



**A The Daily Star & banglalink™ GIFT
FIFA WORLD CUP 2014
MATCH SCHEDULE**
with today's issue

WATCHING THE PAST
Goutam Ghose says a film is
just a string of memories

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MAMATA CORDIAL WITH LEFT!
West Bengal chief minister opens up to
her archrival against BJP

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China wants to close trade gap

Chinese president tells Hasina; China to share super hybrid rice technology with Bangladesh

UNB, Beijing, China

Terming Bangladesh an important country in the Indian Ocean region and China's strategic partner, Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday said they are also concerned about the trade gap between the two countries and his government is looking into the matter.

"We recognise the trade imbalance; we're also equally concerned at this. This has been raised up high and this should be reduced," he told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting at his office in the Great Hall of the People.

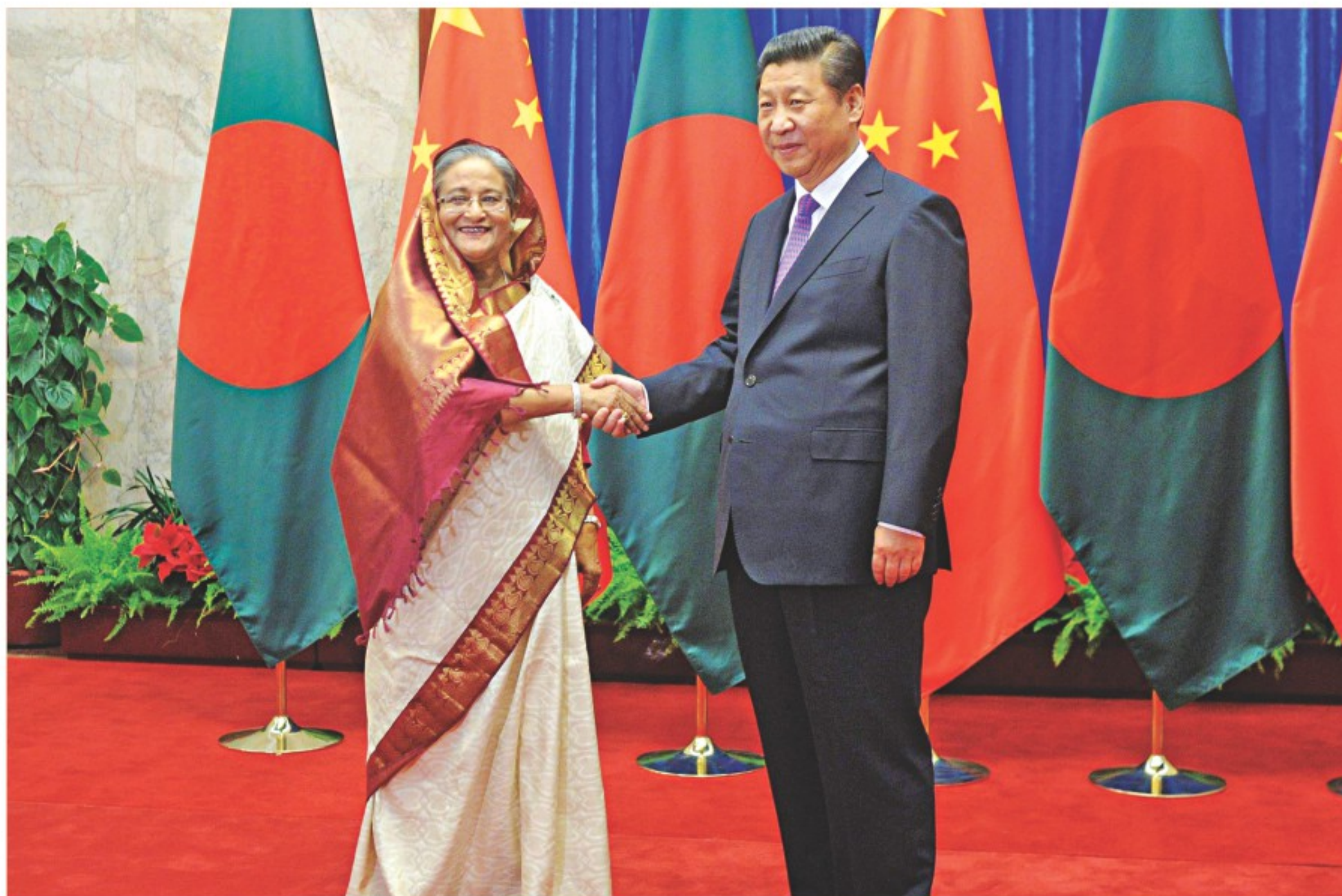
Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque shared the outcome of the meeting with the reporters.

