

▶ 'China has long been a trusted friend': secretary-general of BNP

# Bangladeshi delegation continues China visit, eyes more cooperation

By Chen Qingqing

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on Tuesday met in Beijing with a high-ranking cadre delegation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary-general of the Party and minister of local government, rural development and cooperatives, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Noting that China and Bangladesh are friendly neighbors with mutual understanding and deep ties, Han said China congratulates Bangladesh on the smooth and successful conclusion of its general election and stands ready to work with Bangladesh, guided by the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen political mutual trust, strengthen cooperation in areas such as jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative, and advance the China-Bangladesh comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, according to Xinhua.

Alamgir said China is a trustworthy friend and partner of Bangladesh. The new government will adhere to the one-China principle and the tradition of friendship with China, and looks forward to strengthening high-level exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields with China to elevate Bangladesh-China relations to a new level, he added.

In an exclusive interview with the Global Times on Tuesday, Alamgir, who is also the secretary general of the BNP, said that the itinerary had enabled the delegation to understand China's development path and social landscape from multiple perspectives. He noted that progress in the fields of science and technology – particularly in areas such as robotics and intelligent manufacturing – has been especially impressive and left a deep impression on the delegation.

Talking about the role China is playing in the new Bangladeshi government's diplomatic strategy, Alamgir said that China has long been a trusted friend of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh held a general election on February 12, where the BNP won the majority. The BNP parliamentary party elected Tarique Rahman as its leader, who was sworn in as the new prime minister of Bangladesh on February 17, per Xinhua.

The visit marks the first high-level exchange between the Communist Party of China and the BNP since the new Bangladeshi government was sworn in. The delegation, in addition to meeting with Chinese officials, also visited manufacturing enterprises, rural grassroots communities and a robotics exhibition hall, the Global Times learned from the delegation.

The delegation began its visit on April 15, with its first stop in East China's Anhui Province, where delegates visited a local community, Chinese automobile JAC Motors and the University of Science and Technology. After schedules in Beijing, the delegation is set to visit the tech hub of Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province, the Global Times learned.

## Czech PM rejects gov't plane for Senate chief's trip to Taiwan region, 'reflecting internal divide'

By Zhang Yuying

The Czech government will not make a government plane available for the Senate chief's planned trip to Taiwan region and wants a more pragmatic foreign policy that does not damage business ties with China, Prime Minister Andrej Babis said, Reuters reported on Monday. A Chinese expert noted that this reflects the existing two divergent stances in the Czech Republic regarding its policy on Taiwan question.

Babis said on social media that Senate chief Milos Vystrcil, a member of the Civic Democrat party that led the previous government, would lead a business delegation to Taiwan in May but would have to travel by commercial airline, the report said.

The prime minister also criticized past trips by Vystrcil and the previous lower house speaker to Taiwan region that he said had "destroyed business," per the report.

Czech media outlet Expats.cz quoted Czech media as saying that the decision reflects the cabinet's current foreign policy position toward Beijing, and the ongoing divide in Czech politics over how strongly to support Taiwan island.

Jiang Feng, a researcher at Shanghai International Studies University and president of the Shanghai Regional Studies Association, told the Global Times on Tuesday that there exist two divergent stances in the Czech Republic regarding its policy on Taiwan question. One side holds long-standing leanings toward Taiwan island and has continuously pushed for closer and upgraded exchanges with China's Taiwan region. The other seeks to maintain sound and stable ties with the Chinese mainland, concerned that overly close interactions with the island would harm its relations with the mainland.

Jiang said that the two different parties leading the prime minister's office and the Senate are using the Taiwan question as a tool for partisan struggle, while Babis and the ANO party have adopted a more pragmatic approach toward China, and the Civic Democratic Party emphasizes strengthening relations with Taiwan region. He pointed out that such divergent stances may be a dual-track policy on the Taiwan question, reflecting some Czech politicians' attempt to have its cake and eat it too.

The expert noted that exchanges with China's Taiwan region involving high-level national officials or official institutional participation go far beyond ordinary economic and trade cooperation. Such moves amount to a substantive upgrade of interactions with Taiwan region, which also sends a signal of support for "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

"Actions of this kind send wrong signals that embolden separatist tendencies, run directly against China's core and vital national interests," Jiang noted on Tuesday.

Security forces take extensive measures in Islamabad, Pakistan, on April 21, 2026 as the US-Iran ceasefire deadline looms.  
Photo: VCC



## US-Iran ceasefire clock ticks down amid mixed signals from both sides

By Li Yawei

With the US-Iran ceasefire about to expire at 0000 GMT Wednesday (8 am Wednesday in Beijing), the two sides continue to send mixed and complex signals with the US signaling it is willing to negotiate while simultaneously making military maneuvers, and Iran making clear it rejects negotiations "under the shadow of threats."

When asked to comment on the ceasefire between Iran and the US which expires Wednesday and it is not clear whether talks between Iran and the US will resume in Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Tuesday the current regional situation is at a critical stage of whether the conflict could end. Now that

the window for peace has been opened, favorable conditions need to be created to end the war at an early date.

Guo's remarks came less than a day before the expiration of the Iran-US ceasefire agreement which falls on 0000 GMT Wednesday. It remains unclear whether either of the two sides will show up at the negotiating table.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf posted on X on Tuesday that Iran would not accept negotiations under the shadow of threats.

The New York Times said that Iranian officials have publicly expressed skepticism about the prospects for a diplomatic breakthrough, but also mentioned that two senior Iranian officials had said Ghalibaf was planning to lead a delegation to Islamabad if Vance attends.

As the ceasefire deadline counts down, the US president made a series of statements about next steps. "I have no problem meeting them," he told the New York Post, while also warning that "lots of bombs" will "start going off" if there's no agreement before the ceasefire expires, per Washington Post.

Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, believes a substantial agreement is unlikely even if they sit down together in Islamabad again.

Should the negotiations proceed in a positive manner, the two parties may prioritize extending the soon-to-expire ceasefire first, with other issues to be addressed through follow-up consultations, according to Ding.

