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Jalil draws flak from party colleagues

Hasina comes to his rescue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday drew flak from his senior party colleagues over the April 30 deadline for unseating the government, hours before the much-hyped date fell flat. But AL President Sheikh Hasina

came to his rescue and said the issue could be discussed later, as some AL Central Working Committee

(ALCWC) members sought clarification from their general secretary at an emergency meeting at the party headquarters on Bangabandhu

Meeting sources quoted Jalil as telling frontline leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta that there might be some mistakes in the antigovernment movement against what the opposition claims is the coalition's



Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a press conference at the party headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil is seen on her left.

failure to clean up corruption and

Jalil, who set the April 30 deadline on an instruction from Hasina, sought advice from the AL leaders on pressing ahead with the anti-

government demonstration.
The ALCWC meeting in the final hours to the deadline was shortlived, but the sources hinted at a blow-by-blow discussion on the issue on May 5, a day before Hasina leaves Bangladesh for the US.

Yesterday's meeting decided that the AL would stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow to protest mass arrests and demand immediate release of the people police arrested in an eight-day dragnet to quell antigovernment

AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Kader told The Daily Star that the meeting formed a committee with AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad as its chief to lay out programmes to celebrate the recognition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the greatest Bangalee of all time by the listeners of BBC Bangla Service Radio.

Hasina and her colleagues will visit Tungipara, the birthplace of Bangabandhu, to place a wreath at his graveyard on May 3.

Deadline failed. not movement, says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party would topple the present government through a mass movement in the shortest possible time to free people from repressive rule and pave the way for snap polls...

Apparently admitting failure of the AL's April 30 deadline to unseat the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition gov-ernment, she said, "You may say the deadline has failed, but the movement has not."

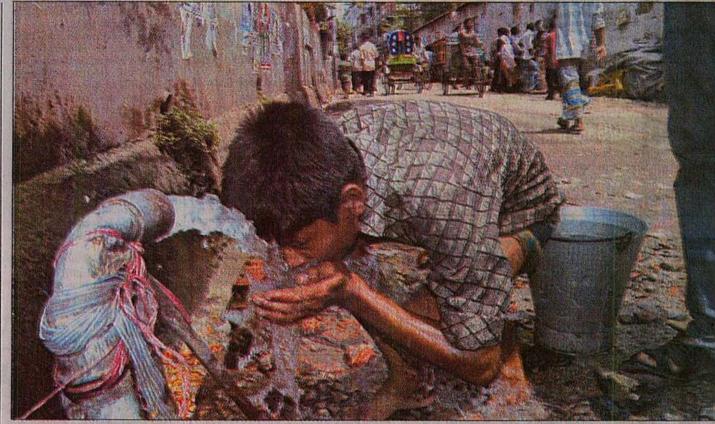
Addressing a crowded press conference at the AL central office, Hasina said the deadline her party gave was a warning to the government and it has achieved primary success. "People have voiced noconfidence in the government by responding to the call for dislodging

The leader of the opposition in parliament went on, "Today (April 30) is the beginning of an end and there is nothing to be frustrated."

The AL chief said fresh programmes would be announced soon to unseat the government. She urged all sections of people and political parties to unitedly steer the ongoing movement to its logical

Referring to the incidents in the last one month and 'aggressive behaviour' of the government, Hasina said people don't want the coalition to cling to power anymore People now want mid-term polls to give a fresh mandate, she added.

The government is totally SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Water pours in hundreds of gallons from this illegal roadside water outlet at Old Dhaka's Waiz Ghat. There is no initiative from authorities concerned either to seal the line or at least install a stopper to prevent the huge loss.

BNP lawmaker, his men assault former AL MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Former Awami League (AL) law maker ASM Firoz was physically assaulted yesterday allegedly b ruling BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukdar and his supporters at Baufal of Patuakhali for protesting vote-rigging during polls of a local

Eyewitnesses said Talukdar, also president of Baufal upazila BNP SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

2 Proshika offices looted in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Ruling party cadres have allegedly looted valuables said to be worth about Tk 20 lakh from two offices of Proshika, a non-government organisation (NGO), in Ulania Bandar and Mehendiganj.

According to eyewitnesses and local sources, a gang of ruling party cadres attacked Proshika office at Ulania Bandar at around 10:00pm

Thursday night. The attackers ransacked the office and looted all valuables including furniture and

The same group attacked the NGO office in Mehendiganj in the early hours of yesterday and beat up caretaker Md Hiron Mia to leave the scene. The gang took away reportedly 11 motorcycles, one computer, one TV, furniture, cash and other

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Outlaws slaughter 3 in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

Underground operatives slaughtered three people in Sadar and Damurhuda upazilas in the early hours of yesterday.

The victims are Dilip Kumar Sharma, 40, and M Gulzar Hossain,25 of Kathuli village in Sadar upazila and Babu, 30, of Kuniachandpur village in

Police said the outlaws entered Kathuli village at about 3:00am and dragged out Dilip and Gulzar of their SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Bhuiyan asks Hasina, Jalil to apologise

Says 'sorry' for mass arrests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked Hasina and Abdul Jalil to apologise to the nation and AL activists for misleading them with the April 30 deadline for toppling the

The deadline disrupted people's lives, discouraged foreign investment, sent down points in stock exchanges, Bhuiyan told a press "Abdul Jalil and his leader, Sheikh

Hasina, should apologise to the nation and return to fold of constitutional politics by joining parliament," said Bhuiyan, also the local government, rural development and cooperatives minister of the four-

Bhuiyan said he was sorry for mass arrest of people ahead of the deadline, but alleged the step was taken to foil the conspiracy of the AL and Proshika, an NGO, to unleash



Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman attend a press conference in the city yesterday.

hit men and micro-credit beneficia-

ries in Dhaka to create anarchy. "We are sorry for arrests of innocent people in the bid to catch criminals. But the innocent people were released immediately," he said, terming media reports based on interviews of the arrestees and their tives in front of Dhaka Centra Jail as 'purposeful'.

