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Rajuk enlists
engrs, firms
to draw up
bldg plans

By Staff Correspondent
Rajuk has enlisted some 800 engineers, architects and draftsmen and 212 consultancy firms who would be the only authorised persons and organisations to draw up and initially approve city building plans before seeking final approval from Rajuk, sources concerned said.

The decision to enlist the 'qualified persons' was taken recently following widespread reports that majority of the city's buildings were faulty structures due to 'lapses' in the initial planning. Earlier, anyone claiming to be 'slightly associated' with drawing up building plans could do so for structure.

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Tk 100cr ROK composite textile industry in Mymensingh soon
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DSE MARKET
DSE price index 1869.83 (-3.39%)
Market capital Tk 13599.20cr
Transactions in volume 177648
Transactions in value Tk 4.73 cr

CSE MARKET
CSE price index 809.94 (-3.46%)
Market capital Tk 10372.22 cr
Transactions in volume 52455
Transactions in value Tk 1064672

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
10	20	—	5:40
11	21	5:20	5:40
12	22	5:20	5:41

Shake-up in SEC: 2 members replaced

Star Report

The government has removed two members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Alamgir Kabir and Shabubul Alam, yesterday.

They have been replaced by Faizuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC), and Emdadul Huq, former member of National Board of Revenue (NBR), officials said.

The long awaited shake-up in the SEC, the watchdog of the country's capital market, announced by Finance Minister S A M Kibria late last month, came after orders for their removal reached the Finance Ministry late yesterday from the Prime Minister's office.

As the finance minister pledged to reorganise the SEC with new members, the SEC

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also formed an enquiry committee to probe the reported scam fueling the unusual boom in the stock markets.

The four-member committee headed by Prof Amirul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University, began sifting through the files of the SEC and the two stock exchanges to probe the allegations.

In a bid to unlock the mystery of the unusual ups and downs in the market, said to have been tailored by certain people who kept it under their thumb, the probe committee is looking into the records of both the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange.

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The two members were given



Abahani's central defender Maman (R) tries to keep PIA centre-forward Nazmul Ashraf at bay during their clash in the invitational international tournament at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. PIA won 3-2.

— Star photo

Clinton wants to make today's inaugural speech memorable

tween Clinton and his goals stood a Republican Congress with ideas of its own.

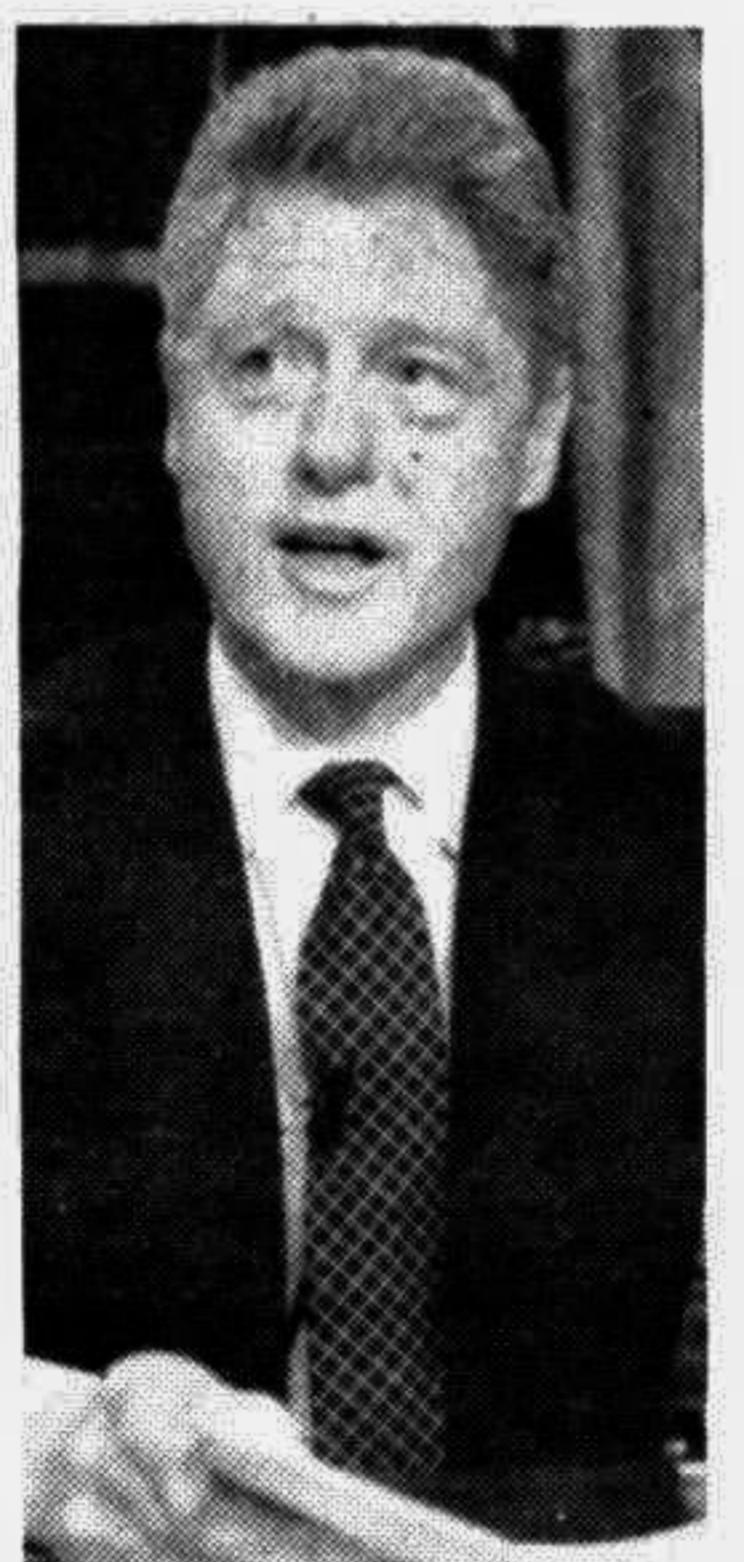
Still, for the moment, partisanship was set aside. The capital looked glorious. Banners and bunting flicked in the breezes. Tomorrow's swearing-in of Clinton and Vice President Al Gore promised to occur in weather that's crisp, clear and free of snow — better than usual.

