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# The Daily Star

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## Vision of the young

The Daily Star in cooperation with the Independent University of Bangladesh, Rotary International and North South University, will organise a special seminar entitled "Vision of the Young" on December 17 at 4 pm at the Jatiya Press Club.

This special seminar, organised in celebration of the 25th anniversary of victory in Liberation War, will bring together young people, below the age of 29 of various professions, business, academia and politics, to share their vision on how they would like to see Bangladesh develop in the next 10 years.

The Daily Star will publish their views with a view to sharing the vision of the young people with the rest of society.

Interested persons have been invited to attend the seminar.

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by Mahfuz Anam  
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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index: 2670.80  
Market capital Tk: 19075.19 cr  
Transactions in volume: 149 lakh  
Transactions in value Tk: 752 cr

## CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 1294.68  
Market capital Tk: 15152.30 cr  
Transactions in volume: 22730  
Transactions in value Tk: 775995 cr

## Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page special supplement on the Silver Jubilee of Victory  
Pages 13-16

## Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today and tomorrow (Sunday & Monday) on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Victory. Therefore, there will be no issues of the newspaper on Monday & Tuesday (Dec 16 and 17).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 2 Shantibahini men arrested

KAGRACHHARI, Dec 14: Security forces arrested two activists of outlawed Shantibahini along with firearms at Nalkkpara area in Mahalchhari thana on Friday evening, reports UNB.

Official sources said the Shantibahinimen named as Chua Chakma, 50, and Bangita Chakma, 25, were caught red-handed when they were engaged in collecting tolls from the villagers.

### Rain leaves 64 dead in India

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: Week-long rains triggered by a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal have left at least 64 dead in a southern state recovering from two cyclones that hit this year, a local news agency reported today. Most of the victims in the state of Tamil Nadu died when the mud walls of their huts fell on them, while a few others drowned, United News of India news agency reported.

## Silver Jubilee of Liberation War Victory

By Staff Correspondent

The nation celebrates tomorrow the Silver Jubilee of victory in the War of Liberation amid jubilation and with a renewed pledge to uphold the country's independence and sovereignty.

Twenty five years ago, on December 16, 1971, Bangladesh came into being as an independent and sovereign country at the supreme sacrifices of millions of sons of this soil in a nine-month war.

The Pakistani occupation forces had surrendered to the freedom fighters and allied Indian troops at the historic Race Course Maidan (Suhrawardy Uddyan) on that day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message on the occasion paid tributes to the freedom fighters and called upon the people to work unitedly with devotion to build the nation. He urged the political parties to rise above party interests and devote to solve peoples' problems.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message reiterated her government's determination to achieve the goal of ensuring a society free from exploitation and corruption, alleviation of poverty and social justice.

To mark the Silver Jubilee, the government declared a two-day national holiday beginning today.

The Victory Day will be heralded by a 31-gun salute at 12:01 hours in the capital. Government programme for the day

will begin with the President placing wreath at the National Memorial at Savar. Prime Minister will place wreath after that at 6:30 am.

A combined march past by the Army, Navy and Air Force will be presented at the National Parade Square at 9:30 am.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will inspect the parade and take salute. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the programme.

Special prayers will be offered at mosques, temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

The National Flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings. Many government and private buildings have already been decorated with kaleidoscope lights.

