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Your Right to Know

HILLARY HOSPITALISED

With a blood clot linked to a concussion she suffered in December

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PAK TOUR ON HOLD

Bangladesh cricket team's visit postponed over security concern

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GREETINGS

The Daily Star
Wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers

Let Bangladesh Grow

A wish for 2013

We end 2012 with a lot to celebrate but also many things to fear about. While there are very clear indications that the world is taking a serious look at Bangladesh as a future economic power house, lurking behind that prospect are real possibilities of upsetting it all by our own myopic politics. While we celebrate the prospect of our bright future, we cannot brush aside the fear that we may seriously damage that possibility due to our own shortsighted policies, mal-governance and corruption.

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2012: LOOKING BACK - PAGE 12

BRAVO

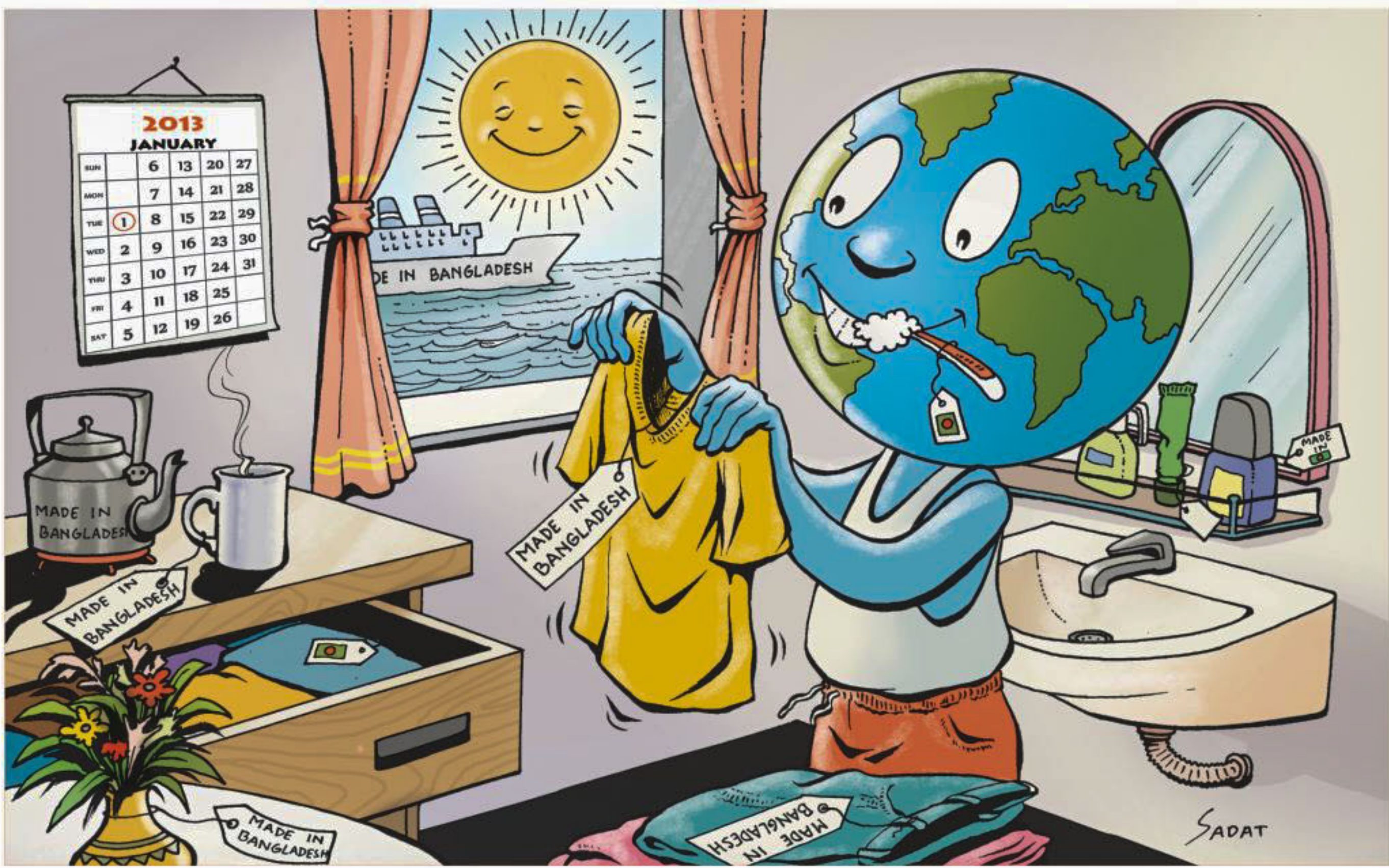
Bangladesh eyes \$20b in New Year

Retaining its position as the 2nd largest RMG exporter

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh enters 2013 with a firm footing as the world's second largest garment exporter, raising hopes for a new wave of business despite turbulent times in parts of the globe. The World Trade Organisation declared Bangladesh as the second largest RMG exporter after China in 2010-11 when the country's export grew 43.36 percent year on year to \$15.66 billion in spite of global recession in 2007-2008. Bangladesh retained its position in the following fiscal 2011-12 by exporting garments worth \$19.09 billion. And the outlook for the current fiscal is set to exceed \$20 billion.

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4 YEARS OF AWAMI LEAGUE GOVERNMENT

Stepping into a new year always entails looking back on year just past. However, considering that it is the election year, we take a 4-year stock of the government's performance in a select number of sectors. We also look at implementation of the mega projects and as well as performances of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat. The stock-taking reveals a mixed bag of successes and failures of the present government and the opposition which we hope our readers will find useful.

AL's costly success in power sector

Major projects struggling; dependence on rental plants to continue; gas sector in dismal state

SHARIER KHAN

The Awami League-led alliance government has achieved a major success in addressing the country's power crisis through its short term measure of awarding contracts for rental power projects for three to five years. However, since it is lagging behind in implementing mid-term and long-term power projects, the government will have to allow operation of different rental power plants with a total generation capacity of around 500 megawatt by the time the nation enters the next general election phase. Presently, a few dozen rental power plants having more than 1,800 MW gener-

