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Wishing the BEST for the 3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 26, 1407 BS

RAMADAN 13, 1421 HIJRI

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## 207 political activists killed in 6 months

Some 207 political activists were killed and 1182 injured in 402 incidents across the country during the first six months of this year, reports UNB.

This was revealed in a report of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) released at a press conference yesterday.

Reading out a written statement, General Secretary of BRCT Akram Hossain Chowdhury said the figures were based on reports published in the press during January-June.

The report said that some 484 people were tortured in 165 incidents by law enforcers of whom 44 died.

Of them 34 died in police custody, three by BDR personnel, one by Army, two by Ansar and four by others.

Law enforcing and security personnel and terrorists raped some 693 women in the last 11 months. Of them, 34 fell victims to law enforcing and security personnel and the rest by terrorists and musclemen.

Some 105 women fell victims to molestation in 39 incidents. See page 11 col 6

## Clash over khas land: 2 killed, 100 hurt in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 9: Two persons were killed and over 100 injured in a clash over possession of a khas land at village Shahagpara in Kazipur Upazila of the district today.

Police and witnesses said, the clash erupted when a group of villagers from Shahagpara went to occupy the land at Dakkhinmath at about 9 am. They were resisted by the villagers of Bhanudanga. Both sides locked in fierce clash and used arms during the clash that lasted more than three hours.

The dead were identified as Khorshed Ali, 45, and Rezaul Karim, 47, of Bhanudanga village. They were hit by sharp weapons and died on the spot.

Of the injured, 35 were rushed. See page 11 col 3

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 10		5.12 pm
Dec 11	6-31 am	

**Prayer Timings**  
December 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-06	5-15
Zuhr	12-45	1-20
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

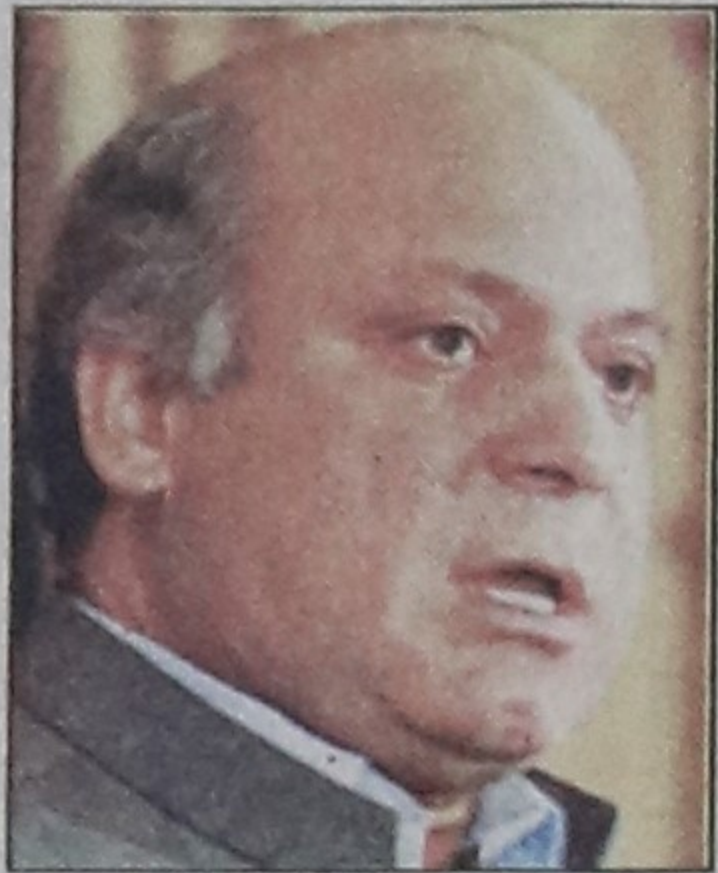
Source: Islamic Foundation

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**Shri, Ifar timings**

Ramadan	Dec	Shri	Ifar
13	10	5-06	5-15
14	11	5-06	5-16
15	12	5-07	5-16

# Sharif pardoned in exchange for exile



Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Dec 9: Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has made a deal with the military government granting him a pardon in exchange for at least 10 years' exile, senior sources in his party said today, reports Reuters.

A government spokesman said Sharif, now serving a life sentence in the Attock military fortress, had asked permission to seek medical attention abroad. The spokesman said he did not know if a pardon was under consideration.

Sharif's wife Kulsoom, who has taken over directing the Pakistan Muslim League in his absence, said Saudi officials had carried out extended negotiations on the jailed leader's future but she did not know the outcome.

"If the government offers anything like that I will jump at it," she said of the reported terms before heading off to visit Sharif in prison.

