A study on cultural exchange between Bangladesh and China

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ABSTRACT

The China and Bangladesh diplomatic relation was established in 1975. Since then the relationship between China and Bangladesh is going high. The China-Bangladesh relationship reached a new level with China's President Xi Jinping's two-day historic visit to Bangladesh in October 2016. Thus was widely referred to as a "historic state visit," the start of a "new horizon," or "a new historical starting point" of China-Bangladesh relations. Just before the eve of the 40th anniversary of Sino-Bangladesh ties, there were lots of history of the thousand-year-old friendship between China and Bangladesh. The relationship between China and Bangladesh is changing very fast after the twenty-first century and also cultural exchange between Bangladesh and China has been positive. Many aspects of Chinese culture have been brought to Bangladesh from the beginning, where they have become ingrained in people's daily lives. In this research, the author tried to discuss the millenary ties between the two countries and cultural exchange based on China-Bangladesh perspective.

Key words: Cultural, exchange, Bangladesh, China.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between Bangladesh and China is well-developed and has strong historical roots. There has been extraordinary diplomacy stability between Bangladesh and China, two adjacent nations, ever since Bangladesh became a nation in 1971. Two nations have worked to foster a mutually beneficial partnership since it was founded in 1975. During this historical period, many administrative agencies, legislative bodies, political leaders, cultural soldiers, media, corporate entities, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from both nations visited one another (Jaishankar, 2016). They exchanged cordial visit as well as pleasant words. Several successful cultural agreements were taken out on a governmental level due to positive relationships. As a result of the government’s efforts, several different governmental bodies have been working together to forge solid bilateral ties between the two countries. Several friendship groups, such as the Bangladesh-China Friendly Association, the Bangladeshi Students Society from China, and China's Overseas Relations Friendly Culture, have done a lot to make it easier for people from these two countries to get along with each other.

China and Bangladesh have a great relationship, even though China was against Bangladesh's for freedom at first. Afterwards, it fought against Bangladesh's global recognition, including UN. However, immediately after Shimla agreement, China started to soften its stance against Bangladesh. Subsequently, after its official recognition by Bangladesh on August 10, 1975, China officially established diplomatic relations with Bangladesh by establishing a consulate in 1976 (Chakma and Bhumitra, 1996). Bangladesh and China have declared themselves reliable and time-tested allies in the international community (Rahman and Mahbubur, 2010). This chain of friendship has recently evolved into a significant strategic relationship. Since the relationship between China and Bangladesh is well-known and has always been there, it is getting stronger every day. This route ran from the 4th century BC until 221 BC (Chakma and Bhumitra, 1996). It passed through what is now Yunnan Province, Myanmar, and
Chittagong Port. In this research, the author tried to explain the thousand-year-old relationships between the two countries and cultural exchange based on China-Bangladesh perspective.

History of the China-Bangladesh relation

The Bangladesh president Zia regime (1977–1981) began revitalizing Sino-Bangladesh ties. This relationship remained constant over the years (Rashid and Harunur, 2012). China offered Bangladesh trade concessions. In 1977, Ziaur Rahman went to China twice, and China showed a strong desire to get along with Bangladesh (Chowdhury and Iftekhar Ahmed, 2010). He was given a warm welcome, and the Chairman of the CCP met him at the airport, which was against diplomatic rules. The Chinese Vice Premier bestowed upon him the symbol of lifelong friendship. During his visit, several bilateral deals in commercial, military, and cultural fields were inked. As a result, the volume of bilateral trade increased dramatically. China has also offered assistance in rebuilding Bangladesh’s infrastructure. Also, China gave Bangladesh more military help, and between 1975 and 1980, China was responsible for 78% of Bangladesh’s weapons imports (Sukhuja and Vijay, 2009). Then the relations between China and Bangladesh quickly shifted to one of China assisting Bangladesh. China has unwaveringly backed Bangladesh in the international community on the Farakka problem (Jahan and Rounak, 2005). In 1980, he returned to China and had good talks with Chinese leaders about trade, military, and economic cooperation (Chakma and Bhumitra, 1996).

