



**'RISE ABOVE POLITICS'**  
Analysts at South Asia Economic Summit urge all to end conflict and save Saarc  
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**'WRONGLY TARGETED'**  
Saudi-led coalition admits Yemen funeral strike was a mistake  
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**'DON'T EXPECT MIRACLES'**  
Bangladesh head coach admits his side have much work to do in the longer format  
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## SILK ROAD IN SOUTH ASIA Designed to be a game changer?

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**  
Building new Silk Road trade routes -- an ambitious project masterminded by Chinese President Xi Jinping -- appears a game changer in South Asia's regional politics.  
During his landmark visit, Dhaka agreed to give full support to his initiative. Earlier, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, three Saarc members, agreed to the plan.  
In 2014-15, the Chinese leader visited India and the three countries, and China inked deals worth billions of dollars for development projects in those countries. At the time, Beijing signed deals worth \$46 billion with Pakistan, \$20 billion with India, \$1.4 billion with Sri Lanka and worth \$500 million with the Maldives.  
India, however, still remains hesitant about joining the bandwagon as many of its policymakers think that China wants to increase its influence in the region through this initiative.  
"A rising China has steadily used its economic and military clout to woo Indian's neighbours and incorporate them in its ambitious One Belt, One Road project," said Pinak Ranjan Chakroborty, a former Indian diplomat.  
Pinak, a distinguished fellow of Delhi-based think-tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF), in an article styled  
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**BANGLADESH-CHINA JOINT STATEMENT -- SEE ONLINE**



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping while seeing him off at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Xi left Dhaka after a two-day state visit.

## See you in Goa Xi Jinping departs; Hasina leaves today

**STAR REPORT**  
Chinese President Xi Jinping left Dhaka for Goa, India, wrapping up his two-day state visit to Bangladesh yesterday morning.  
A special flight of Air China carrying Xi and his entourage left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:20am. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saw him off at the airport, reports UNB.  
A smartly turned out contingent of the President's Guard Regiment presented guard of honour to the Chinese president before his departure.  
Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Public Administration Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, Planning Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrar Alam and several diplomats were present.  
Four fighter jets of Bangladesh Air Force  
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**TOP QUOTE**  
"Xi's Dhaka visit is strategically placed since Bangladesh has traditionally been a close ally of India and for China, it is another nation in the South Asian region where it wants a bigger footprint."  
**THE TRIBUNE, AN INDIAN ENGLISH DAILY, SAID YESTERDAY**

## Tiny plastic, huge risk

**MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA**  
After a day out in the dirt and dust, you might want to use a face wash to clean up but such cleansing products are dirtying up the environment. And the culprits are tiny plastic beads in the products known as microbeads.  
Microbeads are non-biodegradable, cheap tiny plastic particles, that pose serious threat to the environment, and human and animal health, experts say.  
A study, titled "Microbeads Pollution Scenario in Bangladesh", published yesterday, says the particles might have revolutionised your home beauty care, but they have that dark side.  
Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO), a body working on environment and development, conducted the study which says 60 most popular and commonly used beauty and cleaning products in Bangladesh, including face wash, detergent, body wash, nail polish, toothpaste, and face and body scrub contain these harmful microbeads.  
Every month, around 8,000 billion microbeads flow to the water bodies in and around three major cities -- Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, according to  
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## Need is 'policy of balance'

**REZAUL KARIM**  
Experts see growth from good ties with India, China  
Bangladesh needs to be very balanced in its approach in going forward with India and China with the correct economic and foreign policy to become a middle-income country by 2021, foreign and strategic affairs experts have said.  
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday on Bangladesh and China establishing a "strategic partnership of cooperation", experts said this is purely for commercial and economic development.  
Former and serving diplomats, security and strategic experts said, Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement to upgrade China's relationship with Bangladesh is not just diplomatic jargon but means an elevation in relationship.  
Chronicling the evolution of relationship between the two Asian countries, a serving Bangladeshi Ambassador, who has long been following Bangladesh-China  
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## \$24.45B DEALS WITH CHINA The amount may go up or down

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN**  
Cost to be finalised upon feasibility study of projects  
China has committed soft loans for more than two dozen projects, but the total amount that would be provided was not specified as per Beijing's modus operandi for such matters.  
Bangladesh had pressed for stating a specific amount in the Memorandum of Understanding but China did not agree to it, said finance ministry officials.  
The deal was one of the 27 final agreements and MoUs signed during official talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday.  
The MoU, which was signed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith and China's Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng, was for a total of 28 projects under China's "strengthening investment and production capacity cooperation" programme.  
Dhaka would probably get \$21.5 billion from Beijing in financial assistance under the MoU, according to Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division. The amount could go up or down when loan agreements are signed.  
With six other projects and programmes included, the amount could be \$24.45 billion.  
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## Modi, Putin sign mega deals

**AFF**  
India and Russia signed billions of dollars of defence and energy deals yesterday at a summit that sought to inject new life into a relationship that has been tested by shifting global alliances and conflict in the Middle East.  
Modi hailed Putin as an "old friend" after their meeting in the Indian state of Goa, where leaders of the other BRICS emerging nations were also gathering for a summit.  
The leaders announced plans for a joint venture to build helicopters in India. New Delhi said it would also buy Moscow's most advanced surface-to-air missile systems.  
Under the biggest agreement, a group led by Russian state oil major Rosneft said it would pay \$12.9 billion for a controlling stake in both India's Essar Oil and port facilities that it owns.  
India is undergoing a \$100-billion upgrade of its Soviet-era military, as it looks to protect its borders from Pakistan and an increasingly assertive China.  
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 8



Police towing the ambulance which ran over and killed four people, including a pregnant woman, inside the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning. A part of the photo has been pixelated to avoid showing gory details.

## Tragedy at DMCH Pregnant woman among 4 killed as ambulance runs them over on the hospital premises

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Four people, including a pregnant woman, were killed and three others injured when an ambulance ran them over inside Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.  
Three of the deceased were identified as Gulenur Begum, 26, her son Shakib, 7 and six-month pregnant Amena Begum, 28. The fourth victim, a beggar aged about 60, could not be identified.  
Doctors performed a caesarean on Amena around noon but could not save the baby. She too died of her injuries in the evening, hospital sources said.  
The injured are Amena's eight-year-old son Sajib, Gulenur's six-month-old son Akash, and Ramzan Ali, 40.  
Police seized the ambulance and detained its driver Sohag and his assistant Sohel Mia.  
According to hospital sources, a hospital staff and his relative are the owners of the ambulance.  
Sohel was behind the wheel when the incident occurred near the hospital's emergency gate around 9:15am, police and witnesses said.  
The ambulance had been hired to carry a corpse from the emergency unit of the hospital. Sohag asked Sohel to take the vehicle in front of the unit, they added.  
"Instead of hitting the brakes, he [Sohel] accelerated while entering the hospital's premises," Shahbagh Police Station's Sub-inspector Mahfuzur Rahman quoted the detainees as saying.  
Shakib and the beggar died on the spot.  
Amena's son Sajib, who suffered a fracture in his left leg, said his father Zakir Hossain suffered injuries in a road accident a few months ago and was undergoing treatment at the hospital. He and his mother were taking care of Zakir.  
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