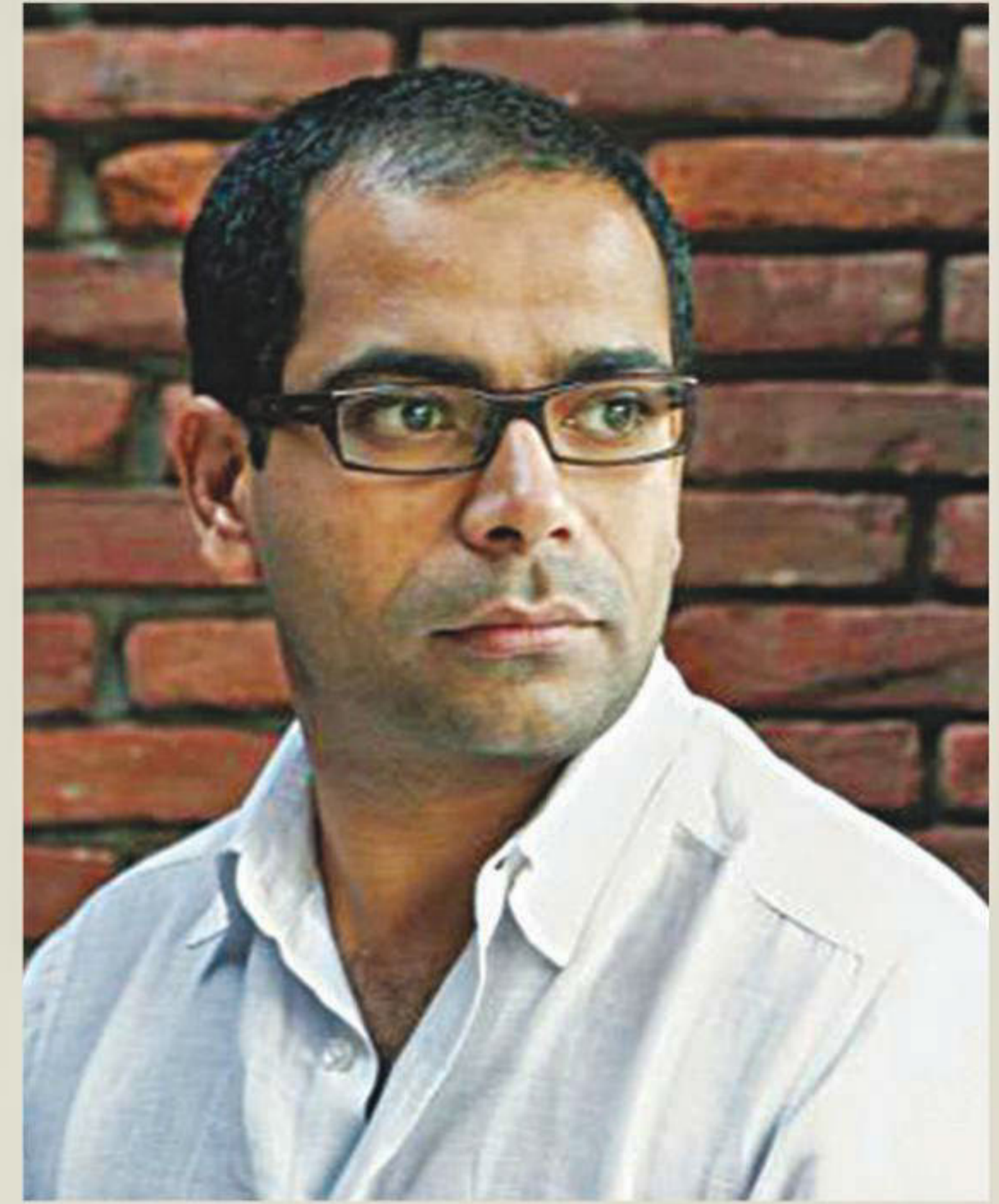




Dhaka and Beijing upgraded ties and agreed on the Silk Road initiative as China inked with Bangladesh 27 deals worth \$24.45 billion in soft loan for various key development projects. "China-Bangladesh relationship is now at a new historical starting point and heading towards a promising future," said Xi in a statement at the signing ceremony at the PMO.



Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury, architect and Principal of URBANA, received First Prize in the International Baku Architecture Award in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan making him the first Bangladeshi architect to get the award. The award was given in the category of Best Implemented Project in the architecture of public buildings.

Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's "Aynabaji" won the award of best film at the USA's 11th Seattle South Asian Film Festival.



A ground-breaking project based in Bangladesh, which allows villagers to earn by selling excess solar energy to neighbours, was one of the 13 winners of the United Nations climate change awards. Founded in 2014 as a German-Bangladeshi spin-off of MicroEnergy International GmbH, ME SOLshare has successfully piloted the world's first swarm grid, an ICT-enabled peer-to-peer electricity trading network for rural households with and without solar home systems in Shariatpur of Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi publisher and writer Ahmedur Rashid Chowdhury Tutul, who survived a militant attack in 2015, was named winner of PEN International Writer of Courage award in 2016 for his bravery in upholding free speech.



Two Bangladeshis were awarded the 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture for designing Bait Ur Rouf Mosque in Dhaka and the Friendship Centre in Gaibandha. Marina Tabassum won the award for the mosque and Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury (pictured above) for the community centre.