This amicable relationship became stronger under Hossain Muhammad Ershad’s reign (1982-1990) (Jahan and Rounak, 2005). During his reign, he paid seven visits, the first of which occurred seven months after assuming office. In 1984, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang designated Bangladesh as one of Asia’s “five friendly countries” in his big annual address (Rahman and M Mahbubul, 2010). President Ershad made a record-breaking six trips to China during his presidency. During that time, Chinese leaders like President Li Xianjin and Prime Minister Li Peng went to Bangladesh (Chakma and Bhumitra, 1996). During this time, economic cooperation between these two countries expanded as well. In 1983, the two countries set up the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to improve how their economies work together (Chowdhury and Iftekhar Ahmed, 2010).

The Bangladesh National Party, led by Khaleda Zia, took power. Nevertheless, Khaleda Zia wanted to maintain the close ties with China that her husband Ziaur Rahman had established for her party. Thus, she visited to China shortly after taking power to show that this was true, and Chinese Premier Li Peng agreed with her (Rashid and Harunur, 2012). He said that the Bangladesh-China relationship is an essential component of Chinese strategy. She returned to China on official business in 1995 and several significant agreements were struck during this visit (Chakma and Bhumitra, 1996). Bangladesh has also asked China to become a SAARC observer. The relationship between the two nations was excellent, challenging India’s other neighbor (Mohsin and Amena, 1992). Despite these advantages, one event occurs.

Bangladesh authorized the establishment of a business office in Dhaka on February 28, 2004. The country emphasized the "One China Policy" since the commencement of diplomatic relations (Sukhuja and Vijay, 2009). However, this statement appeared to be a policy misnomer. That office was, in reality, the Consulate. Bangladesh later removed the office in response to Chinese pressure. It is an intriguing aspect of Chinese diplomacy. During the visit, special attention was paid to the system, which is typical of China, and likes to fund projects that become famous landmarks. Both parties signed four important papers. These were: (1) an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation; (2) a Framework Agreement on Preferential Loan Provision; (3) a Protocol on Remitting the Bangladesh Interest-Free Loan Due in 2008; and (4) an Exchange of Letters on the Construction of the Seventh Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge. They committed to "intensify" cooperation to begin building new infrastructure such as the eighth international bridge (over the Meghna) and China's development of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (Brewster, 2017). In May 2013, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang went to Bangladesh where he spoke about his hopes for friendship and cooperation in the area (Rashid and Harunur, 2013). Begum Khaleda Zia, the leader of the BNP, went to China in October after the GS of the CCP asked her to. She promised to make things better between China and Bangladesh. China has voiced alarm over post-election violence. Many hailed this election as a new beginning for China-Bangladesh relations since China maintains close ties with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. But on January 12, 2014, the Chinese government congratulated the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Chinese President. However, it said that a new election should be conducted. In June 2014, Bangladesh’s Prime Minister returned to China and brought good news back to Bangladesh. China aims to invest in labour-intensive sectors (Jaishankar, 2016). A Chinese construction firm has just begun building the long-desired Padma Bridge.

Bangladesh and China cultural relation

Culture is a reflection of a society’s actual values, beliefs, practices, and aesthetics. So, in 1978, the governments of Bangladesh and China started to strengthen their bilateral relationship through cultural agreements and these agreements emphasized how important it was to have
similar cultural values (Rashir and Harunur, 2022). From 1991 until 2022, many cultural delegations have exchanged visits to keep the cultural partnership strong. From 1976 through 1990, the relationship between the two sides flourished (Rashir and Harunur, 2022). Although important at the governmental level, the good relations between the people of these nations were just as crucial. As a result of the political and economic ties that were made between 1991 and 2022, there is now a long-lasting friendship between the two countries, even though the cultural ties between the governments during this time were not very important. Cultural delegates from Bangladesh travelled to China in 1997 as part of a cultural exchange program, and 18 other bilateral visits took place between the two countries that same year (Albert and Wolkersdorfer, 2014).

