



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Dhaka, Beijing upgrade ties; sign biggest ever investment deals; agree on Silk Road initiative

MAJOR PROJECTS WITH CHINESE ASSISTANCE	Padma Bridge Rail Link	Marine Drive Expressway	Expansion, Strengthening of Power System Network	Power Plant in Payra	Dual Gauge Rail Line (Akshaura-Sylhet)	Dhaka-Sylhet 4-lane Highway	Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway	Power Grid Network Strengthening Project	Establishing Digital Connectivity	Karnaphuli Tunnel
	\$3.3b	\$2.86b	\$2.04b	\$1.9b	\$1.76b	\$1.6b	\$1.39b	\$1.32b	\$1b	\$703m

REJAUL KARIM and SHAKHAWAT LITON

China considers Bangladesh as an important partner in South Asia region and wants to elevate practical relations between the two countries to a higher level, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a statement moments after landing at Dhaka airport yesterday.

Only hours later, he translated his words into actions, as China inked with Bangladesh 27 deals worth \$24.45 billion in soft loan for various key development projects.

And as the the Chinese president was attending the deal signing ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, 13 Bangladeshi entities and as many Chinese companies at a

city hotel signed 13 joint venture agreements involving \$13.6 billion of Chinese investment in Bangladesh to boost bilateral trade.

Together, the sum of \$38.05 billion is the biggest ever assistance pledged to Bangladesh by any single country.

"China-Bangladesh relationship is now at a new historical starting point and heading towards a promising future," said Xi in a statement at the signing ceremony at the PMO.

The Chinese leader also promised that his country would continue to do its best to provide capital, technological and human resources to carry out more cooperation on big projects with Bangladesh to support its economic and social development.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets Chinese President Xi Jinping with a bouquet of flowers on his arrival at her office yesterday . PHOTO: BSS

"We reached consensus on cooperation in key areas, such as, trade and investment, infrastructure, industry, power and energy, ICT and agriculture."

SHEIKH HASINA

"We agreed to elevate China-Bangladesh relationship from a closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation to a strategic partnership of cooperation."

XI JINPING



Partnership elevated one step

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Bangladesh-China partnership took a step forward, and the two countries agreed to work closely and support each other on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

"Today we have elevated our Closer Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation to a Strategic Partnership of Cooperation," she said in a joint press

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Ties at new historical starting point

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China-Bangladesh relationship is now at a "new historical starting point" and heading towards a promising future, visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday.

"China is ready to work with Bangladesh to move along the path of development as friends and partners who trust and support each other and to add more substance to the China-Bangladesh strategic partnership of cooperation," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

\$24.45b deals

Two countries put it on paper

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh is set to receive \$24.45 billion in bilateral assistance from China for 34 projects and programmes, as the two countries look to take their economic ties to a new height.

This is the largest bilateral financial assistance for Bangladesh since independence, and it is aimed at helping the country further develop its infrastructure.

The two sides yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening investment and production capacity cooperation.

The MoU includes a list of 28 projects for which Dhaka would get \$21.5 billion from Beijing in financial assistance, according to Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division (ERD).

However, neither side gave any details about the MoUs, framework agreements and loan agreements signed yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque told journalists that 27

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

- 2 governments sign **27** deals
- 13** joint venture agreements inked
- 34** projects get Chinese assistance
- 2 loan agreements involving **\$464m**

SINO-BANGLA VENTURE 13 companies to invest \$13.6b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen Bangladeshi entities and the same number of Chinese companies yesterday signed 13 joint venture agreements involving \$13.6 billion to increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

Under the agreements, Chinese investors will invest in infrastructures, power, railways, sports and special economic zone, said Sun Xiao, a deputy director general of China Chamber of International Commerce.

Of the Bangladeshi bodies, 11 are private companies including Beximco Group and Meghna Group. The other two are the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Learn from the kids

Germs do not differ between the young or the old. They know of no special day. Thus, to stay healthy, washing hands is not only important for children, but also for elders. Let us all stay healthy by learning the 6 steps of washing hands. Let this be our promise for this year's Global Hand Washing Day.



Hand Washing in **6** Steps

1. Rubbing the palms
2. Rubbing the back of the hands
3. Washing in between the fingers
4. Washing behind the fingers
5. Washing the root of the thumbs
6. Rubbing the nails on the palm of the hands



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