

Dhaka-Beijing defence ties part of broader cooperation : Envoy

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Online Desk : Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Thursday described Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's just-concluded visit to China as a "complete success," saying it gave fresh momentum to the growing relations between Dhaka and Beijing. "It's a complete success. It's a milestone in Bangladesh-China relations which reached a new strategic height," he told reporters at the Embassy highlighting the outcomes of the visit.

The Ambassador said a new level of trust developed between the two countries with this visit and described the proposed Bangladesh-Myanmar China Economic Corridor as a new strategic opportunity. Responding to a question, Ambassador Yao said the issue of building an Economic Corridor is not new as 15 years ago, there were discussions on Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor but there had been no progress.

He said China is determined to build the Bangladesh-China-Myanmar Economic Corridor for broader regional cooperation. The Ambassador said China remains open to India and any other countries to join, but those countries need to make decisions. Ambassador Yao said the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP) was highlighted during the visit as livelihoods of millions of people are involved.

"Teesta is a Bangladesh project. It's your project," he added. He also talked about the key achievements of the Prime Minister's visit to China – the launch of a strategic dialogue at the foreign minister level and the exploration of a "2+2" dialogue mechanism covering diplomacy and defence. Talking about defence cooperation, Ambassador Yao said Bangladesh-China cooperation is comprehensive and the defence cooperation is part of that.

He declined to make comments on any specific defence purchase. Director at the Embassy Zhang Jing and Counselor Song Yang were also present. Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Saturday said Bangladesh's relations with China have been elevated from a "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership" to a "Bangladesh-China Community with a Shared Future"- the highest level of bilateral cooperation.

"This is the highest step in terms of China's bilateral engagement," he told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while outlining the achievements of the Prime Minister's twin visits to Malaysia and China. Two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the party-to-party level to establish a formal partnership aimed at strengthening political cooperation. Bangladesh and China signed 17 bilateral instruments, including MoUs, agreements, a joint action plan, and an agricultural trade protocol, to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The two sides signed an MoU on promoting the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Another MoU on exchanges and cooperation between BNP and the Communist Party of China was also signed. The GDI focuses on humanity's shared development needs, aligns closely with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and addresses key global development challenges.

The other signed documents include: an agreement on development cooperation between Bangladesh and China; an agreement on the expansion and modernisation of the Mongla Port Facilities Project; an MoU on the joint implementation of the 2026 Human Resources Development Cooperation Programme; an agricultural trade protocol on phytosanitary requirements for the export of fresh jackfruit from Bangladesh to

China; a memorandum on deepening cooperation between China Media Group (CMG) and Bangladesh Television (BTV); an MoU between CMG and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Bangladesh; an MoU between Xinhua News Agency and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS); an MoU between Xinhua News Agency and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; an agreement on cooperation in Chinese language education; an MoU on strengthening cooperation in vocational education; an MoU on promoting investment cooperation in green development; an export promotion joint action plan to enhance Bangladesh's export capacity; an industrial development and land lease agreement for the Chattogram Economic Industrial Zone (CEIZ); an MoU on cooperation for the development of the China-Bangladesh Mongla Port Economic Zone; and an investment cooperation agreement with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

Bangladesh and China also agreed to deepen cooperation in integrated water resources management, water resources planning, hydrological forecasting, flood prevention and disaster reduction, river dredging, and related technology sharing. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman returned home from Beijing on Friday after wrapping up his first overseas tour, which included visits to Malaysia and China. The Prime Minister attended the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions of the World Economic Forum (WEF), also known as the Summer Davos, in Dalian, China, as a leader representing emerging economies.

Bangladesh is playing a leading role in addressing global climate change challenges, and in recognition of this role, the Prime Minister was invited to deliver a keynote address on the issue at the forum. During the bilateral visit to Beijing, the two countries agreed to expedite the implementation of the Mongla Port Modernisation and Expansion Project and the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone Development Project in Chattogram. They also agreed to cooperate on both large and small public welfare projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The two sides discussed proposals to strengthen regional connectivity, particularly multimodal transport links from Kunming to Bangladeshi ports, as well as China's proposal for the China-Bangladesh-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Bangladesh also sees significant progress in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP). China reaffirmed that it would provide all possible assistance, and both sides agreed to accelerate the project's feasibility study. In addition, the two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in integrated water resources management, flood prevention, river dredging, related technology exchange, and defence cooperation.