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Members of Sammlita Sangskritik Jote during a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday hold posters, demanding execution of the persons responsible for the carnage at Ramna Batamul.

Spl tribunal demanded to try Batamul attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural luminaries at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanded a special tribunal on an urgent basis to try Ramna Batamul bomb attackers.

In this regard, they asked the government to summon a special session of the Jatiya Sangsad so that a bill could be passed for formation of the tribunal.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) organised the rally in protest against the barbaric bomb attack at the Bangla New Year celebration function of Chhayanaut at Ramna Batamul Saturday.

They also called upon people irrespective of their cast, creed and religion to come forward and stand up against the heinous act committed by the anti-liberation and communal forces.

SSJ President Ramendu Majumdar said, "Formation of a

special tribunal is needed right at the moment to trace the bomb attackers and their patrons and try them without delay."

"If we fail to ensure trial, the killers will continue to attack."

General Secretary of SSJ Golam Kuddus also demanded immediate formation of a special tribunal to punish the bomb attackers and their collaborators.

Terming the bomb blast an attack on the Bangladesh, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said, "We have to find out the religious fanatics first and then root them out forever."

Hasan Imam felt the necessity of a fresh liberation war throughout the country to root out the anti-liberation and communal forces. "Nothing would be gained by holding frequent rallies and giving speeches. We have no way but to wage another war against the evil

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Stop killing people by throwing bombs, calling hartals

PM renews call as 'govt is poised to transfer power in July'

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday renewed her call to the opposition to refrain from destructive and dastardly activities and killings, as the government is poised for transferring power in July.

"What is the need for killing people by throwing bombs and calling hartals when only two months, May and June are left for the government to hand over power?" she said.

Addressing a function at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases premises, Hasina said the general election is now a matter of few months and there would be no problem if the opposition abides by the Constitution.

The prime minister had earlier inaugurated a number of medical institutes and hospitals and laid the foundation of some important health establishments.

She laid the foundation stone of 600-bed Dhaka Medical College Hospital-2 and inaugurated Cabin Block and Emergency Unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Then she laid the foundation stones of 150-bed Sheikh Moni General Hospital at

Tejgaon and Health and Population Bhaban at Mahakhali.

The prime minister also inaugurated National Mental Health Institute, National Kidney Institute and National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases at Sherebangla Nagar.

The prime minister said her government has undertaken programmes for saving the people while, on the other hand, people are being killed on different occasions. She mentioned the killing of nine people in a bomb explosion at Ramna Batamul at a Pabla Baisakh function.

"They were also in power, but they could not prove their efficiency, rather they proved their competence in voter rigging," she said.

Killing of people, creating crisis, unleashing terrorism and resorting to torture and killing will not give any solution, she said.

Health Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah, Health Secretary M Moniruzzaman, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice-chancellor Prof M A Tahir, NICD

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BTTB won't be able to send bills by April 25

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) would not be able to send the pending subscriber bills by April 25 due to legal tangles and the opposition-called shutdown.

Meanwhile, Lithi Enterprises Limited, the firm designated for preparing monthly telephone bills, has served a legal notice on the BTTB chairman asking for appointment of a mediator to resolve the disputes arising from the contractual execution and reinstatement.

The firm, which was supposed to prepare the telephone and telex bills till January 31 this year, claimed Tk 2.30 crore as expenses for 'master file and re-fixed rate'.

The firm also claimed that the BTTB did not heed to its repeated requests to pay the dues, nor did it

extend the contract.

The BTTB did not even allow the firm to prepare the bills for the month of January, said an official of the Lithi Enterprises, adding that preparing bill for the month was quite possible under the contract.

Meanwhile, the BTTB officials said they had a plan to start sending bills by April 25, but they would not be able to do so due to weekend and hartal.

The BTTB would now send separate bills for the three months January, February and March in phases with a 10-day pause to facilitate the subscribers to pay the bills without any pressure.

The BTTB would not disconnect telephone line if a subscriber fails to pay the pending bills within the stipulated time. A relaxed rule will be followed to facilitate the clear

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Abducted BCL activist rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A BCL activist was rescued by police less than three hours after he was abducted here yesterday by gunmen belonging to a rival group.

Mizanur Rahman of Chhera Akber group was kidnapped from Nasirabad Polytechnic College area at around 12:30pm and taken to the nearby hills.

Later, Bayezid thana police rescued Mizan from the polytechnic college area in a critical condition as he was severely beaten up by the kidnapers. He was admitted to a local clinic.

Police arrested two persons, Saidul Alam and Mahfuzur Rahman, in this connection.

Biman clarifies He was declared 'violent' & 'dealt with' on arrival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines said yesterday its investigation found that the passenger was not assaulted by any Biman official, as reported by The Daily Star on April 11 under the headline, "Biman officials assault passenger for protesting flight delays."

