

# The Daily Star

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## Armed forces to control traffic in city

Members of armed forces are being deployed in different parts of the city on the eve of Victory Day to help maintain smooth traffic movement, ISPR said in a press release, reports BSS.

It said Military Police will be deployed in the areas near Farm Gate, Sonargaon Hotel Square, Shahbagh and Kakrail to assist the traffic police. Like in the past, members of the armed forces would also be deployed in the city to control traffic.

Meanwhile Naval Provosts will be deployed from Kamal Ataturk Avenue to Mahakhali, while Air Force Provost from Mahakhali to Bijoy Sarani, the press release added.

## Gias Kamal suspended from BSS

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) has suspended Gias Kamal Chowdhury, a journalist of the national news agency on charges of his audacious and derogatory remarks about the country's independence and sovereignty, the War of Liberation and the historic Language Movement of 1952, reports BSS.

The suspension order has been made effective from December 12, a notification of the BSS management said yesterday.

The management has served a show cause notice on Gias Kamal asking him to reply within next eight working days.

If he fails to reply, the notification said, the management may take unilateral action against him.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) condemned the remarks of Gias Kamal against independence and sovereignty and the historic Language Movement.

The unit at a meeting with Unit Chief Shafiqul Karim in the chair, described the comments of Gias Kamal as against the journalistic See page 11 col 6

## Nation recalls sacrifice of intellectuals today

By Staff Correspondent

A mournful nation will observe the 30th Martyred Intellectuals Day today recalling the sacrifice of many illustrious sons of the soil and taking fresh vow to make their dream for an exploitation-free society true.

On December 14, 1971, the Pakistani occupation army and its local cronies kidnapped many of the leading intellectuals of the country and butchered them ruthlessly. These killings took place just two days ahead of the

final day of victory on December 16.

People across the country will take the opportunity to recall the day, once again, with a sense of pride that the intellectuals had given their lives for the ultimate victory.

Local collaborators Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams executed a blueprint to intellectually cripple the Bengali nation.

They made a hit list of Bengali intellectuals, academics, doctors,

engineers, journalists and other renowned personalities, blindfolded them, and dragged them out of their residences. They shot them point-blank and bayoneted them brutally before dumping the bodies at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and other killing fields in the city.

Those who were picked up and killed are Prof Munir Chowdhury, Muniruzzaman, Mufazzal Haider Chowdhury, Dr GC Dev, Sirajuddin Hussain, Shahidullah Kaiser, Dr Alim, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Alaf Mahmud, Dr Serajul Huq Khan, Dr Abul Khair, Giasuddin Ahmed, Rashidul Hasan, Anwar Pasha, Dr Murtuza, Mohammad Sadeq, Dr Fazlur Rahman, Dr Faizul Mohi, Abdul Mukhtar, Santosh Bhattacharya, Jotirmoy Guhathakurata, Sabed Ali, ANMG Mostofa, Anudeppayan Bhattacharya, MA Mannan, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Abul Bashar, Selina Parvin, Abul Kalam Azad and Saidul Hasan.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the day.

