

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 483/90 (ASA 13/07/90, 28 November) and follow-up  
ASA 13/08/90 (3 December 1990) - Arrest of opposition leaders

BANGLADESH: Sheikh HASINA (f)

Dr Kamal Hossain

Mostafa Mohiuddin MONTTO (also reported as  
Mostafa Rahman MONTTO)

Mirza ABBAS

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The four opposition leaders named above were reported to have been arrested following the imposition of a state of emergency by President Ershad on 27 November 1990. It was later learned that Dr Kamal Hossain had evaded arrest and was in hiding.

Amnesty International has now been informed that Sheikh Hasina, President of the Awami League, was released from house arrest on the morning of 4 December. So far, there has been no definite news concerning the present situation of Mostafa Mohiuddin Monto and Mirza Abbas, although it is possible that they too may have been released.

Later on the 4 December President Ershad announced that he would resign immediately and would hand over power to a vice-president nominated by the opposition alliances, who would head a caretaker administration until elections are held. On 5 December the opposition parties named the Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as their chosen candidate. The state of emergency remained in force.

May we thank you for your prompt action on behalf of people detained for their non-violent political activities. No further action is required.