



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

PLUS 48 PAGES TABLOID SIZE 4 COLOUR ON THE DAILY STAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL

"Great move on delay – I always knew he was very smart!"

PRESIDENT-ELECT
DONALD TRUMP
ABOUT PUTIN'S DECISION NOT TO
EXPULSION OF US DIPLOMATS.
STORY ON PAGE 8



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXVI No. 342

POUSH 18, 1423 BS

Your Right to Know

RABIUS SANI 2, 1438 HJRI

20 PAGES PRICE : TK 12.00

2016 GOOD, 2017 to be BETTER

Year ends on positive note despite some challenges

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh ends 2016 with a record-breaking economic growth, thanks to political stability throughout the year.

Only a year ago, one could hardly think that 7.11 percent economic growth would be possible in fiscal 2015-16 after political unrest between 2013 and mid-2015.

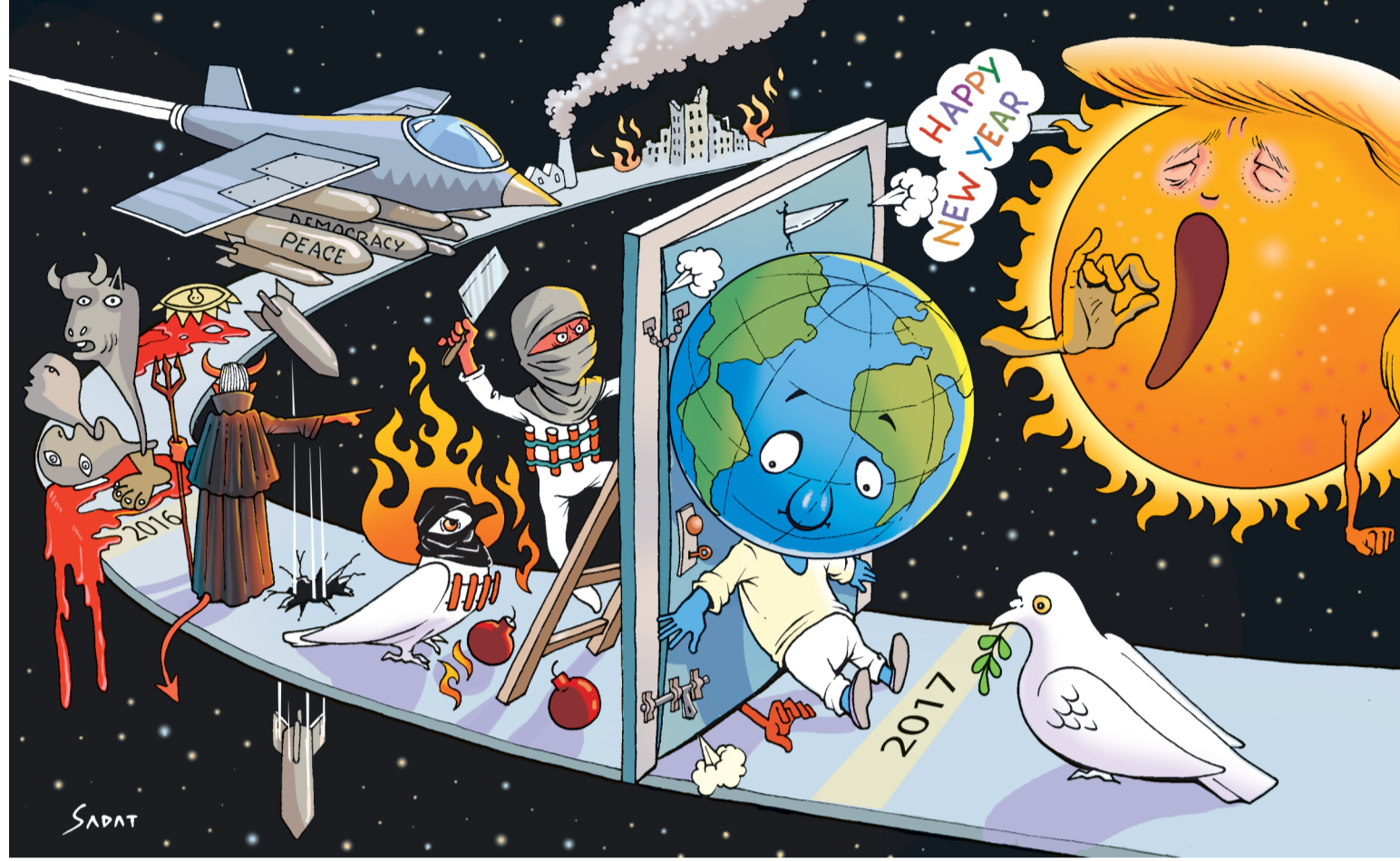
But political stability in 2016 has not only yielded high economic growth but has also given entrepreneurs confidence to do better in the days to come.