A clarification was sent to The Daily Star in this regard yesterday.

Biman flight BG661 was initially delayed for an hour and subsequently made a night stop at Bangkok due to technical reason on April 8. While the passengers waited at the airport one of them, Neelu Hasnat, had an altercation with First Officer Rahman regarding the delay. He also passed some derogatory remarks, the clarification claimed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Musharraf may get PPP ticket for polls

UNI, New Delhi

Chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto yesterday indicated that her party was ready to nominate military ruler General Pervez Musharraf as PPP candidate for the presidential election, if the latter consented to it.

Benazir who presided over her party's executive committee meeting in London on Tuesday told BBC (Urdu) that if Gen Musharraf cherished to be the President of the country then he would have to contest the election as a party candidate.

Ruling out that General Musharraf could not continue to be the Army chief and the President together (like late Gen Zia-ul-Haq). She said her party could consider his candidature for the top slot provided he applied for it. She hurriedly added that so far he had made no such request. Benazir however did not explain the basis of this indirect offer to Gen Musharraf.

Military rulers in Pakistan have traditionally enjoyed the support of the Muslim League. For example Field Marshal Ayub Khan and then Gen Zia-ul-Haq ruled Pakistan for about twelve years each with the Muslim League's support and now Gen Musharraf is said to be behind the split of the Nawaz's Muslim League to care out a faction for his political base.

In her interview, Benazir declined to comment on Gen Musharraf's reported move to amend the constitution saying so far nothing was known what he wanted to amend.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

BSS report on PM's assassination baselss: Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has sharply reacted to a recent BSS (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha) report that said two leaders of the party are involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The state-run news agency quoting The Sunday Times of India ran a news item which said two Jamaat leaders attended a meeting at a Bangladeshi restaurant at Breda in Southern Holland where a plot to assassinate Sheikh Hasina was finalised. The BSS report appeared in different newspapers on April 17.

Turning the news item as untrue

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Bomb blast at missionary school: 3 teachers hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bomb explosion at a missionary school at Khalishpur on Tuesday night left three teachers of the school injured.

The explosion caused extensive damage to collapsible gate, wall and doors and windows of the school. A microbus parked there was also damaged.

The injured are Shova, 40, Kamala, 22 and Steven Sarkar, 28.

OC of Khalishpur thana said yesterday it was a time bomb planted on the premises of the Rosemary Pilot Handicraft School near Mohsin College at Khalishpur.

The school is meant for handi-

capped orphans with dormitory system for students upto class five.

Caretaker of the school was the first man to see it. He informed Khalishpur thana over phone. But the bomb exploded before police reached there, police said.

Walls of some neighbouring houses were rocked by the explosion, creating big cracks.

The injured were admitted to a local clinic. Eighteen teachers and students were staying in the hostel of the school when the bomb exploded.

Police believe the bomb explosion was the retaliation taken by extremists who were refused toll by

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Israel pulls out of Gaza Strip

AP, Gaza City

Israel yesterday completed a pullout from a Palestinian-controlled slice of the Gaza Strip it had seized just a day earlier, but denied the about-face was a result of heavy U.S. pressure.

Shortly after the Israelis left, Palestinians fired six mortar shells at a Jewish settlement and an army post in Gaza, causing no injuries. Israel's brief takeover of a square mile of land in Gaza had been triggered by mortar fire on an Israeli town.

Early yesterday, Palestinian policemen returned to the area briefly held by Israeli troops, inspecting the ruins of one of six police positions razed by bulldozers. Officers checked for booby traps and searched the rubble for files and documents.

In Israel, the withdrawal triggered a heated debate.

On Tuesday, several hours after Israel tanks had rolled into the orange groves and fields northeast of the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun, the Israeli army commander of the area, Brig. Gen. Yair Naveh, said his men would remain for "days, weeks or months" as long as it took to quell Palestinian mortar fire from the area.

However the army said in a statement yesterday that Israel had planned to pull out of the area already on Tuesday, but that the withdrawal was delayed until early Wednesday for operational reasons. The army said Naveh exceeded his authority when he spoke of the possible duration of the operation.

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100 patients leave KMCH as intern docs on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The intern doctors at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) continued their strike for the eighth day yesterday, mounting sufferings to patients.

About 100 patients have already left the hospital failing to get medical facilities.

The intern doctors began an indefinite strike on April 11 to realise their demands.

The demands include payment of arrear salaries, regular payment of

salaries and allowances, appointment of registrar in each department, housing facilities, reinstallation of X-ray and ECG machines, renovation of operation theatre and regular supply of improved diet to the patients.

Intern doctors alleged that the Superintendent of KMCH is buying time to resolve the dispute.

When asked, the Superintendent Dr Golam Mostafa claimed that he held fruitful talks with the striking doctors on Sunday. On the

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Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

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