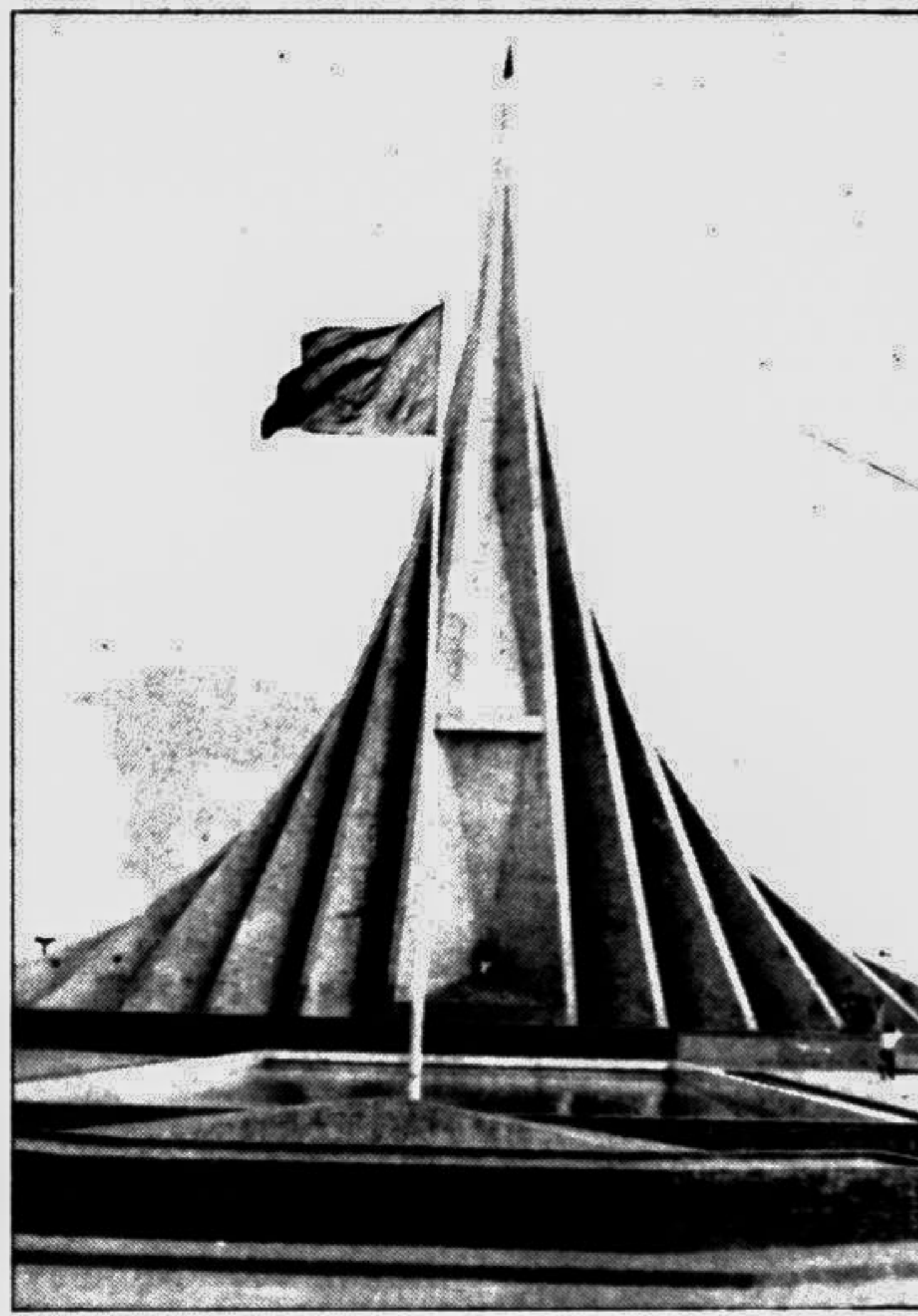
National dailies will bring out special supplements and the Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will put up special programmes on the occasion.

Different political parties, socio-cultural and student organisations have chalked out programmes.

The MuktiJuddha Museum, the only museum exclusively dedicated to the War of Liberation, will remain open from 10 am to 6:30 pm today to tomorrow.

Awami League leaders and workers will place wreaths at

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## Homage to martyred intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

A grateful nation yesterday paid glowing tributes to its leading intellectuals who had embraced martyrdom on this day in 1971 for liberating the motherland, since observed as Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Many celebrated sons of the soil including teachers, doctors, poets, writers, engineers, journalists and philosophers were killed on this very day and around this period in 1971 when emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation was only a matter of two more days' fight.

Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators — Al-Badars, Al-Shams and Razakars — had picked up the intellectuals mainly from their residence, tortured them at concentration camps and butchered them in cold blood under a blue print to make the new nation intellectually bankrupt.

In the city, people from various strata of the society marched towards the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur and to Rayer Bazar to pay

homage to the martyred intellectuals. Many of them were killed at Rayer Bazar.

The National Flag was flown at half-mast atop public and private buildings.

Various political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies and educational institutions arranged different programmes in remembrance of the shaheed intellectuals.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed placed wreath at the Mirpur memorial at 6:40 am, followed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 6:50 am.

### Kofi Annan new UN Secy Gen

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 14: Kofi Annan of Ghana, an urbane, soft-spoken insider who runs United Nations peacekeeping, was chosen Friday by the Security Council to become the world body's seventh secretary-general, reports AP.

Council President Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy announced

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### US welcomes water treaty

The United States has welcomed the signing of the agreement on sharing the water of the Ganges river between India and Bangladesh on December 12 in New Delhi, an official handout said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The accord, signed by the prime ministers of the two countries, is a fine example of amicable resolution of a formerly contentious issue between the neighbours, said a statement issued on Friday by State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

Besides the immediate benefits to the two signatories, we believe, the agreement augurs well for greater bilateral and regional cooperation among all the nations of South Asia. This is a positive step forward, Burns said.

### SAARC FMs' meet in Delhi Dec 19 Further tariff concessions likely: Gujral

From M Anwarul Haq

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: The SAARC foreign ministers conference beginning here on December 19 is expected to 'break new grounds for trade ties' among the member-countries through further tariff concessions and removal of trade barriers.

This was disclosed by Indian External Affairs Minister J.K. Gujral.

Gujral, who is now Chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers, was talking to The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, ahead of the two-day foreign ministers meet, the SAARC programming

committee comprising senior officials of the member-countries today began their two-day consultations.

Greater emphasis on increasing commercial and trade links through the SAPTA is expected to dominate the SAARC foreign ministers' meet, sources in the diplomatic sources here said.

The Foreign Ministers' meet would also deliberate on the agenda for the 9th SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Male, the Maldives capital from May 12, next year.

The Indian Prime Minister

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### PM lays foundation of Rayerbazar Memorial

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, paying rich tributes to the martyred intellectuals, said the country's independence, earned at the cost of three million lives, must be made meaningful by achieving economic prosperity and social progress, reports UNB.

"No longer do we want to be dubbed as a nation of beggars, pray so that we can build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh where all will have basic needs like food, clothing, shelter," she told a gathering after laying the foundation of a monument at Rayerbazar yesterday morning.

Addressing the gathering near the Rayerbazar killing field, Hasina said eminent doctors, engineers, journalists and intellectuals were brutally murdered at the fag-end of the war in pursuance of the policy "We don't want people... We just want soil" that the Pakistani occupation forces perpetrated through nine months of the war.

Laying the foundation-stone

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### Hasina to lay foundation stone of Independence Memorial tomorrow

By Special Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stone of the Independence Memorial at Suhrawardy Uddayan on Victory Day tomorrow, said State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday.

The memorial will be built on the southern side of the Shishu Park.

The site is where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic March 7, 1971 speech.

It is the same site where the Pakistani army led by Lt Gen AK Niazi, surrendered on December 16, 1971, ending the nine-month-long Liberation War. The cultural ministry is co-

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## Resist those who distort history of '71 : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for taking a pledge on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the victory to protect the sovereignty and independence of the country, reports UNB.

"Our pledge of the Day should be the protection of sovereignty and independence, and resisting the conspirators who distort the history of independence and destroy the values," she said in a message on the eve of Silver Jubilee of Independence and Victory Day.

Hasina said the real joy of the Victory Day would be alleviation of poverty and ensuring happiness and prosperity to the poor.

She reiterated her government's determination to achieve the goal of ensuring a society free from exploitation and corruption, alleviation of poverty and social justice. It has also taken steps to bring back dynamism in the economy, she said.

