

Lipton Sarker swims across Bangla Channel for 8th time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lipton Sarker swam across the Bangla Channel for the eighth time yesterday in memory of late scuba diver and photographer Kazi Hamidul Huq.

The event was organised by Everest Academy and Extreme Bangla in honour of eminent photographer Hamidul, said a press release of Everest Academy.

Moniruzzaman, a photographer of Bangladesh Television, also took part in the event and crossed the channel for the second time.

The swimmers began at Teknaf Fisheries Jetty and took five hours and 20 minutes to cross the channel.

The 16-kilometer long Bangla Channel stretching between Teknaf Fisheries Jetty and the jetty in St. Martin's Island was first discovered by photographer Kazi Hamidul Huq, it added.



Dhaka South City Corporation dug out this road in front of Jatiya Press Club a week ago and left the road in this state since then hampering vehicular movement. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES

Lack of mental care can lead to antisocial activities

Conference told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The children in orphanages who are deprived of psychological care can grow up to become antisocial personalities, said speakers at a conference in the capital yesterday.

"Children in many orphanages and madrasas are easily influenced to get involved in politics or subversive activities," said Kazi Reazul Haque, fulltime member of National Human Rights Commission.

There are currently around 64,000 madrasas in the country, said Tuhinul Islam, senior research fellow at Northern University who addressed the conference organised by Action Aid at Spectra Convention Centre.

A study titled "Residential Childcare: The

Experiences of Young People in Bangladesh," showed that children in shelters often do not receive the guidance and mental care that they need to grow up.

"At least 49,000 children live in government and NGO shelters," added Tuhinul.

The study findings were based on 33 shelters, he said.

Insincere caregivers do not care about the psychological wellbeing of the children that reduces their confidence and affects their productivity after getting out of the shelters, Tuhinul said.

Often the children who turn 18 are asked to leave the orphanage on a short notice without much preparation about their life ahead, he said.

Youths at risk

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social and health consequences.

"The cultural and religious barriers will prevail as long as there is lack of knowledge on sexual health," he said.

Toufiq Maruf, president of Health Reporters' Forum, said while much of the effort to provide sexual education is directed towards the rural areas, the ignorance is also pervasive in the urban areas.

The lack of access to information on reproductive health is reflected in the country's high rates of child marriage and early

motherhood, the speakers added.

Citing the State of World Population Report 2013, they mentioned that around 17 per cent girls of Bangladesh get married before 15 years of age while most of them become a mother of two before 18.

Fayez Md Mostak, executive director of PSTC; Angela Khan, project manager of Comprehensive Health Services for Working Girls of PSTC; and Dr Noor Muhammad, programme director of The Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP), among others, spoke at the event.

Bangladesh bursts in indignation

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some 150 to 200 protesters managed to gather in front of Pakistan's High Commission building and brandished shoes there. Law enforcers, however, drove them away from the place within five minutes.

Incensed by Pakistan's stand, hundreds of people started gathering at Gulshan-2 intersection from 2:00pm, an hour before they were due to march to the high commission.

As police barred them, the protesters held a rally there and again tried to march towards the high commission half an hour later but were intercepted near Australian High Commission.

In the scuffles with police, Abul Kalam Azad Bir Bikram, sculptor Ferdousi Priyabhashini, and an organiser of Ganajagoron Mancha, Bappadiya Basu, were injured.

Addressing the gathering, war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir urged the government to cut diplomatic relations with Pakistan unless they withdraw

the resolutions and issue an apology.

Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain, journalist Abed Khan, and Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chaudhury, among others, joined the rally.

Different socio-political organisations staged protest rallies in the capital and expressed deep shock at the resolutions passed in the national and Punjab provincial assemblies of Pakistan.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Quader Mollah was executed on Thursday for committing mass murder, rape and other crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War.

Several leftist political parties, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Ganasamhati Andolon rallied in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, while former student leaders burnt Pakistan's flag there last evening.

In Rajshahi city, demonstrators burnt Pakistan's flag

during a rally at Shaheb Bazar zero point, organised by Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and Workers Party. Flags were torched in Chittagong city and Bogra town by Jege Utho Bangladesh and Sammilito Sanskritik Jote.

Protesters at the Central Shaheed Minar burnt an effigy of cricketer-turned-politician and chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party Imran Khan who called Mollah "innocent".

In Chittagong city, people torched an effigy of Pakistan's Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan who remarked on Sunday that Mollah was hanged "through a judicial murder".

Sector Commanders Forum, Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Gonoforum, Jatiya Nari Jote, Peshajibi Nari Samaj, and student leaders associated with different political parties issued separate statements slamming Pakistan for violating diplomatic norms.

