

The Daily Star
NEW YEAR SPECIAL
2015

DHAKA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

“AND TO MAKE AN END IS TO MAKE A BEGINNING”

EDITOR'S NOTE

Politically and economically we have left behind a relatively stable and successful year. The consequence was reflected in the slight jump in our GDP. We left a year that was eventful in many ways yet there was just the sense of incompleteness and discontented feeling because of an election where fifty percent of the seats were uncontested.

A unique parliament was the consequence of a unique election, and what has come to pass, and the type of parliament and democracy that we now have, are the results of the two political parties' inflexible position on most of the political issues, including caretaker government, election, etc. Unfortunately, the utterances of the two major parties, the threats and counter threats, do not bode a peaceful 2015 whose early signs we have already seen.

We made good progress in agriculture, and food autarky was the natural outcome of it. For the first time Bangladesh became a rice exporting country. Despite many shortcomings the RMG sector bounced back to earn 25 billion US dollars. Steps were taken to meet all the compliance requirements although GSP from the US remained elusive. Non-traditional sectors like leather and ship building helped diversify our exports, but a manmade accident caused serious damage to the Sunderbans.

In this Supplement we present a variety of articles which, among other issues, cover our economic performance, the RMG sector, environment, human rights, energy and corruption. A new feature is the articles by eminent scholars and personalities including Joseph E. Stiglitz and Zbigniew Brzezinski

received through the Project Syndicate exclusively for The Daily Star.

We believe that every New Year is a new opportunity to do, undo and redo. It is an opportunity to do all the good things, in all spheres of our national life, undo all the not so good things that we did and redo all the good things that we have done.

Let me end with the observations of a distinguished poet who has so perspicuously noted:

*“For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.”*

With the hope of making a new beginning I wish all our readers, patrons and well wishers a
HAPPY, PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL 2015.

