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# The Daily Star

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**Inside Today**

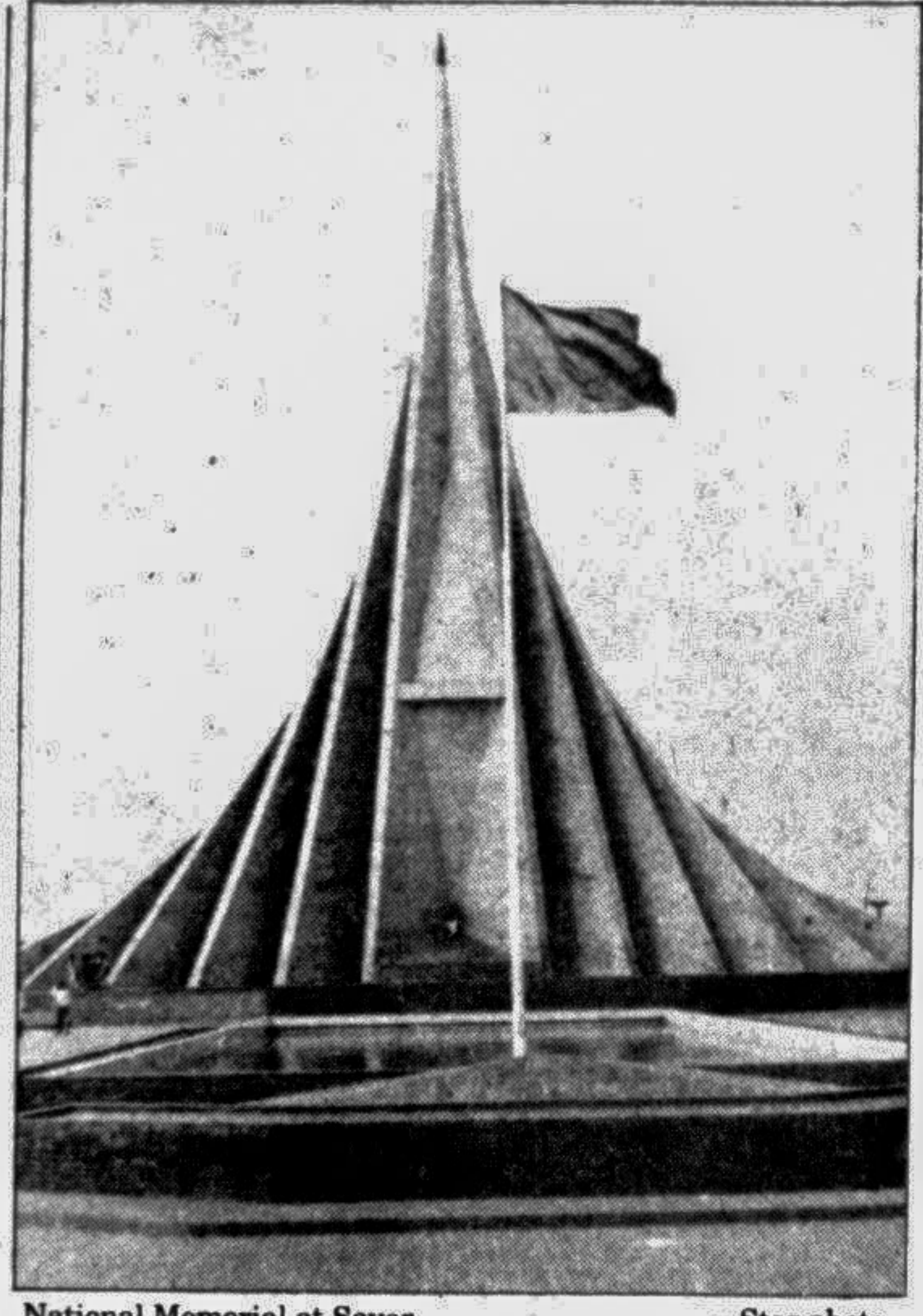
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**Victory Day Special**  
 Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page special on Victory Day  
 Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10

**Metropolitan**  
**Dhaka Day by Day**

**Holiday**  
 The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of the Victory Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of our paper tomorrow (December 17).



National Memorial at Savar —Star photo

## Victory Day today

**By Staff Correspondent**

The nation will celebrate its 23rd Victory Day today. The country was liberated on this day in 1971 from the clutches of Pakistan's occupation forces by the blood, toil, tears and the sacrifices of three million martyrs.

Tens of thousands of freedom fighters and allied Indian troops under a joint command marched into the new nation's capital and unfurled the flag of Bangladesh.