In 1998, the Hangzhou Youth Acrobatic Team came to Bangladesh to perform in Dhaka, and 97 Bangladeshis also traveled to China that year. At a later date, seven other cultural groups from Bangladesh visited China, bringing with them 47 individuals from Bangladesh. Bangladesh and China both want to increase the frequency of these cultural exchanges.

On January 20, the "2023 Happy Spring Festival Gala" jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in Bengal and the Bangladesh Association of School Friends in China (ABCA) was held in the Daka Lakeside Hotel in the capital. Moni, Minister of Education of Bangladesh, Ambassador Yao Wen, Chairman of Bangladesh Alumni Association and former Ambassador of Bangladesh to China Mensch attended the ceremony (Bangladesh embassy in China). Approximately 150 people from MengLiuhua Alumni Association, teachers, students and international students in Confucius Institute, local administrative officials from five places, including Rumble, who supported the "2023 Warm Winter Walk" activity, and journalists from mainstream media in Meng gathered together to celebrate the New Year of the Rabbit. Song Yang, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy, and Xian Yi, Director of Office, attended the meeting. The party was lively and joyous. Minister Moni, Ambassador Yao Wen and Chairman Mensch delivered speeches respectively and extended Spring Festival greetings to the guests present. Ambassador Yao Wen said that China-Bangladesh friendship has its roots in history, society and public opinion. Education and youth cooperation are the hope and future of China-Bangladesh cooperation. This year, more Bangladeshi students and young people will be invited to visit China, so that more and more Bangladeshi students and students can learn from each other, and the tree of China-Bangladesh friendship will grow and flourish. It is hoped that the Bangladesh Alumni Association will make better use of its advantages in contacting all parties and the grassroots, publicize more China-Bangladesh friendship, organize more activities to promote the friendship between the two countries, and serve as a bridge and link for the people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and Bangladesh. Jennatun Naher, a lecturer at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, School of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, introduced the Chinese new year culture in a vivid way that Bengali friends could understand. In the Confucius Institute, students and Chinese culture lovers conducted a wonderful Chinese and Bangladeshi art performance. Before the event, Ambassador Yao Wen had a courtesy meeting with Bangladesh Education Minister Moni, and had cordial and friendly exchanges with five local administrative officials including Rumble who supported the "Warm Winter Tour in 2023" campaign.

A cultural agreement between the two nations was signed in 2002; it includes a cultural executive program that was reaffirmed in 2008 and again in 2012. Thus, each year, eminent artists and academics from China and Bangladesh exchange visits and exhibit their work (Islam, 2014). Multiple cultural events take place each year in Bangladesh and China. Bangladesh and China established their People’s Friendship. The "Chinese Culture Tour to South Asia 2015" took place at Dhaka's National Art Hall over the course of two days. It was organized by the Shilpokala Academy and the Bangladesh China Mootree Somity Association. At the show, thirty of the most expensive and prestigious Chinese artworks were shown. Huge crowds of people of all ages in Bangladesh admired the display. The pictures were chosen because they show how Chinese mysticism, philosophy, nature, and culture are important. China is a great partner for development, so it hosts many social and cultural events in Bangladesh on a regular basis. There were many social and cultural events in Bangladesh that Chinese people attended. The Chinese embassy in Bangladesh is actively involved in a wide range of national and cultural celebrations, including Language Day, Independence Day, PohelaBoishakh, Basonto Boron, and others. Chinese people regularly appeared on the shows as well (Rashir and Harunur, 2022).

Bangladesh and China are both sports-loving countries that take part in many different activities and sports and often send athletes to the World Championship and Olympic Games. Wushu, ping pong (table tennis), and haozi are just a few of the Chinese sports that have made their way to Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh are very well-versed in Chinese acrobatic athletics. The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) started unofficially in 1950. It is often seen as a sign of how China and Bangladesh share their cultures with each other. Later, following Bangladesh’s independence, the country’s leaders organized a wide variety of national and international competitions at different levels and swapped sports delegations with other countries, bringing widespread recognition to Bangladesh in the process. Contrarily, Bangladesh helped China improve its cricket capabilities by providing technical assistance. Dr. Dipu Moni, a former foreign minister, first stated cricket diplomacy. Given all of this, it shouldn’t be a surprise that Bangladesh’s sports-loving people are very interested in Chinese Taekwondo.
This is a sign of the strong cultural ties between Bangladesh and China. The national soccer teams of both countries often compete against one another and trade players. In addition to these resources, Bangladeshi athletes and coaches are being given a chance to further their education in China.

