



Little Lima sleeps while her mother cries quietly at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation. The kid lost all the fingers of her right hand and suffered injuries to her stomach and left hand yesterday morning when the bomb she picked up taking it to be a ball went off.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Child loses 5 fingers

Kids exposed to danger in city of crude bombs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three and a half years old Lima Akhter picked up an object from the street, taking it for a ball. As she started playing with the object, it exploded blowing away all five fingers of her right hand.

Lima, the only child of car driver Mohammad Al Amin, also suffered minor injuries in her abdomen and left hand

in the blast near her house in the capital's Uttar Ibrahimpur around 8:30am yesterday.

Now undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor), she was out of danger. However, all five fingers of her right hand were badly damaged and had to be amputated, said doctors at Nitor.

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Fake claim to avail free treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star in its first edition yesterday published a report on the front page saying that six-month pregnant Shirin Akhter was seriously injured when pickets set a bus alight at Tarabo in Rupganj, Narayanganj.

The information was wrong.

It was Shirin and her family who claimed to police and journalists that she had become victim of bus arson by pro-blockade miscreants in Tarabo area.

Later it was found that Shirin had sustained 40 percent burns from a fire

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Violence flares up

Clashes with law enforcers, arson, vandalism, attack on railways mark 4th day of blockade

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including three teens, were killed and scores injured in violence in different districts across the country yesterday, the fourth day of the 131-hour opposition blockade.

Three deaths were reported from Chittagong and Satkhira each, while the two others from Chandpur.

Meanwhile, Maulana Abdus Sattar, who was burned on Saturday at Badarpur in Patuakhali, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Including him, 16 people have so far been killed during the ongoing blockade

BLOODSHED IN BLOCKADE

9

Dead yesterday

16

in last 4 days

19

During Nov 26-28

that began on Saturday. Earlier during the November 26-28 blockade, at least 19 people were killed.

Like during the previous blockades, the opposition men clashed with law enforcers and ruling party men and resorted to vandalism and arson attacks in different districts. They also blocked rail lines, snapping rail communications on some routes.

In the capital, at least six people were injured as blockaders blasted crude bombs in different areas.

Miscreants hurled at least five crude bombs at an anti-blockade procession of

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Corruption stays almost same

Ranking slightly better; TIB terms it insignificant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh ranked 16th from the bottom in this year's graft index, released globally by Transparency International yesterday.

It scored 27 points out of 100, one point higher than the last year when it became 13th in the corruption perception index.

Chairperson of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) trustee board, Sultana Kamal termed the slight change in Bangladesh's position insignificant as the country's position still remains quite low.

Quoting the report, TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said grand corruption incidents in the stockmarket, Padma bridge project, Hall Mark, Destiny, railway and Rana Plaza collapse significantly overshadowed Bangladesh's profile this year.

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Time slipping away: CEC

Reiterates call for consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad has once again called upon the two major parties to immediately reach a consensus on polls-time government.

"Time is slipping away. We requested the president to take initiative for a political consensus. Two weeks have past, but I don't see any specific development. Consensus should be reached before the time is over," he told journalists yesterday at the EC secretariat.

The CEC expressed the hope that the political violence across the country will

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Ershad back-flips

Finds 'environment not right' to join polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

In a sudden move, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party would not take part in the January 5

polls as the atmosphere for an inclusive election is absent.

"The Jatiya Party will not contest the 10th parliamentary

election as all political parties have not yet submitted nomination papers for the polls," the former military dictator said at a hurriedly called press conference in his Banani office.

Monday was the last date for the submission.

"All parties are not participating in the election.... There is no atmosphere for a free, fair and inclusive election. So, I am not taking part in

the polls... I have kept my promise," he added.

