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## All eyes set on April 30

AL calls countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for April 7-8, BNP lawmakers demand arrest of Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politics is now keenly focussed on April 30, the deadline set by the Awami League (AL) for the fall of the government, with the main opposition calling a two-day hartal in the run-up and ruling BNP lawmakers demanding arrest of AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

While the AL is out to strike a unity with the left parties on similar agitation against the coalition, the government is pressing Jatiya Party

Chairman HM Ershad not to join the opposition plan.

In a simultaneous bid, former president and chief of the Alternative Political Stream Badruddoza Chowdhury will announce his agitation programme today.

Whatever the outcome of political parleys and programmes may be, analysts fear a peak in confrontational politics in April.

BNP lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday accused the AL of

sparking anarchy in the name of oust-government movement and demanded the arrest of all AL leaders, including Jalil, if they fail to dislodge the government by the deadline.

"Take Abdul Jalil on remand for his provocative and unconstitutional statements," BNP lawmaker Mashur Rahman told the House.

BNP lawmaker Manzur Quader alleged the AL would operate "undemocratic, unconstitutional and criminal" activities in a desperate

bid to topple the government. He asked Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury to log all crimes, including killing and vandalism, and hold the AL responsible. Nurul Islam Moni, another BNP lawmaker, said the same and accused the AL of stoking unrest.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and other senior ministers were present in yesterday's sitting, but did not reply to any demand or query of lawmakers. Speaker Jamir Uddin

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PHOTO COURTESY: MUKTUDDHO JADUGHAR

### Night to recall genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

March 25 rolls around once again bringing painful memories of a night of murder and mayhem, the beginning of a genocide of millions of Bengalis by the Pakistan military.

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## Special prosecutors of jail killing case resign

Accuse government of interference and hostility towards them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All four special public prosecutors of the historic jail killing case resigned yesterday, alleging the government's interference and hostility towards them.

The case dating back to the killings of four prominent national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail in 1975 lurched into stagnation after the political changeover in 2001, but

appeared to have got life in December last year when the government re-appointed the prosecutors.

"The government is not allowing us to carry out the activities we are supposed to do. It has compelled us to resign," said Chief Special Public Prosecutor Anisul Haq.

The government also re-appointed Sahara Khatun, Mosharraf Hossain Kaja and

Kamrul Islam as prosecutors to conduct the case in Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on December 3.

The appointments replaced the government's own public prosecutors, but angered the defendants.

The special prosecutors alleged when the witnesses were giving statements on January 18, defendant and BNP legislator KM

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## Rivals slaughter 3 outlaws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSTIA

The Janajuddho, a faction of the banned Purbu Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), slaughtered three cadres from rival outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) at the Peshinagar village in Jhenidah on Tuesday night.

The slain outlaws are Fakrul, 40, son of Daud member of Peshinagar. Sarwar, 32, son of Sakawat Ali of Bariskhali and Nazim Sardar, 30, son of Bakkar Sardar of Kestapur in Harinakundu upazila.

According to police, Janajuddho men caught them at about 9:00pm from a hideout at the Bariskhali

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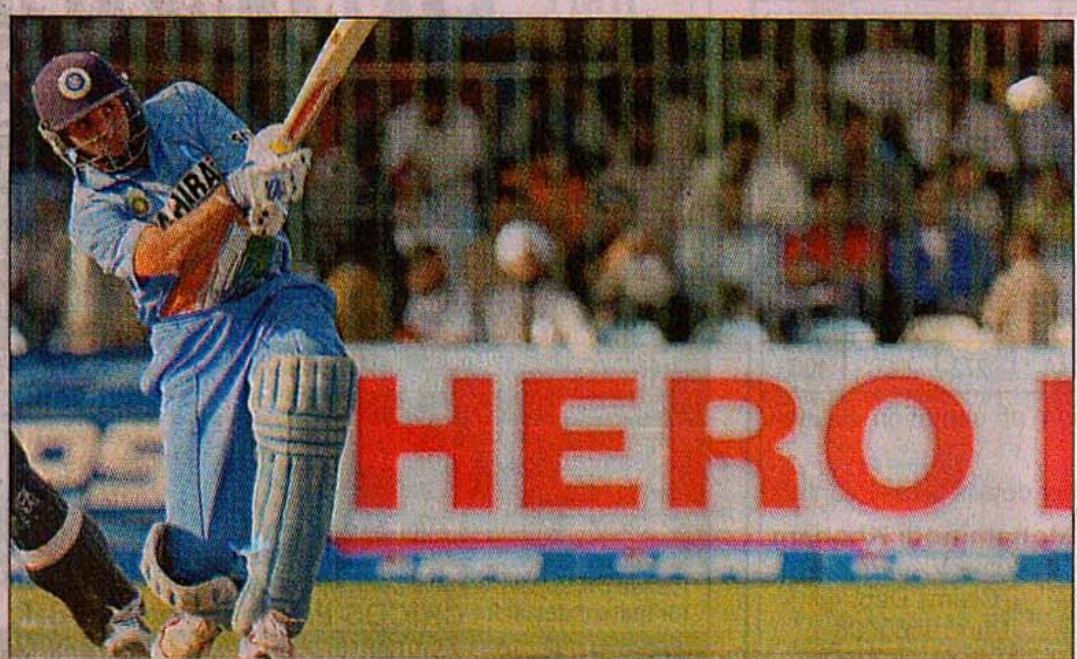
## BAF chopper makes emergency landing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to mechanical faults, a Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing during an exercise near Sikder Medical College in Mohammadpur yesterday.