However, although Chinese cuisine is not well known in Bangladesh, it is quite popular there. The Chinese government of Bangladesh puts on a Chinese food festival every year to introduce the local people to Chinese food. In the light of this, Chinese Ambassador attended the opening ceremony on November 3, 2015 at the Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka, where he spoke about Chinese cuisine and recalled moments from China's rich cultural history. The Chinese government, the Bangladeshi business community, and the Friendship Society of Bangladesh have all worked to make Chinese food more popular in Bangladesh (Brewster, 2017). In order to fulfill the enormous demand, Bangladesh today has over 6,000 hotels and restaurants, nearly 2,000 of which are Chinese-owned establishments. 16 other organizations in Bangladesh, both legitimate and illicit, operate without being officially recognized. Over 2,50,000 individuals are depending on this industry for their livelihood, and every year it sees massive commercial transactions. Because there is a lot of interest in Chinese food in Bangladesh, Chinese food has been changed into Bangladeshi food in almost every district town in the country.

**Chinese culture impact on Bangladesh**

China takes tremendous pride in its rich history as it rises to become one of the world's leading powers today (Javorcik, 2020). The citizens of China have worked tirelessly since antiquity to construct the country's social and cultural institutions, and they've contributed much to the country's economic success. Chinese culture now includes features such as the country's world-famous opera, traditional and classic music, feature film historic aspects, as well as common cultural materials.

**Chinese cultural programs in Bangladesh**

Figure 1 shows that 80.04 percent of people had experienced the delight of watching a Chinese cultural program at least once in their lives, and many of them look forward to repeat viewings with the same enthusiasm. The remaining 19.96% of peoples needed more knowledge of aspects of Chinese culture (Brewster, D, 2017). To facilitate the cultural exchange for which Chinese envoys are striving, they need the cooperation of the relevant parties. According to Figure 2, 56.68% of the Bangladeshi participant said they liked Chinese movies, and 25.4% said they liked Chinese music. This demonstrates the profound impact of Chinese culture on the people of Bangladesh. A total of 10.33% were very interested in Chinese dance, whereas just 4.06% favored Chinese folklore (Brewster, D, 2017). However, only 3.27% of respondents supported each and every one of these decisions. These indicate that Bangladeshis are enthusiastic about and open to Chinese cultural activities. The percentage of those who responded to the survey expressed interest in various facets of Chinese culture, including movies, music, and sports. A total of 49.22% of the respondents were into Chinese music and 24.2% were into Chinese movies. Though many participants expressed interest in learning more about Chinese Opera, only 9.38% were fans of Chinese sports and other cultural aspects.
Chinese food influence in Bangladesh

Chinese cuisine has been the perfect comfort food because of its sugary, tangy, saltyy, as well as spicy flavor profiles. Chunks of deep-fried protein in rich, flavorful sauce, served with caramelized veggies as well as a mound of fried rice, cannot ever be turned down. With its signature flavor of lemongrass, Thai soup is the perfect accompaniment to a night out with loved ones. The Bangla Chinese we love so much is different from real Chinese food. Cooking techniques, ingredients, and processes are also quite different. The great thing about Chinese cuisine is that you can get it everywhere, like burgers and pizza. However, these regional adaptations diverge significantly from their international precursors. Bangla Chinese food, which is popular in Dhaka, has a clear Cantonese influence, while the Indian version is more Hakka-style. Most Chinese immigrants to Bengal worked in the medical, laundry, and food industries. They opened a restaurant and introduced us to authentic Chinese cuisine. "Shegunbagicha's Café China was the first Chinese restaurant in Dhaka. It was founded in the 1960s by a Chinese couple. It was a little operation with very passionate customers. A whole stigma surrounded the consumption of so-called "Chinese" cuisine that many people found repulsive. Similarly, Chu Chin Chow, a restaurant in Gulistan run by a Chinese chef, was also available. At most, the furnishings in such Chinese eateries could have included an air conditioner" (Hossain and Akmal, 2005).