"We can pay our homage to the father of the nation by giving democracy an institutional shape and bringing about economic emancipation," she said, adding that the dream of Bangabandhu would be materialised, if all participated unitedly in nation building activities.

The Prime Minister expressed her gratitude to the families of martyred freedom fighters and to women, who suffered indignities in the hands of the Pakistan occupation army during the liberation war.

She also recalled the sacrifices of those killed during the historic language movement of 1952, six-point movement of 1966, mass upsurge of 1969, parliament election of 1970, and liberation war of 1971.

Freedom is the most precious achievement in our history of struggle," Hasina said, expressing her determination to foil any attempt to distort the history of independence and national values.

She said the nation had been taking preparation for an all-out war after the historic speech of Bangabandhu on March 7 in 1971 at the Race Course ground where he said, "The struggle this time is the struggle for freedom, the struggle for independence. Build up resistance in every house and face the enemy with what you have."

Bangabandhu proclaimed the independence and called upon the nation to fight for liberty as soon as the Pakistani occupation army had attacked the unarmed Bangalees on the dark night of March 25, 1971.

The nation snatched the victory on December 16 in 1971 through heroic battle against the occupation forces, and a sovereign and independent Bangladesh, emerged on the world map.

The Prime Minister greeted the nation on the occasion and hoped that the entire nation would share the joys of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

She also sought divine blessings of the Almighty Allah in safeguarding the national unity towards building the country.

## President for unity to solve nat'l issues

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said wrongdoings in governing the country in last 25 years coupled with extreme dissension and intolerance among political parties had stood on way to achieving the objective of independence, reports UNB.

"The independence earned with supreme sacrifice opened up way to socio-economic uplift of the people as well as self-reliance of the country, but these lapses stood as formidable roadblocks, he observed in a message on the occasion of Victory Day.

President Shahabuddin said lack of democratic values in many cases was noticed while many mistakes were made in running the country in the last 25 years since the liberation.

"We cannot deny it. We have

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## Consolidate country's independence, says Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday congratulated the countrymen on the occasion of Victory Day, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of the Victory Day, she stressed the need for consolidating the country's independence and sovereignty earned at the cost of millions of lives in the 1971 Liberation War.

Begum Zia paid rich tributes to the memory of those who laid down their lives for the cause of the nation's independence and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

She called for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh to show due respect to the freedom fighters.

## Calcutta port to be benefited by water treaty: Basu

CALCUTTA, Dec 14: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu yesterday rejected the theory that the Indo-Bangla agreement on sharing of Ganges waters would be detrimental to West Bengal's interests, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference here, Basu described the water pact as a necessary step to open up corridors of friendship between the two countries. He dispelled the theory that it would be harmful for Calcutta Port. "It is not correct," he said, adding that Calcutta Port would also be benefited by this pact.

Basu also said the treaty was not absolute. "Let us see for the first two years. Let us see how the problem of Calcutta Port is resolved," he added.

