



Bush promises 'fresh start' as he takes office today

WASHINGTON, Jan 19: Washington geared up today for some high-level partying and street-level protesting around the weekend inauguration of Republican George W Bush and the next US president, reports AFP.

"I am honoured to serve and I am ready to start," Bush said Thursday at a musical extravaganza at the Lincoln Memorial that kicked off the inaugural celebrations and featured a performance by Latin pop star Ricky Martin.

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Some 15,000 invited guests and members of the public braved the chill of the winter afternoon to hear Bush speak in the shadow of the statue of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's first Republican president, credited with holding the nation together during an 1861-1865 civil war.

"A new administration is an opportunity for change and a new direction," Bush said. "That is the promise I have made, a promise I will keep to give America a fresh start."

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Inside Today

Article

Dead Utopias Rule Bangladesh

Dr Badrul Khan writes from Sydney Page 4

Supplement

A two-page supplement on the 6th convocation of BUET on Pages 8 & 9

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 20		5.36 pm
Jan 21	6-43 am	

Prayer Timings

January 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-10
Zuhr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-05	4-20
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-15	7-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pvt sector urged to help boost investment, export

PM opens month-long trade fair in city

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government has created a liberal, deregulated and investment-friendly climate for quick industrialisation and boosting exports, reports UNB.

Inaugurating the month-long Dhaka International Trade Fair-2001 in city yesterday, she made a call to local and foreign investors to come forward and avail the investment incentives given in selected thrust sectors.

She told her business audience at the opening function of the fair that attracting more foreign investment, setting export-oriented industries and increasing volume of exports are the main objectives of the industry.

trial and trade policies adopted in light of free market economy.

To promote export, a good number of exportable have been identified as thrust sectors and prospective items brought under export programmes, Hasina said, urging the private sector to play the prime role in investment and export.

Terming the rapidly growing information technology as a promising export sector, the Prime Minister said the government is providing logistic supports for exploring overseas market for exporting computer software and data processing.

"In the near future, computer software and data processing like readymade garment would fetch huge foreign currencies,"

she told the function attended by foreign and local entrepreneurs, industrialists, diplomats and public representatives.

Hasina said emphasis has also been given on export of agricultural products and initiatives taken for increasing export of value-added agro-processed products instead of exporting primary items only.

She said a Tk 100-crore Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund had already been set up for development of these two sectors. She also referred to the formation of a task force headed by the Commerce Minister and National Export Council headed by the

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Rajuk flouts its own rules, allows high-rises in six-storey zone

By Staff Correspondent

Violating restriction on construction of buildings beyond six storeys, Rajuk has approved at least 17 plans for 10 to 20 storied buildings in Dhanmondi residential area under the cover of "privately owned plots."

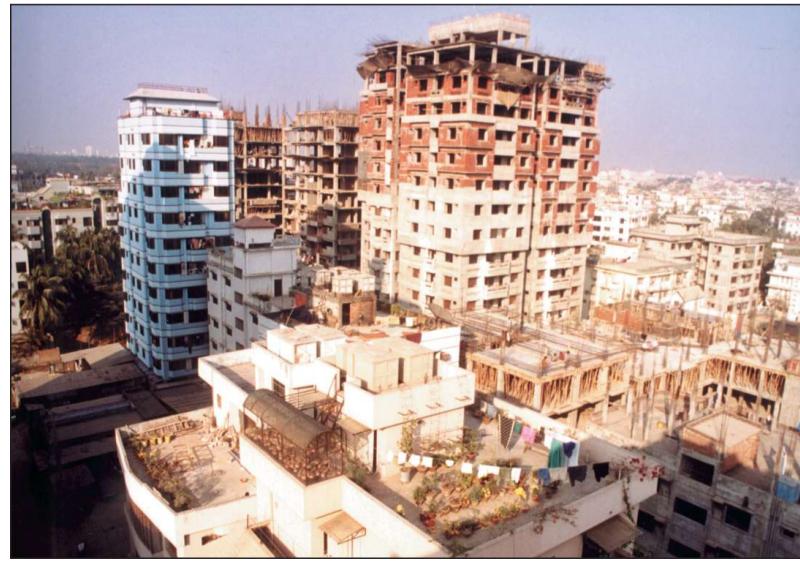
The high-rise residential buildings, each on six to eight katha plots (2,160 to 4,320 square feet) at the extension of Road 14, are now at various stages of construction. These are located beside a 20-feet wide road.