"As pig and swine fat were not available, the Chinese cooks who prepared Bang Chinese flavored it with spices and other condiments to make it more appealing to Bangladeshis. To them it was because of that Thai soup became pink. They picked out anything they knew would go down well with the people. This took place everywhere; Chinese cuisine in India, for example, is spiced up with masala," His words. Dhaka's Chinese restaurants' cooks used to prepare their own noodles since quick varieties were not readily available at the time. Most likely, the ingredients for the soy sauce were brought in from another country, and the sauce was finished up in the kitchens of the respective restaurants. "The number of Chinese eateries gradually decreased over time. Most Chinese departed Dhaka in the 1980s as a result of the city's real estate price bubble, which resulted in skyrocketing store rentals (Hossain and Akmal, 2005). The Cheong Shing restaurant in Banani most likely offered genuine Chinese cuisine at the time, "clarified Shawkat Osman. "Cornflour, taste salt, and stock play larger roles in Bangla Chinese cooking. Making a slurry by dissolving some cornflour in water, then adding the slurry to fried veggies, onions, and capsicums, along with shrimp, chicken, as well as meat, is how it is done "Furthermore, he said. Author and researcher Afsan Chowdhury took along on his journey to try real Chinese food. "While Bengali Chinese and other regional adaptations may seem similar, authentic Chinese cuisine is far superior.

In contrast to how people consume fried rice in Bengal, the soup is watered down, the meat is often served in small slices, and the rice is served on the side. Not only is the chicken available in white and brown variants, but there are also many different kinds of noodles. Before dinner, the Chinese may often graze on almonds as well as cucumber." The people of Bangladesh have a lot of experience with Chinese cuisine. More than 30 percent of city-dwelling Bengalis haven't ever tried Chinese cuisine. China's expensive cuisine has captured the world with its exotic flavors and health benefits. Bangladesh is home to around 2,000 Chinese restaurants and over 2,500 individuals who work in the Chinese cuisine and goods industry. People often go to Chinese restaurants to eat this food, which they say makes them very happy.

Therefore, an unprompted answer is obtained to the topic of what kinds of foods individuals like. In a recent poll, Chinese cuisine was found to be the favourite of 86.23% of respondents. Figure 2 shows that just 13.36% of individual's hate, and 0.40% talk about other foods (Brewster, 2017). The above statistics provide conclusive proof that the people of Bangladesh like eating Chinese cuisine. In terms of eating habits, it shows solid Chinese influences, and these impacts are becoming stronger over time.
Chinese games

Many people of Bangladesh are fluent in both the Chinese language and various Chinese sports. Wushu, ping pong (table tennis), mahjong (haozi), and other card and board games all played important roles in the everyday entertainment of Bangladeshis. All sexes took pleasure in a range of activities. Sports such as Wushu, Ping-Pong, playing cards, mahjong, acrobatics, cricket, football, and athletics have been popular in Bangladesh and China. As a longtime ally of Bangladesh, China has helped spread Chinese sports to the local people by stationing sports soldiers at different historical sites. It has also supported Bangladeshi athletes and coaches by giving them scholarships, training, and promotion in China. On the other hand, Bangladesh’s contributions to Chinese cricket show how both countries' cultural events benefit from each other. The above information gives you an idea of how China has affected Bangladesh, either directly through diplomatic missions or indirectly by spreading Chinese culture through satellite TV and the internet.