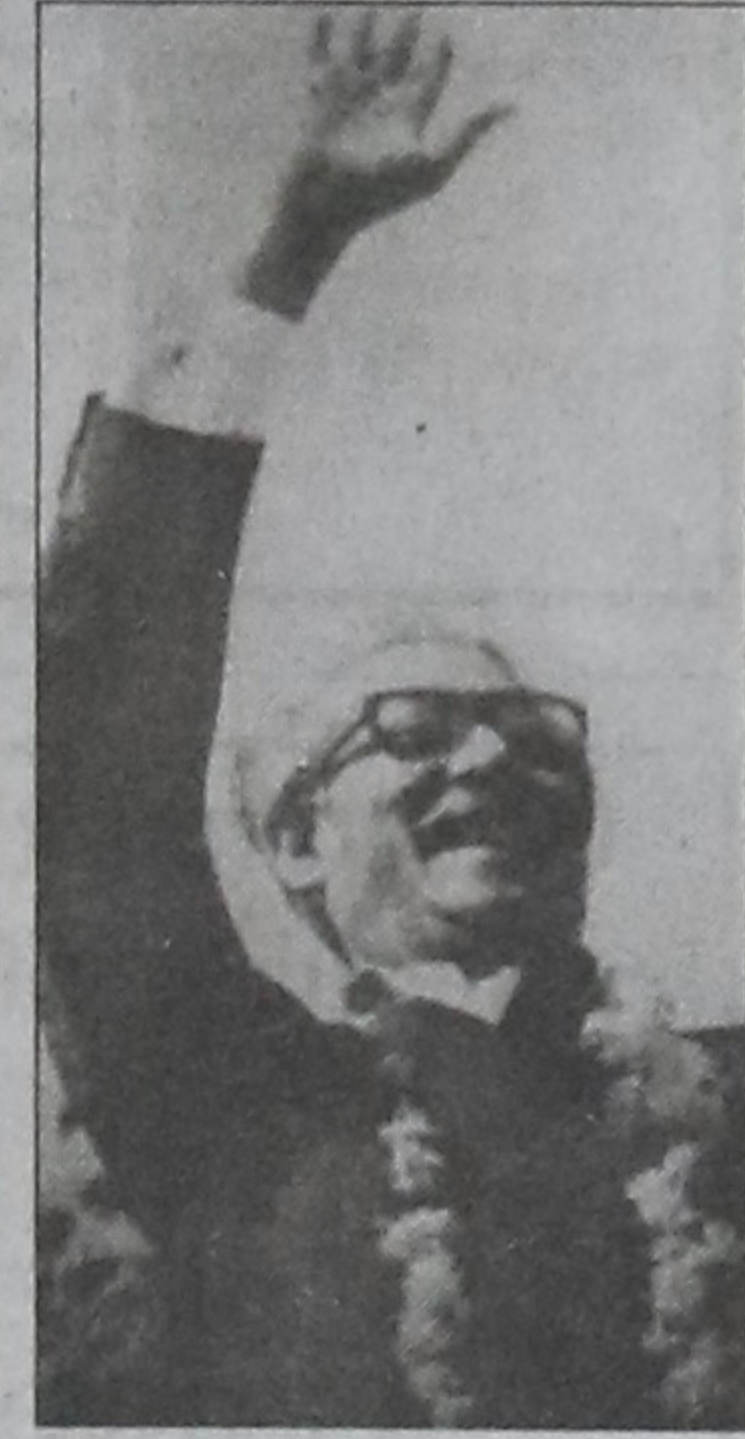
The President said the brutal killing of the country's intellectuals on the eve of the victory by the then Pakistani occupation forces is a black chapter in the history of humanity. The then Pakistani ruler killed the worthy sons of the soil in a bid to deprive the country of intellect," he added.

The prime minister in her message said the intellectuals who embraced martyrdom at the fag end of our great War of Liberation is a national pride and their creativity is the inspiration of our future plan.

Paying glowing tribute to the memory of the martyred intellectuals, Hasina said the nation would ever remember the intellectuals for their supreme sacrifices for the cause of Bangladesh's War of Liberation and upholding the spirit of Bengali See page 11 col 3



Burning bright...thousands will throng the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial today to pay homage to the intellectuals. -Starphoto



## Bangabandhu Murder Case Judgement on death reference today

By Special Correspondent

The High Court will give its verdict on the death reference in the Bangabandhu murder case today.

A Death Reference Bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq will deliver the judgement this morning after 63 days of hearing that ended on November 27.

The case has been recorded for verdict in the daily cause list of the High Court Division tomorrow, a court official said yesterday.

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case on November 8, 1998 ordered execution of 15 retired army officers by firing or hanging for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

The authorities have tightened security measures

for the judges and special prosecutors.

Four of the 15 are in the death row at Dhaka Central Jail. They are Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruq Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major (Retd) Bazul Huda.

The four had appealed separately before the High Court against the death sentence. The rest 11 former military officers were sentenced in absentia. They are believed to be hiding abroad.