ation capacity are in operation. The contracts with these plants are for two to five years -- mostly expiring in 2013. In gas sector, the government has actually done poorly in increasing its supplies against rising demand. The bulk increase of gas supplies came from US company Chevron while a small portion came from the lone Bangladeshi exploration company Bapex. Petrobangla, which had earlier given a rosy picture of surplus gas supplies from 2013, has now revised it down by one third. This revised projection will affect the government's plans to ensure low-cost gas-based power generation. Many tenders for

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RETAIL LEVEL BERC panel for 3pc power price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The technical evaluation committee of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday recommended increasing power price by 3.30 percent and 3.65 percent for DESCO and DPDC to reduce the burden of losses. The suggestion came after a public hearing of different stakeholders at the commission office in Dhaka. Earlier on October 18, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd submitted a proposal to BERC to

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10,000 to get jobs in KL

Dhaka gets formal request

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lifting a four-year ban, the Malaysian government has decided to recruit 10,000 male workers from Bangladesh for its plantation sector, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday. The ministry had received a formal request in this regard through the Kuala Lumpur High Commission office Sunday, the minister told a press briefing in the ministry's conference room. At first, the Malaysian government was looking to recruit 30,000 Bangladeshi workers for the plantation sector, but later they cut the number down to 10,000, said Mosharraf, adding that the country would continue to recruit more Bangladeshis depending on the demand in the sector. The government will start registering the names of

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Talks with BNP soon Says Ashraf

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's announcement of a dialogue with the main opposition BNP on next parliamentary elections has brought a ray of hope against the possible political crisis in 2013. The announcement made yesterday, the last day of 2012, appears as a major breakthrough given the prevailing political situation in which the ruling AL and main opposition BNP are at a loggerhead over the mode of an election-time government.

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Happy new year 2013

Every New Year comes with new hope and challenges.
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