But she said they would want to go into exile only long enough for his health to recover and added it was not clear how long the current military regime would last.

Party sources said Sharif would leave for Saudi Arabia as early as Sunday after receiving a presidential pardon for the crimes for which See page 11 col 4

## Political parties must practise democratic culture: CJ

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman has called upon politicians both in the government and opposition to nurture democratic culture to give democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

"It's not possible to ensure human rights if this culture is not developed," he told a seminar on "Global Human Rights and Bangladesh Context" held at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said the main motto of the constitution and the law is welfare of all people and both the ruling class and the people will have to follow democratic norms to ensure human rights in society.

Rahman, who held a meeting with public prosecutors earlier in the morning, said the PPs gave a vivid picture of the state of affairs among police, lawyers, among themselves and in the judiciary.

"Human rights cannot be ensured in a society where these organs don't work properly," said the chief justice.

Citing steps by the High Court Division following his suggestions about the death of a girl in an examination centre, he elaborated how judiciary could ensure human rights.

The Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) arranged the seminar in observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was addressed by Bar Council Vice Chairman-Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed, former judges

Abdul Wahab and Anwar Hossain, The Daily Star Editor Mahfiz Anam, FBCCI Director Khandaker Ruhul Amin and Executive Director of the BHRB Advocate Md Shahjahan.

Dr Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury of Dhaka University gave the keynote speech with Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf in the chair.

The chief justice said being a developing country the greatest threat comes from poverty itself. "Poverty, illiteracy, inequality and backwardness are the main obstacles to protecting and preserving human rights in our society."

He regretted that it has not yet been possible to establish any human rights commission in Bangladesh as has been done in India. He, however, informed that he was told that the human rights commission bill had been placed in parliament.

"... With the passage of the bill we will be able to investigate human-rights violations in our country more effectively for the good of our poor and backward citizens."

Rahman said civil and political rights are incorporated as fundamental rights in the constitution and made enforceable.

Economic, social and cultural rights, he said, are See page 11 col 7

## One slain in Demra

By Staff Correspondent

One person was slaughtered at Rasulpur in the city's Dania area yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Alamgir Hossain, 30. Police said the victim, a resident of the city's Mohammadpur area, went to Demra yesterday noon to meet some of his friends.

A group of armed youths attacked Alamgir and slaughtered him at about 4.30 pm, police added.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Demra police, when contacted, said that Alamgir might have been killed as a sequel to previous enmity.

A murder case was filed with Demra police station in this connection.

## JBIC to hand over M A Hannan Airport to CAAB tomorrow

CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: Construction work of MA Hannan International Airport here has been completed at a cost of Tk 541 crore, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the airport next month.

A Japanese construction firm with the financial help of Japan Bank of International Corporation (JBIC) completed the work within the stipulated time.

The firm will hand over the completed project to the Civil Aviation authorities tomorrow, official sources said.

The airport was built on a 2.2 See page 11 col 6



Making law a commodity... A traffic policeman (extreme left) along with a baton-wielding colleague goes about his sneaky business of collecting tolls from a rickshawpuller at Kaptan Bazar-Nawabpur crossing in the old town yesterday. Later on, the same policeman (right) went on his own, charging Tk five per pushcart and getting it without much effort! A "token" (inset) issued by traffic sergeants at a monthly fee of Tk 500 gives one licence to drive through city thoroughfares, negating the need for a valid driving licence. --Star photo

## Just buy a 'token' & ply your vehicle

Tale of 'organised toll collection' by traffic police in city

By M Shamsur Rahman and Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Any person in the city can introduce a transport vehicle for commercial use without having any valid paper. All he will need is to purchase a 'token' from police, which will allow him to ply the vehicle on the streets without any restriction.

The 'token' can be purchased from any on-duty traffic sergeant on the road. It will cost Tk 500 for a month, which is renewable every month by payment on the earlier token.

"If you have the token, you don't need to have a valid driving license, road permit, car fitness certificate," said a driver of a microbus which carries passengers from the Zia International Airport.

He said that even a person having all the relevant papers is forced to

buy the 'token' as he will be fined or harassed for 'hundreds of reasons' for not having it. "To avoid fine, the driver has other options including giving a bribe not less than Tk 50 or buying a 'ticket' for Tk 500 to avoid any kind of police harassment during a whole month."

On Tuesday last, two correspondents of the newspaper boarded a microbus along with four other passengers who had just arrived from Oman on PIA flight. The passengers were on their way to Chittagong from the airport.

The microbus we were travelling was stopped nine times by traffic police at different points of the city within a distance of about 25 kilo See page 11 col 7

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