"It's freezing cold," shivered an inaugural visitor from San Francisco, Jenne Bierhart, a school teacher. That didn't keep her from trooping to Pennsylvania Avenue to take photos of the White House. "I'm just happy to be here," she said.

As workers hoisted the presidential seal over the inaugural parade reviewing stand in front of the White House, two dozen anti-abortion activists marched past carrying giant colour posters of aborted fetuses and a banner calling them "the children of Hillary's village."

Next Wednesday marks the 24th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that ruled American women have a right to abortion.

But the newness and uncheckered promise of four years ago were absent, and be-



Financial Loan Court (Amend) Bill placed

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria introduced the Financial Loan Court (Amendment) Bill, 1997 in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday seeking amendments to the Financial Loan Court Act, 1990.

The printed objective of the Bill said it was necessary to amend the Act to bring about dynamism in loan realisation activities of the banks and other financial institutions.

S A M S Kibria assured the House that the Bill would not create any negative impact on private sector initiatives.

A motion of vote of thanks on presidential speech was moved by Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah while ruling party whip Abdus Shahid seconded the motion. A 20-hour discussion on the presidential speech is scheduled to be held before the adoption of the motion.

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JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP lawmakers cheered Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury as she began her deliberations in the House yesterday saying "Aauzillah! Minash Shaitaner Razeeb. Bismillah! Rahmani Rahim."

BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam commented, "after long 21 years, Awami League has started upholding the Constitution by uttering Bismillah."

In reply, Motia Choudhury said, "Every Muslim says Bismillah before starting any job... We've been doing so silently, not on the microphone.... We're also well aware of the practices of those who have been publicly uttering Bismillah and performing the Hajj frequently."

Later, several legislators of the ruling party also started their speeches with Bismillah.

AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently advised her party lawmakers to start their deliberations with Bismillah.

"It's good to be excited... But it's not proper to get excited in

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Ganges flow

Dhaka receives data of joint monitoring

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday received the first set of data of joint monitoring of water flow at three points of the Ganges river in India, official sources said.

The data provides the record of water released by India at Farakka for the first 10-day cycle — January 1-10. The figures were received under confidential cover forwarded through the office of the Bangladesh High Commission, ... in Calcutta.

The data sent has been logged by the Bangladesh monitors posted below the Farakka point, the Feeder Canal and the Farakka Navigation Lock.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Water Resources Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda said, the data so far received "was satisfactory and reflected the indicative quantum due to be discharged for the period."

India was due to release 67,516 cusecs of water for the first ten-day cycle.

For the second cycle, which began January 11 a.m., will end today (Jan 20), the water discharge from Farakka for Bangladesh is supposed to be 57,673 cusecs.

Motia warns in Jatiya Sangsad

Fertiliser dealers playing foul will lose licence

By Staff Correspondent

not

present

in

the

House

then

Answering a question from BNP legislator Prof Shahidul Islam, the Agriculture Minister said, Tk 21 crore subsidy would be canceled if any foul play was proved.

The minister was replying to a number of starred questions and supplementaries raised by lawmakers in the House.

When some opposition MPs

raised

questions

about

alleged

misrepresentation

in

district

level

committees

to

scrutinise

fertiliser

dealership

motives

of

the

minister

she

said

that

the

minister

had

met

only

15

per

cent

of

total

domestic

demand

for

TSP.

Replied to a supplementary

from Shahidul Islam, the minister said government could meet only 15 per cent of total domestic demand for TSP.

When BNP lawmaker and former food and agriculture minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan wanted to know the difference between the previous

Motia Chowdhury, however, clarified that in a market economy fertiliser price is determined by market forces as per demand and supply. She added that fertiliser price varies from one area to other depending on carrying costs and communication facilities.

Replied to a supplementary from Shahidul Islam, the minister said government could meet only 15 per cent of total domestic demand for TSP.

When BNP lawmaker and former food and agriculture minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan wanted to know the difference between the previous

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PM for consensus on economic issues

government for the development of the nation."

About restoring congenial law-and-order situation, the prime minister said the government was trying its best to maintain peace and stability and for this reason cooperation of all is needed.

She said the government was giving all decisions very fast and trying hard for the progress of the nation. The government is taking rapid steps in different sectors to felicitate business and investment, she added.

"We want to restore the image of the country abroad, we want to have a dignified place in the world. We don't want mercy from anyone else".

She said already the image of the country had been changing to the foreigners and they were showing keen interest to invest in different sectors of the country.

About the buying of laidoff industries by the business leaders, the prime minister said some of the buyers did not take care of those industries. Sometimes they took loan on those mills and factories but didn't

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Coetzer knocks out Steffi
MELBOURNE, Jan 19: South African Amanda Coetzer knocked world number one Steffi Graf out of the Australian Open in straight sets here today, reports AFP.

Graf lost the fourth tie 6-2, 7-5. She made another poor start to lose the opening set and let a 4-0 lead slip in the second against the 12th seeded South African.

Coetzer will now play unseeded American Kimberly Po, who beat Atlanta Olympic champion and seventh seed Lindsay Davenport, 7-6, 15/13, 6-4.