The formal instrument of surrender was signed by the Pakistan Army at around 4 pm at the Ramna Race Course, now renamed Suhrawardy Uddyan. Ninety-three thousand Pakistani soldiers laid down their arms to the victorious forces, the largest number to do so since the Second World War. The people, political parties and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the day.

The day's programme begins with a 31 gun salute in the capital. The national flag will be hoisted atop government and private buildings which will be illuminated in the evening. The day is a public holiday. The national dailies will publish special supplements while Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Political parties, organisations and individuals will place wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar which is dedicated to 30 lakh martyrs. Several parties and organisations will hold discussion meetings, seminars and various cultural functions.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the eve of the Victory Day said, "We have to carry forward the pledge

## FFs lament present state of affairs

**By Sharier Khan**

They were freedom fighters. They had fought a war against the occupation forces of Pakistan. Many died, but many others survived. And many others were disabled. For the latter, the war has been continuing for the last 22 years.

"I think everybody hates us — the disabled freedom fighters and the members of the families of the martyrs — because we are living on others' pity," says Abu Bakar from Jessore. Bakar lost a bone in his chest in a bomb-attack of the Pakistani forces in Sathkira district on June 15, 1971.

The man depends on a monthly government gratuity of Tk 940. With a permanent wound, it is not easy for him to earn a living.

At the rest house for injured freedom fighters at Mohamadpur, other injured freedom fighters similarly express their frustrations of everyday life.

Mohammad Mazul Haq Mazal of Sylhet lost his legs and fingers from infections caused by wounds during the war. Freedom fighters like Mohammad Abu Sufian and Shafuluddin from Dinajpur or Bazlur

## 'Sonar Bangla' this year's V-Day pledge: Hasina

**By Staff Correspondent**

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said this year's Victory Day pledge should be to make the country 'Sonar Bangla', as dreamt by the late leader, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At a discussion meeting on the eve of the 23rd Victory Day arranged by the City Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue in the evening, Hasina — also leader of the Opposition in Parliament — called upon her followers to work for institutionalising democracy and economic emancipation of the commonmen.

She alleged that the present government is a neo-autocratic regime and told her party workers that "the ruling party would not fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people."

The meeting, chaired by City

## GATT accord okayed

BRUSSELS, Dec 15: The European Community overcame its members' final objections to the GATT talks Wednesday and gave its approval to the new world trade agreement, reports AP.

"The historic day has arrived," said Dutch Foreign Minister Pieter Koopmans. "We are finally able to give the green light" to an accord.

Hours away from a deadline in the Uruguay Round of talks, Portugal had threatened to veto the agreement because of fears it would hurt its already ailing textile industry.

And France, which had thrown up roadblocks throughout the 116-nation negotiations, insisted on tougher measures to punish countries using unfair trading practices to sell their goods overseas.

Their objections were aired at a meeting of foreign ministers of the dozen nations called to endorse a new agreement in the Uruguay Round negotiations, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

To placate Portugal, EC officials scrambled to come up with a multi-million dollar package of financial aid to compensate for damage caused to its textile industry.

And they agreed to measures that would make it easier for the EC to impose sanctions against countries accused of dumping — the practice of selling exports at costs below production.

"We obtained satisfaction," said French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. "I can say we have had a big success globally. On all the important sectors, we obtained what we wanted."

**Editorial on Page 4**

He pledged to recommend approval of the accord by the French legislature, the National Assembly.

Tension rose when, just hours ahead of the deadline, Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso threatened to veto the accord. He claimed Portugal's "vital interests" would be hurt if the deal allowed too many foreign textile goods into Europe without opening new markets elsewhere.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC's trade chief, according to aides, warned the Portuguese that "if we make all the changes you are demanding you will kill the Uruguay Round."

Portugal accepted the deal after EC Commission President Jacques Delors offered a package of financial aid that would be used to help modernize its textile industry.

Delors said the package of grants and loans would total 1.5 billion European currency units (\$ 1.7 billion), but that would include some money already targeted for Portugal.

Textiles account for 30 per cent of Portugal's exports, and a million people — 10 per cent of the population — depend on the textiles for a living.

Brittan said he was "thrilled and delighted" at the EC acceptance of the deal which he called "highly successful" for Europe.

An overall GATT agreement is designed to lower barriers to trade in more than a dozen areas, including agriculture, manufacturing goods and financial services.

The seven-day-old negotiations have been stalled by bitter disputes between Washington and Brussels mostly over farm subsidies.