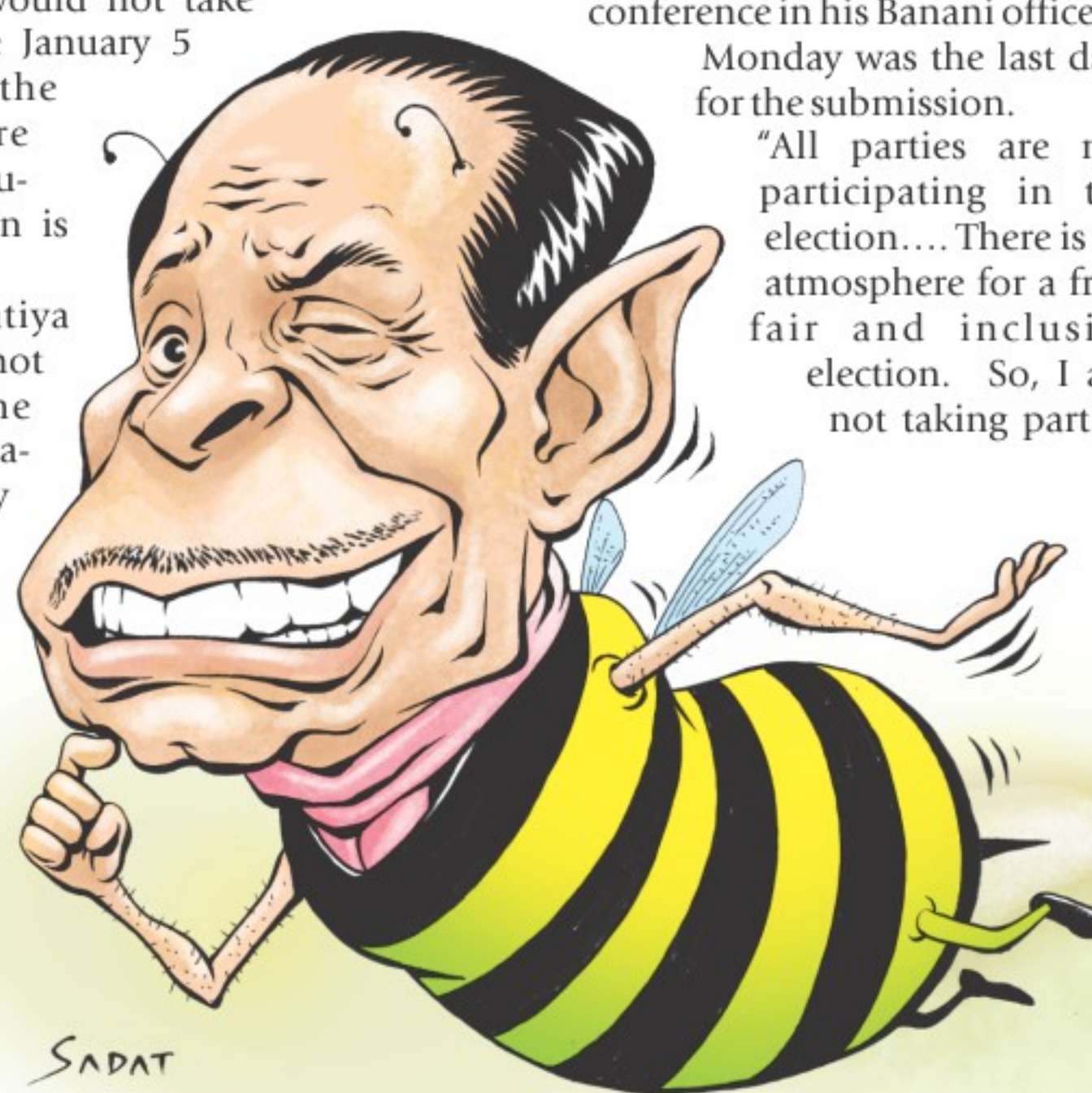
Ershad said his party candidates would withdraw the nomination papers.

Asked about the JP leaders who are in the polls-time cabinet, he said he hoped they would resign. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

Six of his party leaders joined the cabinet while another became the prime minister's adviser.

The ruling Awami League does not seem much worried after this dramatic announcement while the main opposition BNP, though sceptical of Ershad's decision, wants to get

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