Now a \$220 billion economy is moving forward with mega development projects, including Tk 30,000 crore Padma Bridge, Tk 22,000 crore metro rail, elevated expressway, flyovers, dozens of economic zones and Payra seaport.

Falling interest rates, increasing access to finance and improvement in working conditions at garment factories have made businesses confident of taking new challenges and boosting export earnings.

Stock markets, which were bearish since

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Gaibandha MP shot dead at home

Four bike-riding assailants storm his guest room and open fire; motive unclear; two detained

STAR REPORT

Manzurul Islam Liton, ruling Awami League lawmaker of Gaibandha-1 constituency, was killed after unknown assailants opened fire on him inside his home at Sundarganj upazila of the district yesterday evening.

Four men stormed the MP's home in Bamondanga area around 6:00pm and shot him when he was in his guest room, said Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station.

Liton's brother-in-law, Bedarul Ahsan, said four men arrived at the gate of the lawmaker's home on two bikes after Magrib prayers and said that they wanted to meet the AL leader.

Later, they stormed the guest room and shot Liton, who was having tea there, he said, adding that all the attackers had their faces covered with scarf. They shot him at



close range. "I was talking to my sister [wife of Liton]. Suddenly, there were gun shot sounds," Bedarul said, adding that he then heard the lawmaker calling for help.

"When I entered the room, I saw him [Liton] lying on the floor. By that time, the attackers had fled on the bikes firing shots in the air," he added.

Critically injured Liton was rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 7:30pm, head of the hospital's surgery department Bimal Kumar Roy said.

Bimal said five bullets had penetrated the MP. Two had hit him in the chest while the others went in his left hand.

Police could not immediately give any specific reason behind the attack.

Asked whether the incident had anything

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Mashrafe positive despite whitewash

AL-AMIN from Nelson

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was searching for words to express yet another inexplicable batting collapse against New Zealand after the third and final one-dayer at the Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday.

The Black Caps won the game by eight wickets to complete a 3-0 series sweep but the post-match briefing was more focused on a similar batting collapse for a second successive game.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

WASA WATER PRICE HIKED TWICE IN 2016

How logical is the hike?

HELEMUL ALAM

Supplied water for Dhaka dwellers have become nearly 22 percent more expensive since June this year but many believe the hike could have been avoided.

They say Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority could have addressed its financial indiscipline and stopped system loss instead and that the hike would hurt people of low and middle income groups.

Before July this year per unit of water (1,000 litres) used to cost a residential customer Tk 7.71. After the yearly five percent rise in July, it cost Tk 8.49. But in November Dhaka Wasa raised the price by 17 percent to Tk 10.

Had it been a hike in electricity prices, people would have had an early alert as it has become customary these days of service providers holding public hearings prior to

HIKES IN 2016

Cost of per unit water (1,000 litres) for households

JUNE 2016	JULY 2016	NOVEMBER 2016
TK 7.71	TK 8.49	TK 10

any power price adjustment.

But when it comes to water, it has never been a practice.

As consumers' bodies criticised the price hike, Dhaka Wasa said it could ill afford the huge gap between its production and supply prices of water. It claimed that it was selling a water unit that costs Tk 28 to produce for just Tk 10.

Interestingly, Dhaka Wasa finds a way of cost reduction, causing its hard-pressed customers difficulties, when the institution itself is accused of gross financial indiscipline.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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