## PLO, Israel resume talks

CAIRO, Dec 15: Israel and the PLO resumed negotiations today in the Egyptian town of El Arish on the transfer of civilian powers in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Palestinian sources said, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presenting the 'Sword of Honour' to the best all-round cadet on the occasion of the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the Gentleman Cadets at the Bangladesh Military Academy in Bhatiyari, Chittagong yesterday. Chief of Army Staff Lt General M Nooruddin Khan is seen on the right of the Prime Minister. — PID photo

**VISAT GAMES**  
 1993

## Teams start arriving today

Three foreign teams — one full contingent and others with some members — will arrive in the capital today to take part in the seven-nation 6th SAF Games beginning December 20 at the Dhaka National Stadium, reports UNB.

Lt Gen Moinuddin Haider, leading a 160-member Pakistani squad, will reach here as the first foreign team with its full contingent. Pakistan NCC president Syed Wajid Ali and Secretary General Latif Butt will accompany the team.

An advance party of the Sri Lanka and the Maldives contingents, mainly consisting of the shooting teams, will also reach Dhaka today to participate.

See page 12 Col 1

## Reinsurance system from next yr likely

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has given a broad hint that a reinsurance system would be introduced in the country next year and sought a joint effort of the government and the private sectors in this regard, reports UNB.

Establishing a reinsurance system in the country is a long-standing demand of the country's insurance companies. In absence of such a system, the companies have to make their reinsurance with foreign reinsurance companies for which the country is being deprived of a huge foreign exchange every year, he told a function on Tuesday.

The Finance Minister said both the government and the private sector could share the burden and responsibility of such a reinsurance system excluding the shipping and aviation factors.

The Federal Insurance Company organised the function where Industries Minister AM Zahuruddin Khan and Chairman of the company Dr Nazrul Islam also spoke.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**PM may visit Japan in March**  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to pay a three-day official visit to Japan in the last week of March next year, reports UNB.

**40 houses gutted in city slum**  
 About 40 shanty houses at the Lal Miar Basti (slum), Baro Moghbazar in the city, were completely gutted by fire yesterday morning. The residents' mostly rickshaw pullers were rendered homeless by the fire that blazed quickly the thatched houses, reports UNB.

## MOU with WB to reform jute sector signed

**By Staff Correspondent**

The government yesterday signed with the World Bank a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which Bangladesh would get 250 million US dollars as a jute sector adjustment credit (JSAC). The credit will be utilised for a 3-year programme designed to restructure the ailing jute industry.

Jute Secretary M Akhter Ali and World Bank Resident mission chief Christopher R

## Prokrichi starts signing letters of resignation

**By Staff Correspondent**

The non-administrative civil servants and the members of the professionals' organisation Prokrichi began signing their mass resignation letters yesterday to press home their 17-point charter of demands for administrative and judicial reforms.

Some 70 thousand government officials and professionals, including engineers, agriculturists and doctors, who have been agitating since last February are scheduled to submit their resignation letters to President Abdur Rahman Biswas some time after the 31st of this month.

The top-ranking leaders of the agitating officials first signed their resignation letters at 3:45 pm yesterday at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) headquarters in the city.

The central action council leaders are scheduled to collect the resignation letters of the

## CEC urges parties for peace during city corp polls

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf exchanged views with political parties, having representations in Parliament regarding the importance of maintaining peace during electioneering in the forth-coming city corporation polls.

Justice Rouf met a delegation of the Awami League Tuesday and had separate sessions with the leaders of the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-Islami yesterday.

Hold at the Election Commission secretariat, the meetings were attended by Rahmat Ali, MP, Barrister K S Nabi, Wahidul Alam, A S M Sadek, Mofizur Rahman of the AL, Kazi Firoz Rashid, Nital Roy Chowdhury, Shaful Islam Babul, Sudhir Kamar Hazra and Ismail Hossain Bengal of the JP and Muhammad Quamruzzaman, Abdur Kader Molla, A T M Azharul Islam, Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP and Enamul Haq

## We need stronger army despite limitations: PM

CHITTAGONG, Dec 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underscored the need for making the army stronger and efficient, suiting the country's geographical location and surroundings, reports BSS.

"We have to safeguard our national sovereignty. We want to attach importance on the development and modernisation of defence forces despite our limitations," she said at an army function at the Bangladesh Military Academy at Bhatiyari here this morning.

The Prime Minister was addressing the occasion of the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the gentlemen cadets of the 29th BMA Long Course and Ninth SSC Special Course at the academy parade ground.

"We have to always remain prepared to safeguard our hard-earned independence and sovereignty," Begum Zia said. Drives should also be taken against the forces of nature, poverty and hunger.

The Prime Minister congratulated the newly-commissioned officers and wished them a happy and prosperous future.