They are Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (Retd) SHMB Nur Choudhury, Lt Col (Retd) Aziz Pasha, Lt Col (Retd) MA Rashed Choudhury, Lt Col (Retd) Shariful Huq Dalim, Lt Col See page 11 col 7

## Bush bound for White House

### Gore expected to concede as SC rules out hand recount

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: Democratic White House hopeful Al Gore was expected to concede defeat to Republican George W Bush in a late Wednesday national address after calling off vote recount efforts in Florida, reports AFP.

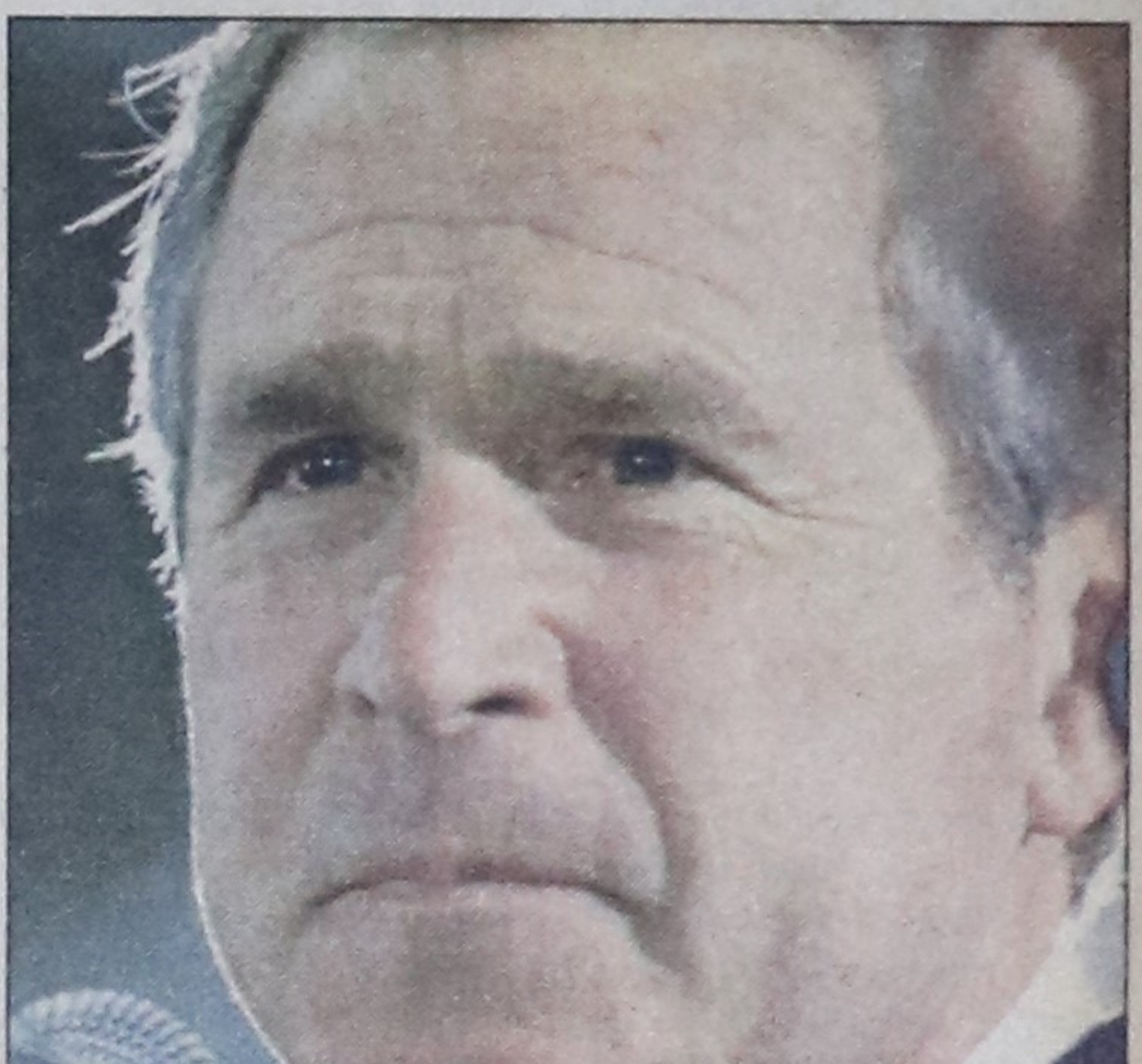
He will address the nation this evening," the vice president's campaign chairman, William Daley, said in a terse statement that also indicated Gore had ordered aides in the decisive state to "suspend" what had been his best chance at wresting the White House from the Texas governor.