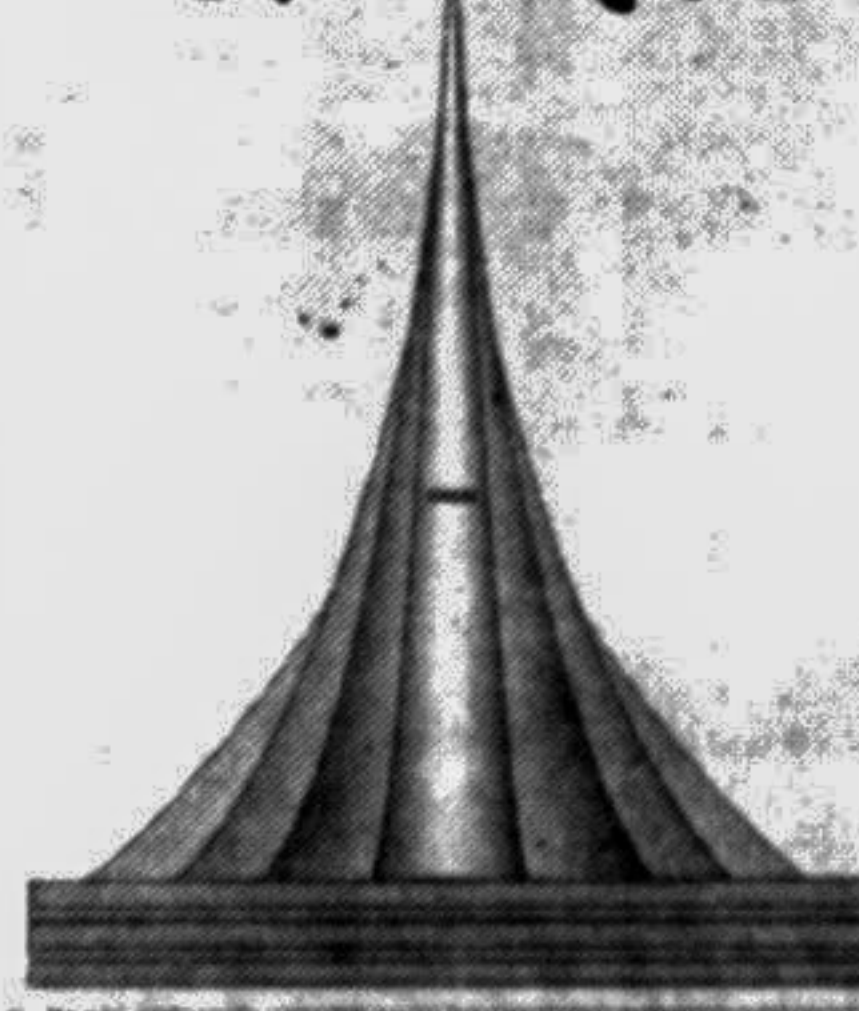
মহান বিজয়  
দিবসের  
২৫  
বছর পূর্তিতে  
গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক  
ও শুভানুষ্ঠায়ীদের  
এইচবিএফসি'র  
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

আপনি কি এইচবিএফসি'র  
একজন খেলোয়াড় ঋণ গ্রহীতা?

● খেলোয়াড় ঋণ আদায়কল্পে  
এইচবিএফসি ইতিমধ্যেই  
খেলোয়াড়ের বিরুদ্ধে মামলা দায়ের  
সকর করেছে-যার তালিকা / বিবরণী  
সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশের বিষয়টি  
বিবেচনাধীন রয়েছে।

● চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে খেলোয়াড় গ্রহীতাদের  
বাড়ী নিলামের মাধ্যমে সুদ ও  
মামলা খরচসহ ঋণের সমুদয়  
পাওনা আদায় করা হবে। কারণ,  
এইচবিএফসি'র ঋণ / সুদ / মামলা  
খরচ মওকুফের কোন বিধান নেই।

● সুতরাং, বকেয়াসহ নিয়মিত কিস্তি  
পরিশোধ করে ইনসেনটিভ / রিবেট  
এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন, আইনগত  
ঝামেলা এড়িয়ে চলুন এবং অন্যকে  
ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন।



বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

## Fertiliser shortage may affect potato output



Potato seeds being planted in a field at Sonarong village under Tongibari thana of Munshiganj

By Shehab Ahmed,  
back from Munshiganj

Thousands of potato farmers in Munshiganj are facing an acute shortage of fertiliser due to faulty distribution system that may affect potato production in the district this year, farmers said.

They complained that higher prices of available fertiliser and virtual absence of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) has forced them to use a combination of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and potash. This will affect production in the district, which accounts for bulk of the country's potato harvest.

The farmers also complained that the SSP available in the market is of poor quality. "Often, it is adulterated with dust."

The sowing season began when the lands started drying up after the monsoon but this correspondent saw miles of empty fields, some prepared but seeds not yet sown. This correspondent explored the countryside, out of Munshiganj town,

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