The Bell-212 chopper landed on the bank of the Buriganga River and dropped two of its five passengers to take off again after five minutes.

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India batsman Venkatsai Laxman hits a classy four on his way to breezy hundred against Pakistan at Gaddafi stadium in Lahore yesterday.

## Laxman lords at Lahore

India clinch historic series 3-2

REUTERS, Lahore

Vangipurappu Laxman hit a quickfire 107 and seamer Irfan Pathan grabbed three early wickets as India beat Pakistan by 40 runs to clinch their five-match one-day series 3-2 yesterday.

The 29-year-old Laxman struck 11 fours in 104 balls for his sixth one-day century, paving the way for India's commanding 293 for seven in a third-wicket stand of 92 with his captain Sourav Ganguly, who made 45.

It was the 19-year-old Pathan

who set up the victory, however, with an accurate opening spell that brought him three wickets for 20 from eight overs.

The hosts were eventually dismissed for 253 in 47.5 overs despite fighting knocks by Moin Khan (72) and all-rounder Shoaib Malik (65).

Pace bowler Lakshminath Balaji struck the first blow, uprooting opener Yasir Hameed's (2) off-stump in the second over with a ball that nipped sharply.

Pathan struck from the other end, trapping Yousuf Youhana (1) lbw with a ball pitched on middle-stump, knocking back Taufeeq Umar's (18) leg-stump and having

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## PM asks all to resist water withdrawal by India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday blamed dry-season withdrawal of river water by India for drought, increased salinity and ecological imbalance in Bangladesh and urged all, irrespective of party affiliations, to resist it.

The prime minister was responding to a volley of queries during her weekly question-time in the House.

Khaleda said not only her party BNP but all together should act to

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## Hajj MISMANAGEMENT JS body suggests punishment to govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary probe body formed to investigate irregularities in this year's Hajj management held government officials concerned responsible for negligence, corruption and despotism.

The parliamentary standing committee on religious affairs ministry has formed the sub-committee, which yesterday came up with its report recommending immediate legal actions against the officials having office in Saudi Arabia.

The parliamentary committee at

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## Tk 2,300cr ADP cut envisaged

Energy ministry top spender, telecom ministry the lowest

STAR REPORT

This fiscal year's Annual Development Programme (ADP) will be slashed by about Tk 2,300 crore because of poor project aid flow.

"We will revise the ADP down to nearly Tk 18,000 crore (from the original Tk 20,300 crore)," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday after a review meeting on the status of donor-funded projects at the planning ministry.

Till March 15 of this fiscal year, the government could utilise 42

percent of local resources and 27 percent of foreign resources.

"The progress of the locally-funded projects meets our expectations. But that is not the case with the donor-aided ones," Saifur said. "Donor conditions, complicated procurement process, slow project appraisal are some of the reasons that slowed the aid flow."

"We cannot meet all conditions of the donors. Some are politically sensitive and it takes time to convince the donors of the risks. This is why it takes time to implement the

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## New Hamas chief vows revenge

Group wants to assassinate Sharon

AGENCIES, Gaza

The new firebrand leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas in its Gaza Strip power base, Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, yesterday pledged all-out revenge on Israel for killing his predecessor Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Rantissi and other Hamas officials, including overall leader Khaled Meshaal, also stressed the militant group had no plans to take its fight beyond Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"The political leadership of Hamas has given a green light to the armed wing to act in the manner it decides," Rantissi told Reuters in an interview at a hiding place. "The

door is open to react everywhere, at anytime and by all means."

Rantissi, 56, was named to head Hamas in Gaza Tuesday, making him the pivotal figure in the Islamic group bent on destroying Israel. He is widely seen as a hard-liner even in a faction committed to a suicide bombing campaign against Israel.

"We will fight them until the liberation of Palestine, the whole of Palestine," he told thousands of Hamas supporters gathered here to extend their condolences for Yassin.

Meshaal, who lives in shadowy exile in Syria, was yesterday quoted as saying Hamas now had the right to "hunt down the big Zionist heads" including that of Israeli Prime

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মুক্তিযুদ্ধে লাঞ্ছিত শহীদের প্রতি  
শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

দৈনিক  
**আমার দেশ**

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শ্রীশ্রী আত্মপ্রকাশ

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