hopes that other countries will also pursue peaceful development and cooperation. Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe said at the last Shangri-la Dialogue in Singapore that China's development is not a threat to others. On the contrary, it is a huge contribution to global peace and development. General Wei Fenghe also said the Chinese armed forces will fight to the very end if anyone dares to split Taiwan out of China. Taiwan is an integral part of China, the Taiwan question belongs to China's internal affairs, and national reunification will definitely become a reality. If anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will not hesitate to fight, and will resolutely crush any 'Taiwan independence' attempts at all costs, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China has eradicated absolute poverty and achieved a landmark victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It is now on a new journey toward socialist modernization. China today is completely different from the China of ten years ago and it certainly will continue to change over the next ten years. It is no longer a rising power. It has in fact arrived as a world power which is a decisive force for world peace and development.

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## The Brief History of China

### Remote Antiquity and Slave Society (1.7 million years ago-476 BC)

China, one of the world's most ancient civilizations, has a recorded history of nearly 4,000 years. "Yuanmou Man," a fossil anthropoid unearthed in Yuanmou in Yunnan Province, who lived about 1.7 million years ago, is China's earliest primitive human discovered to date. "Peking Man," who lived in the Zhoukoudian area near Beijing 600,000 years ago, was able to walk upright, make and use simple tools, and knew how to make fire. The Neolithic Age started in China about 10,000 years ago, and relics from this period can be found all over the country. Cultivated rice and millet as well as farming tools have been found in the remains of Hemudu in Yuyao, Zhejiang Province, and Banpo, near Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, respectively. These relics date back some 6,000-7,000 years.

The most ancient dynasty, the Xia Dynasty started in 2070 BC. The center of Xia was the western part of modern Henan Province and the southern part of modern Shanxi Province, with a sphere of influence that reached the northern and southern areas of the Yellow River. It was in this period that slave society appeared and the next two dynasties, Shang (1600-1046 BC) and Western Zhou (1046-771 BC), saw it develop further. This era was followed by the Spring and Autumn (770-476 BC) and Warring States (475-221 BC) periods, characterized by the decline in power of the ruling house and power struggles between regional powers, marking the transition from slave to feudal society.

Chinese mastered the technology of smelting bronze approximately 5,000 years ago and iron tools came into use during the Shang Dynasty, 3,000 years ago. White and color-glazed ceramics were produced. Silk production was considerably developed and the world's first jacquard silk weaving technology appeared. During the Spring and Autumn Period steel production technologies came on the scene. During the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods, there was a great upsurge of intellectual activity, producing many famous philosophers, such as Lao



Zi, Confucius, Mencius and Mo Zi, and the well-known military scientist Sun Wu, author of the Art of War.

### Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC) and His Empire

In 221 BC, Ying Zheng, first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, put an end to the 250-odd years of rivalry among the independent principalities during the Warring States Period, and established the first centralized, unified, multi-ethnic feudal state in Chinese history - the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC). He was called Qin Shi Huang or "First Emperor of Qin." He standardized the written script, weights and measures, and currency, and established the system of prefectures and counties. The sovereigns of the next 2,000-odd years followed the feudal governmental structure established by him. He mobilized more than 300,000 people over a period of a dozen years to build the Great Wall, which stretches for 5,000 km across northern China. Qin Shi Huang had the work on his enormous mausoleum started early in his reign. The terracotta warriors and horses of the "underground army" guarding the mausoleum, unearthed in 1974, amazed the world. The 8,000 vivid, life-sized pottery figures, horses and chariots have been called the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

### Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220) and the "Silk Road"

Liu Bang established the powerful Han Dynasty in 206 BC. During the Han Dynasty, agriculture, handicrafts and commerce flourished, and the population reached 50 mil-



lion. During his reign (140-87 BC), the most prosperous period of the Han Dynasty, Liu Che, Emperor Wudi, expanded the territory of the empire from the Central Plains to the Western Regions (present-day Xinjiang and Central Asia). He twice dispatched Zhang Qian as his envoy to the Western Regions, and in the process pioneered the route known as the “Silk Road” from Chang’an (today’s Xi’an, Shaanxi Province), through Xinjiang and Central Asia, and on to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. China’s gorgeous silk goods were traded to the West along the Silk Road. As contacts between East and West increased, Buddhism spread to China in the first century AD. In 105, an official named Cai Lun, synthesizing the experience of those before him, discovered a technique for making fine paper, an invention that led to a revolution in communications and learning.

### **Tang Dynasty (618-907)**

After the Han Dynasty came the Three Kingdoms Period (220-265), the Jin Dynasty (265-420), the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589) and the Sui Dynasty (581-618). These were followed by the Tang Dynasty, established in 618 by Li Yuan. His son, Li Shimin, or Emperor Taizong (r. 626-649), adopted a series of liberal policies, pushing the prosperity of China’s feudal society to its peak: agriculture, handicrafts and commerce flourished; technologies for textile manufacturing and dyeing, pottery and porcelain production, smelting and shipbuilding were further developed; and land and water transportation greatly improved. By the 660s, China’s influence had firmly taken root in the Tarim and Junggar basins and the

Ili River valley, even extending to many city-states in Central Asia. During this period, extensive economic and cultural relations were established with many countries, including Japan, Korea, India, Persia and Arabia.

