



Man loses leg to landmine near Teknaf border 12-yr-old shot in head still in ICU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 28-year-old man was critically injured in a landmine explosion along the Teknaf border yesterday morning — a day after a 12-year-old girl was hit by a stray bullet fired from across the Myanmar border.

Md Hanif, from the Lombabil area in Whykong union, lost his left leg in the blast.

Locals said the incident occurred around 10:00am. Hanif was working at a fish farm near Shahjahan Island when a sudden explosion took place on the bank of the Naf River.

He was thrown into the river following the blast and was later rescued by fishermen. His left leg was severed in the explosion, they said.

According to locals, the mine was planted along the border area by the Arakan Army, an armed insurgent group active in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Hanif was initially taken to MSF Hospital in Kutupalong, Ukhiya.

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The army has set up checkpoints as part of beefing up security in the capital ahead of the February 12 polls. The photo was taken at Karwan Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Govt gave in to anti-reform forces' Says TIB on ordinances issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has raised questions about eight ordinances enacted by the interim government as part of the reform initiatives.

The anti-graft watchdog yesterday presented its observations on the Anti Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, Police Commission Ordinance, National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, Public Audit Ordinance, Revenue Policy and Revenue Administration Ordinance, Cyber Security Ordinance, Personal Data Protection Ordinance and National Data Management Ordinance.

Except for a few cases, most ordinances were drafted unilaterally without involving stakeholders. In some cases, draft ordinances were published on websites for a short period for show, avoiding accountability.

"Certain stakeholders were neglected and even subjected to propaganda. The government failed to set examples of expected transparency and proactive disclosure while making laws and decisions affecting public interest," the TIB said in its observation.

Almost all initiatives taken in the name of reform have lost focus during implementation by the interim government, said TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzzaman at a press conference titled "Reluctance of the Interim Government in Designing Reforms" held at its office in Dhaka.

"The critical question is why this surrender happened and where the real weakness lies," he said, adding that he did not have a definitive answer as he is not part of the government's internal decision-making process.

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REVISED ADP BUDGET Local govt gets more at cost of health, education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has increased the allocation for the local government sector in the revised annual development programme (ADP) by diverting resources from the education and health sectors.

In the revised ADP for this fiscal year — that was approved yesterday by the National Economic Council — the overall allocation was trimmed by 12.5 percent to Tk 208,935 crore.

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The local government sector's allocation was increased by 12 percent from Tk 13,472 crore.

However, the local government division got the highest allocation of Tk 37,534 crore — including the social safety facilities and other community aids through city corporations, pourashova and unions — in the revised ADP.

Local government got priority, focusing on local poverty alleviation, roads and bridges, which were in very poor condition, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud told reporters after the meeting.

He blamed the political instability, absence of project directors, new government purchase method, high interest rate and low foreign investment for the low ADP implementation.

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Musician, AL leader Proloy Chaki dies in jail custody Family alleges neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Proloy Chaki, a Pabna Awami League leader and a noted musician, died in hospital while in jail custody on Sunday night. He was 60.

Chaki, who had been suffering from multiple ailments, suffered a cardiac arrest in Pabna jail and was taken to Pabna General Hospital on Friday, said jail Superintendent Md Omar Faruk.

As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he died at around 9:00pm on Sunday.

His body will be handed over to the family after completion of legal formalities, Faruk said yesterday.

Family members and well-wishers alleged negligence and inadequate medical treatment during his incarceration, claiming these led to his death.

Chaki, a renowned singer of the 1990s, was a music director, teacher and cultural organiser. He served as cultural affairs secretary of the Pabna district AL and as secretary of Shree Shree Ram Krishna Shebashrom, Pabna.

He was arrested from his Dilalpur residence in Pabna town on December 16 last year and later shown arrested in a case

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SEAT-SHARING 11-party chiefs to meet today to seal the deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance are expected to meet today to finalise the seat-sharing deal for the February 12 parliamentary election.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair told The Daily Star that the liaison committee will place proposals before the alliance leaders, who are likely to settle the arrangement.

"We hope to inform the media about the seat-sharing deal through a press conference within a day or two," he said.

An Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) leader said their Ameer, Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim, has instructed all party candidates to attend a meeting in Dhaka.

"The Ameer will announce who has secured nominations from the alliance and instruct others to withdraw," the leader said on condition of anonymity.

Following the uprising, Jamaat, IAB, Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, Nizam-e-Islam Party, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) and Bangladesh Development Party (BDP) launched joint programmes pressing for a level playing field and elections under the July National Charter.

The eight parties later formed an electoral alliance to field single candidates in all 300 constituencies based on seat sharing.

Later, the National Citizen Party (NCP), Liberal Democratic Party and AB Party joined the alliance, turning it into an 11-party coalition.

According to multiple sources, Jamaat wants to keep around 190 to 200 seats for itself and negotiate with other parties for the remaining seats.

Through internal surveys, Jamaat has identified about 170 to 175 constituencies where it believes it has a strong chance of winning. In addition, Jamaat wants to field candidates in around 20 more seats, where, according to the party, the alliance has failed to field strong contenders.

According to the latest information from insiders, Jamaat has agreed to give 40 seats to IAB, 30 seats to NCP, 12 to 15 seats to

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EC restores candidacy of 41 more Jamaat's Ctg-9 nominee declared disqualified over dual citizenship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the February 12 election, 41 more aspirants regained their candidacy, including Kishorganj-5 independent candidate AHM Kaim, as the Election Commission yesterday declared their nomination appeals valid.

On the third day of reviewing appeals against returning officers' decisions to reject nominations, the EC heard 71 appeals, of which 41 were declared legal, said EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed in the afternoon.

He said 25 appeals were said to be invalid, four were kept pending, and one was not heard (Pabna-2).

The EC began its hearing on January 10 and would continue it until January 18. As of the third day, it completed the hearings of 197 appeals, and kept 13 pending.

The commission declared the nomination of Chatogram-9 Jamaat-e-Islami candidate AKM Fazlul Haque invalid over dual citizenship issues as he had US citizenship.

During the hearing, Fazlul said he

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MUSABBIR MURDER Suspect makes confessional statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleged shooter Mohammad Zinnat yesterday gave a confessional statement before a magistrate, admitting his role in the killing of Swechhchasebak Dal leader Azizur Rahman Musabbir in Dhaka's Tejgaon area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sarah Farzana Haque recorded Zinnat's statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after he was produced before her chamber, a court staffer said.

According to an investigator, Zinnat opened fire during the attack, injuring Musabbir's companion Abu Sufian Bepari Masud. Zinnat's assigned role was to ensure a safe escape for the main shooter, Mohammad Rahim, the investigator added, citing Zinnat's statement.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Additional

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Pedestrians put their lives at risk while crossing Rampura road. Due to the long distances between footbridges in the capital's Rampura-Banasree area, people are compelled to cross the street in this manner. The photo was taken in front of the BTV Bhaban.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Two Ansar members held for raping woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A woman was allegedly raped by two Ansar members at the 250-bed General Hospital in Manikganj early yesterday.

The Ansar members have been detained, said Mohammad Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Manikganj police.

Quoting the victim and her husband, the SP said the two from Narayanganj was going to the house of his relative in Manikganj Sadar upazila on their own battery-run rickshaw-van. When they reached the Manikganj bus stand area around 2:00am, three-wheeler ran out of charge.

The police official added that they went to the hospital for their safety and took shelter in front of its main gate. Then, Ansar members — Shahadat Hossain and Abu Sayeed — who were on duty there, assured them of their cooperation and took them inside the hospital. They took the victim to the second floor of

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