Daley's comments came after the US Supreme Court dealt what appeared to be a lethal blow to Gore's hopes by ruling against hand tallies of thousands of disputed ballots he said would wipe out Bush's narrow lead.

A senior Gore aide told AFP on condition of anonymity that "people in Florida are packing up to leave. We were told our work is done," but stopped just shy of saying outright that he would concede, saying dejectedly "it means what it means."

The nine justices of the nation's highest court reversed a decision by See page 11 col 4

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: Al Gore has decided to drop out of the fiercely contested presidential race with Bush. Two senior advisers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Gore will drop out of the race in the address tonight, reports AP.



GW Bush: Poised to become 43rd US president

## Inside Today Article

Public Administration in Bangladesh

An Overview for the 21st Century  
By Syed Muhammad Hussain  
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## Business

Resident-NRB convention begins  
Dec 22

DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 6 & 8

## Supplement

One page supplement on the occasion of 'ACI ISO 14001' on Page 7

## BB withdraws LC margin on import of raw materials

Star Report

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday decided to withdraw the minimum letter of credit (LC) requirement for imports of industrial raw materials and components as a corrective measure.

In a circular issued yesterday, the central bank said that the margin would be fixed based on the bank-client relationship. The measure "will come into force with immediate effect."

A previous Bangladesh Bank circular, issued Monday, set a margin for opening of LC with immediate effect for import of certain goods.

Apparently, the decision was taken to ease pressure on the foreign exchange reserve, which, at present, can barely meet two months' imports.

Monday's circular fixed the LC margin for industrial goods at 30 per cent and 50 per cent for commercial goods.

The central bank decision had sparked off instant and intense criticism. Different chamber bodies as well as business associations said that the decision was imposed without any reason, explanation and consultation with anybody and demanded immediate withdrawal of the LC margin in view of its negative impact on the economy.

Meanwhile, a joint statement by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity and Bangladesh Agro-processors Association, welcomed the Bank's corrective measure.

"This will benefit the economy," the statement said. "It (the decision) also shows the Bangladesh Bank's commitment to market orientation of the banking system. Its open-minded response to genuine requirements of the business is indeed appreciable."

The trade bodies, however, pointed out that the decision went only halfway towards correction as the 50 per cent margin requirement on LCs for commercial goods had been retained.

"We strongly urge the Bangladesh Bank to kindly reconsider the requirement as it will cause price increase of essential products," the statement said.

It said that the issue should be left to the banks. The banks, the business organisations argued, should fix the rate on the basis of their relationship with the clients and the items to be imported. "We look forward to a positive response from the Bangladesh Bank on the issue of commercial imports," the statement said.

## Dhaka-Shillong bus service discussed at Delhi talks

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: India and Bangladesh are considering introduction of a bus service between Shillong and Dhaka as part of their efforts to bolster bilateral cooperation in cross-border infrastructure projects.

The subject of Dhaka-Shillong bus service came up for discussion on the opening day of the two-day Foreign Secretary level talks between the two countries at the Hyderabad House here this morning.

The two sides also agreed to expedite putting into operation, sometimes next month, but service between Dhaka and Agartala, meeting sources said here.

A memorandum of understanding is likely to be signed soon for Dhaka-Agartala bus service and inauguration of the service hinges on early completion of a 16-km stretch of road between the two countries. That stretch is now under repair.

The strengthening of road links between India and Bangladesh is as much part of their bilateral efforts as in the ambit of multilateral fora like SAARC and BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation), the sources said.

See page 11 col 6

## Ershad hears cassette, asked to submit reply Jan 8

By Special Correspondent



HM Ershad waves to his followers as he comes out of the High Court yesterday. The deposed president was brought to the court to hear the audiocassette containing his telephonic conversation with a High Court judge. -Star photo

Convicted former president and Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad, facing a charge for contempt of court, appeared before the High Court yesterday and heard the tape-recorded conversation allegedly between him and an HC judge.