She told the officers: "You are going to start a new professional life after obtaining commissions through a long training. Honesty, discipline, obedience and patriotism are the main qualities of an able army officer. Begum Zia said asking the newly commissioned officers

## Morshed Khan's appointment hailed

**By Staff Correspondent**

Leaders of the Bangladesh business community felicitated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and expressed their pleasure at the appointment of M Morshed Khan as the PM's special envoy.

In a joint statement, FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, DCCI president S T M Wajullah, MCCI president Latifur Rahman and CCCI president S

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
 জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
 ঢাকা

আমদানী পণ্যের দ্রুত খালাসের সুযোগ নিম্ন

যে সকল আমদানীকারক জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক জারিকৃত দ্রুত পণ্য খালাস আদেশ '৯২ অনুসারে আমদানীকৃত পণ্যের জন্য উক্ত আদেশে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক প্রাক-জাহাজীকরণ পরিদর্শনের ব্যবস্থা করিবেন তাহারা নিম্নলিখিত সুবিধা পাইবেনঃ

(ক) পণ্যের নাম, পরিমাণ ও গুণাবলী সম্পর্কে প্রত্যায়িত তথ্য প্রস্তুতকরণের জন্য ব্যবহৃত হইবে;

(খ) টারিফ মূল্য বর্ধিত পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রাক-জাহাজীকরণ পরিদর্শন কোম্পানীর প্রত্যায়িত মূল্যের ভিত্তিতে আমদানী পণ্যের প্রস্তুতকরণ করা হইবে;

(গ) পণ্যের দ্রুত খালাস নিশ্চিত করা হইবে।

২। প্রাক-জাহাজীকরণ পরিদর্শনের জন্য ২৯টি প্রতিষ্ঠানের জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড তালিকাভুক্ত করিয়াছেন। তালিকাভুক্ত প্রাক-জাহাজীকরণ পরিদর্শন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড ও সেকল ও অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে। এ সম্পর্কে অতিরিক্ত তথ্য জানিতে চাহিলে নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় লিখিতভাবে অথবা ফোনে যোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ করা গেল।

ডঃ মোঃ জাহিদ হোসাইন  
 প্রথম সচিব (স্ব-১)  
 জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
 ঢাকা  
 ফোনঃ ৪০২৫৭৩

**Experts look for equal benefit of region's water resources**

KATHMANDU, Dec 15: While their governments are mired in mutual mistrust, South Asian water experts are getting together on their own to study potential areas of cooperation, reports IPS.

In a unique experiment called 'The Patna Initiative', named after the capital of the Indian state of Bihar, non-government water experts from Nepal's Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST) and Patna University's Centre for Water Resources Study (CWRS) will investigate joint projects, taking eastern Nepal's Kosi river as a test case.

Nepali and Indian experts say region-wide studies incorporating Bangladesh would be the next step.

The Bihar-Nepal group plans to take up studies on the different river systems of the Himalaya-Ganges basin to draw up development guidelines based on scientific and economic criteria.

"We will work on publicly available documents based on pure science and with open minds," says Dipak Gyawali of RONAST. "There should be more respect for scientific truth as we are trying to say."

The Kosi originates in Tibet and cuts through the Himalaya near Mt Everest in a series of stupendous gorges and fans out into the Bihar plains.

Because of its furious floods the Kosi has long been known as the 'sorrow of Bihar'.

The Indian government has built over 3,400 km of em-

**US worried about Islamic bomb: Pressler**

ISLAMABAD, Dec 15: US Senator Larry Pressler on Wednesday defended legislation which has penalized Pakistan for its nuclear programme, and said American leaders were deeply worried about 'an Islamic bomb, reports AP.

Pakistani leaders have harshly criticized the South Dakota Republican for the Pressler amendment, which blocks military and financial aid to Pakistan as long as it is developing atomic weapons.

"I know there's been some controversy on the amendment I sponsored," Pressler told a news conference. But, he added, "I don't foresee a change. The Clinton administration says it will follow the same policy."

Muslim Pakistan was one of the leading US aid recipients in

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আজ বিজয়ের বাইশ বছর  
 অথচ এখনো  
 দেশের পঁাত্তরভাগ মানুষ নিরক্ষর

আসুন আর একবার ফিরিয়ে আনি  
 স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন এবং চেতনা  
 ২০০০ সালের মধ্যে  
 সাক্ষর বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে  
 এক্যবদ্ধ হই  
 এই বিজয় দিবসে  
 নিজের কাছে থাক অস্বীকার  
 এবছর স্কুলে তর্ভির নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে  
 অন্ততঃ একটি বর্ধিত শিশুর  
 স্কুলে যাওয়া নিশ্চিত করব আমি  
 জাতির কাছে এ আমার দায়বদ্ধতা

গণ সাক্ষরতা অভিযান