Rajuk officials said the plans were approved between 1996 and 1998 on the basis that the lands were privately owned. They said there was no provision for obtaining Environmental Certificate at that time.

Rajuk sources also said that on the approved plans, it was falsely shown that the adjacent roads were more than 30-feet wide. The entire area belonged to the Adel family, which managed to retain the property during the then government's land acquisition drive, which began in early 1950s.

Experts said restriction on building height has been imposed.

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A number of high-rise buildings are being constructed in the city's Dhanmondi area in violation of rules. - Star photo

9 drown as trawler capsizes in Meghna

By Staff Correspondent

January 15 issued a rule nisi on the government to explain why a new Public Prosecutor (PP) should not be appointment as per the informant's choice.

The High Court also directed the Investigation Officer of the case to ensure security of the witnesses.

The High Court had also directed the authorities concerned to produce all documents of the case before it within 24 hours.

After killing Jalal over 'claim of shares', five men allegedly dumped his body into the overhead water reservoir at DB Office in the city. The decomposed body was recovered several days later.

The five men accused and charge-sheeted in the case are DB Inspector Ziaul Hasan, DB Havildar Bilal Hossain, DB Constable Abdur Rab, DB Driver Constable Abdur Malek and the canteen manager at DB office, Anwar Hossain.

Halima Khatun yesterday said that after the court order, some policemen led by a Sub-inspector came to her house the day before. He told her that due to manpower shortage they could not deploy any policemen at her residence. If she has any prob-

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Contributions of Zia recalled

By Staff Correspondent

Rich tributes were paid to the memory of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday on the 65th anniversary of his birth.

Hundreds of people, joined by leaders, activists and supporters of BNP and its front organisations, gathered at his mazar in the morning, placed wreaths and offered fatcha.

They recalled the contributions of Zia who introduced Bangladeshi nationalism, restored multi-party democracy and led the country towards progress and development.

Ziaur Rahman was born in 1936 on this day at Bagbari under Gabtali thana in Bogra district.

A Major in the then Pakistan army, Ziaur Rahman had proclaimed independence and declared an all-out war against

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An armoured personnel carrier guards Malacanang Palace in Manila yesterday. Philippine President Joseph Estrada's (inset) government collapsed earlier yesterday after nearly his entire cabinet resigned and the military withdrew its backing for the scandal-tainted leader.

Estrada may flee country as army joins protesters

By Staff Correspondent

MANILA, Jan 19: Faced with

crumbling political support and mass protests, President Joseph Estrada refused to quit today but the vice president said she was the "new commander-in-chief" and reports swirled that the scandal-plagued leader might flee, reports AP.

Four armoured personnel carriers rolled onto the grounds of the presidential palace this evening, purportedly to provide extra security for Estrada, but they mysteriously left within minutes.

Two Philippine Airlines jets and a smaller corporate jet were waiting at nearby Villamor Air Base, and immigration officials were told to go there and prepare to process some people leaving the country late today or possi-

ably early tomorrow, said sources who spoke to the Associated Press only on condition that they not be identified.

MANILA, Jan 19: Vice President Gloria Arroyo and leaders of the opposition have given embattled President Joseph Estrada until 6:00 am tomorrow (2200 GMT Friday) to resign. "We consulted with one another and we agreed to give him a deadline of 6:00 am tomorrow morning, otherwise we will ask the people over here to march on Malacanang presidential palace," said Dan Songco, who attended a meeting led by Arroyo, reports AFP.

The president has not only lost moral authority to govern, but now has no government," she said.

There were reports of a deal to

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