The judge was one of the two of a Division Bench that upheld on August 24 a trial court verdict in which Ershad was convicted in the Janata Tower case.

The audio-cassette was played at the chamber of Justice Amirul Islam behind closed doors. Ershad's lawyers Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and Kazi Firoz Rashid, Attorney General Mahmudul Islam and Deputy Attorney General Bazulur Rahman Chhana and Rokonuddin Mahmud, counsel for tabloid daily Manab Jamin were also present.

After hearing of the cassette, a High Court Bench comprising Justice Amirul Islam and Justice AKM Shafiuddin fixed January 8 for submission of Ershad's reply to the contempt rule and January 9 for hearing.

Ershad was charged with contempt of court after Manab See page 11 col 4

## Stop brain drain, worried JS body urges govt

By Nazrul Islam

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology at a meeting yesterday expressed concern over the brain drain in the field of science and technology and asked the government to stop it.

"We are routinely deprived of the services of hundreds of scientists and scholars who leave every year to ensure maximum utilisation of their talents in their respective fields overseas," a ruling Awami League lawmaker was quoted as saying at the meeting.

Presided over by Committee Chairman Dr. HBM Iqbal, the meeting, which reviewed the projects taken up by the ministry, emphasized enactment of a law, if necessary, for maximum utilisation of local talents in the sector by stopping the brain drain.

The country's young and prospective scientists, particularly in the information technology (IT) sector need to be provided with incentives, the meeting observed. Proper opportunity and incentives to the local scholars can stop the brain drain, the meeting observed.

Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman raised the issue of brain drain while the committee members, including Science and Technology Minister Lt. Gen. (retd.) Nuruddin Khan took it up for an unscheduled discussion.

Dr. Maksudaman of Bangladesh Council for Scientific Industrial Research (BCSIR) pointed out that most of the scientists leave the country due to lack of opportunities. "Unfortunately, we can't provide necessary supports to keep them in the country," he said.

About the projects taken up by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the meeting viewed that most of the aided projects have failed to achieve their objectives, as the government cannot run them properly due to fund shortage. On expiry of the tenure of projects, there has been no government mechanism for their follow-ups, it observed.

The committee decided to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to discuss several issues, including the transfer of the Bangladesh Space See page 11 col 3

**PANTENE & You got The Look 2001**

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এ প্রসঙ্গে জনসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য উল্লেখ করা যাইতেছে যে বিদেশে চাকরি/ইমিগ্রেশনের জন্য কেবলমাত্র স্বশ্রিষ্ট দেশের সরকারী ইমিগ্রেশন কর্তৃপক্ষের যচিত চার্জ/ফিস ঐ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিদেশিত পক্ষের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশে অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকসমূহের মাধ্যমে প্রেরণযোগ্য। বিদেশে চাকরির বা ইমিগ্রেশন ভিসা সংগ্রহের আশ্বাসনাকারী অন্য কোন পক্ষের অনুকূলে কোন ফিস/চার্জ প্রেরণের অনুমতি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হয় না।

এমতাবস্থায়, দৈনিক যুগান্তর প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞাপনটির (বা অনুরূপ অন্যান্য পক্ষের অন্য কোন বিজ্ঞাপনের) সূত্রে কোনরূপ অর্থ পরিশোধের প্রয়াস না নেওয়ার জন্য পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাইতেছে। এ ধরনের বিজ্ঞাপনের প্রলোভনে কোনরূপ সাড়া প্রদানের পূর্বে বিজ্ঞাপনদাতাগণের পরিচয় ও বিশ্বাসযোগ্যতার বিষয়ে সতর্ক অনুসন্ধানের আবশ্যিকতার প্রতিও জনসাধারণের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা যাইতেছে।

জসওপ্রসি: ৪৮/২০০০-২০৫২ তারিখ: ১০-১২-২০০০

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Dec 15	6-33 am

**Prayer Timings**  
December 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-08	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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**Sheri, Iftar timings**

Ramadan	Dec	Sheri	Iftar
17	14	5-08	5-17
18	15	5-09	5-17
19	16	5-09	5-18