

The Daily Star



VOL. X NO. 328 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

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POUSH 4, 1407 BS

RAMADAN 21, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

New army chief to take over Dec 23

By Special Correspondent

Major General Harun-ar-Rashid, Bir Pratik, rcds, psc, is going to be appointed Chief of Army Staff, it is reliably learnt.

The Defence Ministry is likely to make an announcement in this regard shortly, sources concerned said yesterday.

He will succeed Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, whose tenure expires on December 23.

The 'handover and takeover' will take place on December 23.

Gen Rahman was called back from LPR, appointed Chief of National Security Intelligence (NSI) and then PSO in the Army. He was later appointed Chief of Army Staff on a three-year contract.

Prime Minister Sheikh



Maj Gen Harun-ar-Rashid
Hasina called both Mustafizur Rahman
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Coalition unlikely, says PM

AL to launch polls campaign in Mar

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday disclosed that she would launch her formal election campaign after performing Hajj in March, exuding the confidence that she would form the next government with people's mandate, reports UNB.

"Inshallah, I will start my electioneering after performing the holy Hajj," she said at a press briefing with the members of Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAB) at Sheraton Hotel.

Hasina, who appeared confident in her assertions, said the next election would be free and fair and "Inshallah, we would be able to form the next government."

In reply to a question, the prime minister said even if her party secured majority, she would form

the next government inducting other parties to continue her policy of consensus government and ensure peace and economic development.

However, Hasina would not say specifically when the next polls would be held. "It is now a matter of months and days," she said, adding smilingly: May or June each year may not be lucky month for her as per zodiac signs as happened in the last elections.

The prime minister said credibility and acceptability of Awami League increased among the people after her four and a half years of rule. Also, anti-Awami League campaign by her opponents proved false, she told the newsmen.

Whatever hesitation might have been there among the people were removed after the 1996

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying homage to martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar on Victory Day. —Star photo

Bangabandhu Murder Case

State attorneys seek copies of verdict

By Special Correspondent

State attorneys have applied for certified copies of the High Court's judgement in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Court sources said Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik yesterday filed a petition for certified copies of the split judgement given on Thursday.

Senior judge of the Death Reference Bench of the HC Justice Ruhul Amin confirmed the death sentence of 10 of the 15 accused and acquitted five.

The other judge of the Bench, Justice Khairul Huq, upheld the death sentence of all the 15.

Both the judges gave only the order portion of the judgement on Thursday.

The 15 former army men were sentenced to death by a trial

court on November 8, 1998 for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members at his residence on August 15, 1975.

As the HC gave a split verdict, the matter would be referred to the Chief Justice who would constitute another Bench. The new Bench would hear the death reference of the five acquitted by one judge.

Defence attorneys said there would be no further proceedings concerning the 10 others till the new Bench completes its hearing.

Both the judges gave only the order portion of the judgement on Thursday.

The 15 former army men were sentenced to death by a trial

AL rally at Paltan today

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling Awami League will hold a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city at 2 pm today demanding early execution of death sentences of all self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina will preside

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 18		5.15 pm
Dec 19	6.36 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azam	Jamaat
Fajr	5.09	5.17
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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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
21	18	5.10	5.19
22	19	5.10	5.19
23	20	5.11	5.19

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