### **Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties (960-1911)**

Following the Tang Dynasty came a period of almost continual warfare known as the Five Dynasties and Ten States. In 960, Zhao Kuangyin, a general of the State of Later Zhou, established the Song Dynasty (960-1279), historically known as the Northern Song Dynasty. When the Song Dynasty moved its capital to the south, historically called the Southern Song Dynasty, it brought advanced economy and culture to the south, giving a great impetus to economic development there. China in the Song Dynasty was a world leader in astronomy, science and technology and printing technology. Bi Sheng invented movable type printing, a major revolution in the history of printing.

In 1206, Genghis Khan established the Mongolian Khanate. In 1271, Kublai, a grandson of Genghis Khan, conquered the Central Plains, founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and made Dadu (today’s Beijing) the capital. Kublai ended the centuries-long situation in which many independent regimes existed alongside each other, by forming one united state that brought Xinjiang, Tibet and Yunnan under its sway. During the Song-Yuan period, the “four great inventions” in science and technology of the Chinese people in ancient times – papermaking, printing, the compass and gunpowder – were further developed and introduced to foreign countries, making great contributions to world civilization.

In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang established the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Nanjing, reigning as Emperor Taizu. When his son and successor Zhu Di (r. 1360-1424) ascended the throne, he built and expanded the palaces, temples, city walls and moats in Beijing on a large scale. In 1421, he officially moved the capital to Beijing. During his reign, he dispatched a eunuch named Zheng He to lead a fleet of many ships to make seven far-ranging voyages. Passing the Southeast Asian countries, the Indian Ocean, Persian

Gulf and Maldives Islands, Zheng He explored as far as Somalia and Kenya on the eastern coast of Africa. These were the largest-scale and longest voyages in the world before the age of Columbus.

The Manchus of northeast China established the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in 1644. The best known of the Qing Dynasty emperors, Kangxi (r. 1661-1722) restored the central empire's rule over Taiwan, and resisted invasions by tsarist Russia. To reinforce the administration of Tibet, he also formulated the rules and regulations on the confirmation of the Tibetan local leaders by the Central Government. He effectively administered more than 11 million sq km of Chinese territory.

### Modern Period (1840-1919)

During the early 19th century, the Qing Dynasty declined rapidly. Britain smuggled large quantities of opium into China, making the Qing government impose a ban on the drug. In an effort to protect its opium trade, Britain launched a war of aggression against China in 1840, which led to the Qing government's signing with the British government the Treaty of Nanjing, a treaty of national betrayal and humiliation. Many countries, including Britain, the United States, France, Russia and Japan, forced the Qing government to sign various unequal treaties following the Opium War. China was gradually relegated to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal country.

The Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen was one of the greatest events in modern Chinese history, as it overthrew the Qing Dynasty that had ruled for some 270 years, ended over 2,000 years of feudal monarchy, and established the Republic of China.

### New-Democratic Revolution (1919-1949)

The May 4th Movement of 1919 is regarded as the ideological origin of many important events in modern Chinese history. Its direct cause was the unequal treaties imposed on China after the First World War. Motivated by strong patriotism, students initiated the movement, and it further developed into a national protest movement involving people from all walks of life. It also marked the



introduction into China of various new ideologies, among which the spread of Marxism-Leninism is worthy of special mention. Under the influence of Russia's October Revolution of 1917, 12 delegates, including Mao Zedong, representing communist groups in different places throughout the nation, held the First National Congress in Shanghai in 1921 to found the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The Chinese people led by the CPC underwent successively the Northern Expeditionary War (1924-27), the War of Agrarian Revolution (also known as "Ten-Year Civil War," 1927-37), the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45), and the War of Liberation (1945-49). Owing to the cooperation and joint resistance of the CPC and Kuomintang, the Japanese aggressors were defeated but shortly after the anti-Japanese war, the Kuomintang re-launched civil war. After the three-year War of Liberation led by the CPC, the Kuomintang government was finally overthrown in 1949.

### The People's Republic of China (1949- )

On October 1, 1949, in a grand ceremony witnessed by crowds of Beijing people in Tiananmen Square, Mao Zedong, chairman of the Central People's Government, solemnly proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Since the founding, China has entered a Communist era of stability, with the Reform and Opening Up policy of 1978 bringing in China's phenomenal economic growth.

Source: <https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/cggb/eng/xnyfgk/t216303.htm>

*Photo Gallery:* Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB) Members Recent Activities



# In Pictures: Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming Recently Met Various High Officials of the Bangladesh Government as Part of China-Bangladesh Bilateral Relations



Ambassador Li Jiming and Bangladesh Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Md Tazul Islam jointly inspected the Dasherkandi STP Project



Ambassador Li Jiming met Bangladesh Minister of Finance Mustafa Kamal



Ambassador Li Jiming Handed Over Gift Medical Equipment to 250 Bed District Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar



Ambassador Li Jiming Met Senior Secretary of Bangladesh Ministry of Energy and Minerals Resources Mahbub Hussain



Ambassador Li Jiming Attended the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on the China Economic Industrial Park Project



Chinese Ambassador Met Senior Executives of Biman Bangladesh Airlines

# In Pictures: China's Miraculous Achievement of Poverty Alleviation



Xi inspected poverty alleviation work in central China



Xia Sen, former researcher, attended a grand gathering to mark the nation's poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 25, 2021. (Xinhua/Liu Bin)



Individual and Collective Model Poverty Fighters