Trade relationship between Bangladesh and China

Bangladesh and China have long-standing ties across all aspects of their societies and economies. Historically, citizens of Bangladesh would go to China for a variety of reasons, including education, tourism, and commerce. Since the two countries got along well, Bangladesh hoped that China would work with them on international business (Zhangwen and Hoque, 2017). Therefore, relations between the two nations are cordial to far, bilateral commerce between China and Bangladesh has been valued at USD 25.00 billion, with an expected increase to USD 30.00 billion by 2021 (Rashir and Harunur, 2022). Although enormous, this sum represents just 0.2% of China’s total exports and imports. Merchandise, frozen fish, sea fish, jute, jute items, leather, and leather goods are the most popular exports from Bangladesh to China. Trade exchanges and contracts are generally seen as win-win for both countries, despite the reality that trade accounts are extremely biased toward China owing to its competitive edge. Also, it’s important to keep in mind that the Chinese government has been giving Bangladesh grants and making small improvements for a long time. Due to the cordial relationship between the two nations, China has suggested a duty-free trade in over 7800 different items from Bangladesh (Khan and Anwar, 2016).

There is a lot of interest from Chinese businesspeople in Bangladesh. Given this, and the need to boost bilateral commerce, the government of Bangladesh (GOB) has begun designating a special economic zone for Chinese companies. China is likely to move some of its low-tech retirement fabrication sites to Bangladesh, where people work for less money. Changes like these are expected to, in the long term, bring about a fair distribution of goods and services between the two nations. Bangladesh reported in 2017 that bilateral commerce between the two countries reached $15.17 billion in 2016, $14.707 billion in 2015, $12.54 billion in 2014, $10.308 billion in 2013, and $8.45 billion in 2012. The two nations’ combined annual trade volume has been above $10 billion since 2013. China has also promised to open up more of the country’s interior and borders, encourage the growth of economic and technical development zones driven by innovation, and improve cross-border economic cooperation zones (Lan, 2018).

Role of the friendship organizations to enhance the friendship ties

People in society have been making efforts to strengthen bonds of trust for some time now. The friendship society’s efforts to spread goodwill between the citizens of the two nations are crucial. When the actions of the Friendship Society are evaluated in light of the organization’s stated purpose, it becomes clear that the society has played a crucial role in uniting the two nations’ populations on a wide range of global concerns. The goals of the Friendship Society’s ongoing projects are mutual security and economic growth of the two countries. Peace and prosperity, social development, and societal fairness are prominent among society’s primary objectives. The Friendship Society holds meetings, seminars, and an annual exchange of delegates from both countries to reach these goals. The Bangladesh-China Friendship Society organizes a variety of events to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two nations’ populations. Thus the Bangladesh-China Friendship Society also held a celebration. After the democratic government in Bangladesh was reinstated in 1991, the Friendship Associations’ efforts to foster healthy relationships gained significant traction (Rashir and Harunur, 2022). Friendship associations in Bangladesh, a non-governmental organization, have done much in recent decades to foster social cohesion and a culture of openness and acceptance. The BCFA and BCFC are two organizations that deserve recognition for their efforts. The numerous Friendship Groups routinely host a wide range of lectures, speeches, gatherings, and cultural events. Children and students from Bangladesh and China will compete in a language and art contest, and there will be a Chinese fair where locals may learn about and celebrate Chinese culture. As a rule, bilateral meetings are held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS). The Chinese Embassy and other Chinese officials often participate in such meetings. At a 1992 conference conducted at BISS in Dhaka, eminent economist Rehman Sobhan discussed the industrialization of East Asian nations, with a particular emphasis on China.

Some of Bangladesh’s most illustrious academics and
political leaders gathered for a conference to discuss China's profound impact on the country's social and economic sectors. The Chinese Ambassador at the time, Mr Cheng Song Lu, spoke on China's role in Bangladesh's economic growth and development. He also stressed the need for more economic cooperation and cultural interchange. Every year, the Bangladesh-China Friendship Center conducts a number of outstanding events in both countries to strengthen ties between the two countries. The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Zheng Qingdian, and the interim President of the organization, Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Mahbubur Rahman were also in attend.