"We have evidence that they (AL) hired killers from around the country and tried to lure micro-credit beneficiaries into the capital in collusion with Proshika with promises of further loans to create anarchy," Bhuiyan said.

On the 'continuity of AL conspiracy', he asked people to keep a careful watch on upcoming events.

"This government will remain in ower for another two April 30s in this term," he stressed. On Jalil's claim that the AL gained

a moral victory by unnerving the

government with the deadline, Bhuiyan said, "How can they gain a moral victory as what they did in the last months were immoral? "We thank Mr Jalil for the deadline as it helped BNP activists shed

their differences and unite to strengthen the organisation." On the AL politics, Bhuiyan said, "They have chosen the path of suicide. They have tremendously

suffered from the deadline failure.

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May Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is International Labour Day, traditionally known as the May Day. This year the day will be observed across the globe including Bangladesh with a fresh vow to institutionalise workers rights.

The May Day commemorates the killing of several demonstrating workers by police on May 1, 1886 on a street at Hay Market in Chicago, USA. They were demanding an eight-hour workday instead of a 12hour one and recognition of the dignity of labour, among other

Apart from the government, various labour and socio-cultural organisations, and political parties have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Today is a public holiday. The state-run Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



US marines hand Falluja to former Saddam general

REUTERS, Falluja

US Marines handed control of Falluja to a former general in Saddam Hussein's feared Republican Guard yesterday in bid to end a month-long siege that killed hundreds in the city and infuriated

In what appeared to be a reversal of Washington's policy of excluding members of Saddam's Baathist regime from power, Jasim Mohamed Saleh told Reuters his force would help police and other Iraqi security

forces bring order to the town. The commander of the Marines, who were pulling back from siege positions around the city of 300,000, was quoted as saying the former commanding general of Saddam's 38th Infantry Division would lead a force of about 900 mostly former Iraqi soldiers to replace the US

"We have now begun forming a new emergency military force to help the forces of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps and the Iraqi police in completing the mission of imposing security and stability in Falluja without the need for the American army, which the people of Falluja reject," Saleh said.

Falluja's police chief confirmed the deal to Reuters.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of May Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper

Hundreds of people cheered the former general, who lives in the city, as he made his way into the town centre in uniform in the early after-

A relative said he had been chiefof-staff of a brigade of Saddam's Republican Guard, an elite force that put up the main resistance to US invading forces a year ago. Senior officers were all expected to be members of the ruling Baath

party.

The top Marine Corps officer in

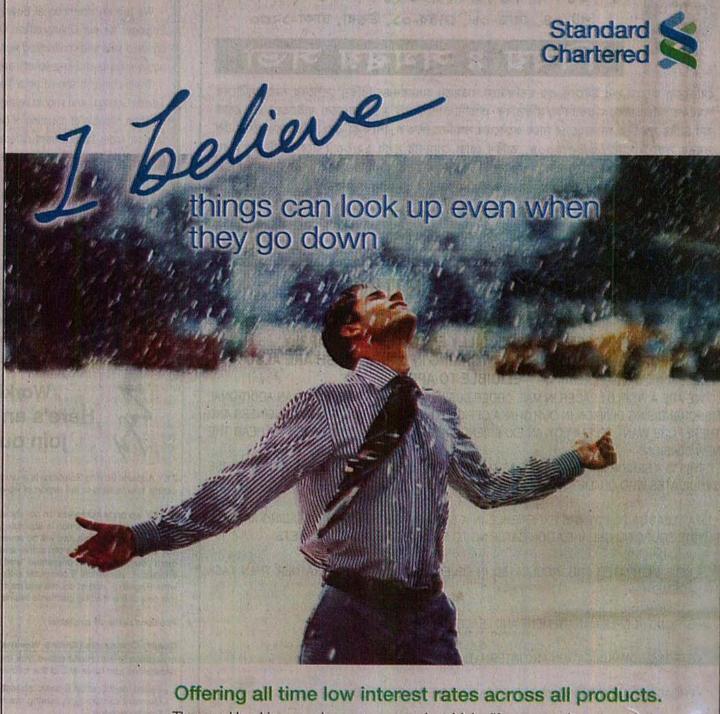
Positive Bangladesh See our special story titled 'the strength within' on page 12.

Conway told the New York Times the new unit would be called the 1st Battalion of the Falluja Brigade.

GUERRILLAFIGHTERS Marines pulled back from positions along the southern and western edges of the city. But they appeared to hold on to strongpoints dominating the Golan district to the north, where they have fought fierce gunbattles and called in bombers on Thursday evening against Sunni

Muslim insurgents. It was unclear what influence the new Iraqi force in Falluja has over the estimated 2,000 or so guerrillas, some of whom US officials say are diehard Saddam supporters in a city once fiercely loyal to his minority Sunni-dominated regime.

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