The Chinese government, said Jinping, is looking into the trade gap issue to find out which items it could import from Bangladesh.

Jute products could be imported from Bangladesh to reduce the trade gap, he mentioned. The president extended his government's unconditional support for the agriculture sector in Bangladesh.

Jinping said China would share the technology of super hybrid rice with Bangladesh. China usually does not share this technology with others as this variety of rice was invented by it to boost rice production.

He stressed the need for setting up of a Bangladesh-China rice research institute.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shaking hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

PHOTO:
AFP

MoU signed for building tunnel under Karnaphuli

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Beijing have signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of a multilane tunnel under the Karnaphuli river.

Following the summit-level meeting headed by the premiers of Bangladesh and China, the two sides signed six deals on Monday.

The two sides also inked a deal on economic and technical cooperation between China and Bangladesh. Under the agreement, Dhaka would receive 300 million renminbi, about Tk 373.7 crore, every year.

A deal was signed on a

'Opener a la final'

AGENCIES, Teresopolis

Brazil are looking to send a message to supporters and rivals in the World Cup's opening match, right-back Dani Alves said on Monday, raising the stakes for the clash against Croatia.

A lacklustre 1-0 win over Serbia in Friday's warm-up game brought jeers from the home crowd and raised doubts about the heavily favoured Brazil team, which Alves was quick to dismiss.

He said the host nation's players would be at their best when the tournament begins on Thursday.

"The moment of truth is starting now," he told reporters, turning the focus to the

opener. "It's not just about three points, it should also send a message to future rivals.

"I think it's the most important game of the World Cup, along with the final."

The national team has long had a testy relationship with Sao Paulo fans at the Morumbi Stadium, where they struggled against Serbia. But Alves was confident of a different mood across town at the new Corinthians Arena that will host the opening match.

"Because we're playing at home... I'm certain the people will be on our side," said Alves. "That will confirm that the Brazilian team is the favourite."

Support for the team has grown at their

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Samba dancers Luciana (L) and Simone display Brazuca, the official match ball of World Cup 2014, on the so-called WC-beach-Brazil in northern German town of Brasilien yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

6MG!



What our party chief (Ershad) has said on proposed budget was his personal opinion only.

Leader of the Opposition RAUSHAN ERSHAD claimed at a press conference yesterday, disowning Ershad's recent criticism of the proposed budget.

AWARD SCAM Foreign friends to get new crest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following widespread condemnation, the government has finally decided to give new crests with an alloy of gold and silver to the foreign friends, who contributed to the country's Liberation War, since the previous ones were found sub-par.

The liberation war affairs ministry has said this in reply to a legal notice issued by Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid.

Advocate Manzill told The Daily Star yesterday that he received the reply on Monday and it said the government has formed a parliamentary sub-committee to investigate the allegation of tampering the awards.

After getting the report from the committee, the ministry will recover the money the supplier companies took for the crests, and then crests will be produced with stipulated amount of gold and silver and sent to the recipients through Bangladesh missions abroad, he said, citing from the letter.

On May 19, the lawyer filed a writ petition with the High

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EU worried at state of human rights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has expressed concern about the human rights situation in Bangladesh and called for bringing the perpetrators to book through proper investigation into each of the allegations of such violation.

"We take a serious view of the violation of human rights and we want thorough investigation into each of the violations and bring perpetrators to justice," said Ugo Astuto, director, South and South-East Asia of European External Action Service.

Talking to The Daily Star

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KARACHI AIRPORT DEATH TOLL 37

Taliban attack again

AGENCIES

Taliban gunmen attacked a security post outside Pakistan's Karachi airport yesterday, a day after an all-night siege by the militants left 37 dead and shredded a tentative peace process.

Flights in and out of Karachi's Jinnah international airport were immediately suspended yesterday

afternoon when gunmen attacked the entrance of a training base used by the Airports Security Force (ASF), located just outside the airfield's northern perimeter.

Television pictures showed soldiers and ASF forces taking positions in an open area of scrubland that separates the airport from Pehelwan Goth, a notorious slum that police have long

claimed is a haven for terrorists, reports The Guardian.

The late Sunday assault destroyed prospects for peace talks between the Taliban and the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and triggered speculation that the army might opt for an all-out offensive against militant strongholds.

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