There, Advisor Sawkat Ali and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Zheng discussed China's views on a variety of topics related to Bangladesh, such as the country's politics, culture, economics, and foreign assistance. Soon, they believed that Bangladesh's economy would flourish to its close ties with China. On February 6, 2010, the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA) hosted a picnic in Savar, Dhaka, in honor of the Chinese Spring Festival (Rashir and Harunur, 2022). Mr. Anwarul Amin, president of BCPFA, gave a speech on the Chinese Spring Festival, in which he expressed his joy for the occasion with his fellow citizens of China and Bangladesh. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi expressed his gratitude to the Association for organizing such a fantastic event and reaffirmed his confidence in its commitment to fostering mutual understanding between the people of Bangladesh and China.

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi expressed his gratitude to the Association for organizing such a fantastic event and reaffirmed his confidence in its commitment to fostering mutual understanding between the people of Bangladesh and China. On February 3, 2015, the Bangladesh-China Friendship Center, the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, and the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka worked together to hold a cultural event to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties. The Gansu Opera House of China performed a variety of shows in the National Theater Hall, including dance, magic, music, acrobatics, and other forms of Chinese entertainment (Asia Times, 2016). A very large number of people in Bangladesh watched the show and found it entertaining. This show has lifted the minds of the people of Bangladesh. Foreign Minister A H Mahmud Ali opened the event as the Chief Guest. Also present were Minister of Culture Asaduzzaman Noor and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ma Mingqiang. On May 27, 2015, the National Museum of Bangladesh in Dhaka hosted a photo exhibition titled "Chinese Muslims on the Silk Road" in honor of Chinese Vice President Liu Yandong's visit. Celebrations were held at the Bangladesh National Museum, the Bangladesh-China Friendship Center, and the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka (Rashir and Harunur, 2022).

Many people in Bangladesh got a taste of the silk route's rich history thanks to the 70 illustrated images on display at the exhibition, which ran for two weeks. Inaugurating the show was the Vice President of China. To improve the image of the people-to-people link, the Friendship Society held events on several important days and held sympathy sessions after the deaths of important Chinese and Bangladeshi leaders. In addition to this, the group has done exceptional things like host a reception for a delegation from both nations. Intending to strengthen ties between the two friendly nations, a group from the Bangladesh-China Friendship Society traveled to China to hold open talks, seminars, and a symposium on topics that reflect the shared interests of Bangladesh and China. Members of the Chinese Foreign Relation Friendship Society went to Bangladesh often to take part in different events that helped people learn more about the cultural connections. The Friendship Society of both countries throws parties for government and business delegations. This makes it easier for the two sides to talk to each other and strengthens their bond. Based on what has been said above, it is safe to assume that the many friendship groups have been instrumental in strengthening the amiable connections between Bangladesh and China. The Friendship Society's events helped improve relations between the two nations, and its members were able to get more acquainted with one another and gain a deeper understanding of one another's cultures and customs. The ideas put out by these relationship associations are now assisting in broadening the scope of the two countries' friendship. Nonetheless, suppose the idea of constructive action among the numerous friendship associations continues to rise. In that case, it could have a good effect on how both governments make decisions, which would help improve the relationship between the two countries.

Conclusion

From what has been said so far, it seems that cultural exchange between Bangladesh and China has been positive. From the beginning, many aspects of Chinese culture have made their way to Bangladesh, where have been ingrained in people's everyday lives. The information mentioned above and the research also provide a clear picture of how Chinese cultural components have influenced and are currently impacting the people of Bangladesh. Chinese media, music, theatre, parlor games, acupressure, and other healing practices, as well as a wide range of celebrations, sports, and foods, all significantly impact Bangladeshi culture. Today, cultural events in Bangladesh are often co-sponsored by the Chinese embassy, Confucius Institutes, and the Chinese Learning Departments of Bangladesh. Notably, the public has yet to hear about the shows. This is why local mass media must spread the word about major cultural events in China. There is little question that many more aspects of Chinese culture will be infused with Bengali culture if China consistently organize similar events in Bangladesh. Now, the people of Bangladesh may experience the full richness and splendor of traditional Chinese culture. Bangladesh and China have very different cultures. For example, they don't speak the same language and can't put on competitions in performing arts, sports,
cultural exchange programs, etc. Even yet, despite these barriers, Chinese entertainments and other cultural components may and will have a positive impact on Bangladeshi society.

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