Another driver dies of burns

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December 3 as blockaders torched a staff bus owned by a garment factory near Gazipur intersection.

He was recovering from his injuries, doctors said, but septicemia, a serious condition in which infections spread through blood, pushed him towards death.

Moreover, he had inhalation injuries, said Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon at the burn unit of DMCH.

Over the last few days, he was shivering in fever, said the relatives who had been visiting him at the hospital.

"But this morning, he was in a good mood and even made light jokes with us," said his brother-in-law Manik.

As Al Amin's condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the intensive care unit where he died within around one and a half hours, Partha said.

Neither his wife nor any of his siblings came to DMCH to take the body home in fear of violence since the opposition was observing a fresh

72-hour blockade from Tuesday morning, Manik said.

Including Amin, 15 victims of political violence have died at the burn unit since October 26, as the BNP-led opposition began to enforce back-to-back hartals and blockades.

Helper of the stuff bus that Al Amin used to drive, Sulaiman also sustained 10 percent burns in the incident and was admitted to DMCH. He was released on December 11.

"Ustad [Al Amin] used to tell me about good and bad things, to go for something which is correct and avoid bad things," Sulaiman said by phone.

Meanwhile, Ahsanullah sustained 25 percent burns when pickets set a truck he was driving ablaze with gun powder on Tuesday night at Kadam Rasul in Sitakunda upazila.

Ahsanullah was coming to the capital.

"He wanted to make the

trip, though he had fears of violence on the way, only to earn some money," his relative Rahim said, adding that Ahsanullah is the sole bread-earner of his family.

Rahim, who was on the roof of the truck at the time of the attack, said some 20 people had emerged all of a sudden from the dark of the night and set fire to the vehicle.

With burns on the face, shoulders, palms and lower portion of the body, he was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Hailing from Laxmipur, Ahsanullah has a nine-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son, Rahim said.

Ahsanullah was found groaning in pain at a corner of the burn unit and could hardly talk.

Mrinal Kanti Das, head of the burn unit, said Ahsanullah's condition was critical.

"The only good sign is that his respiratory organs have not been burnt," he added.

AL-led 14-party

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The meeting was held in Gono Bhaban, Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina's official residence.

The sources said Hasina called upon the alliance leaders and workers to take every measure to ensure a good turnout in the election and turned down Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Executive President Mainuddin Khan Badal's proposal.

The proposal was to lay siege to the Pakistani embassy in Dhaka protesting the Pakistan National Assembly's resolution, adopted on Monday, expressing concern over the capital punishment of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

Mentioning BNP-Jamaat-e-Islam's poll boycott, she said the nation and the constitu-

tion were now free from stigma "as people will no longer have to vote for war criminals and their companions".

Hasina said they tried their best to bring the opposition to the electoral battle.

Strongly criticising the BNP-Jamaat's country-wide violence, she asked them to shun such anarchy.

"The opposition leader is launching such violent activities to save the war criminals. But we will face the situation and people have to resist such acts. We will not sit idle watching their destruction," she warned.

Expressing her firm stance to try war criminals, Hasina said there was no room for war criminals and their patrons in Bangladesh.

School students to get

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BNP-Jamaat clique had been enforcing different violent programmes and carrying out acts of sabotage to destroy the new generation.

When the government is holding war crimes trials, the Jamaat-Shibir and their allies were carrying out sabotage to save the war

criminals, he told the audience.

"They [Jamaat-Shibir] remove rail tracks, destroy bridges and roads, and unleash sniper attacks. They are killing general people by setting fire to buses and trucks, and throwing petrol bombs into vehicles," he said.

The education minister

said many people were leading miserable lives after suffering burns in arson attacks.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury attended the meeting with National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB) Chairman M Shafiqur Rahman in the chair.

Boosting of relations with labour

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Bangladesh was organised in the afternoon.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron moderated the programme while students of Iba University and Dhaka International University participated.

Meanwhile, International Labor Organization

Director-General Guy Ryder and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay paid a joint tribute to 232 million migrants worldwide on the day, says a press release of ILO, Bangladesh office.

Despite having migrants' contributions to economic, social and cultural development of the host countries

and the workers' communities back home, these contributions go unrecognized in and outside the workplace, it said.

Earlier, to observe the day, the overseas employment ministry and some other NGOs brought out a procession from South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the morning.

US embassy worried over

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made at the wish of the foreign minister apparently to avoid the media.

Ambassador Mozena, who usually talks to the press after most meetings, left the state guesthouse without

speaking to the waiting journalists. There were not any official comments on behalf of the foreign ministry about the meeting.

Official sources said the meeting also touched upon the ongoing political situa-

tion in the country and entire range of bilateral issues.

Earlier on Tuesday, Mozena met Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque to express his deep concern over the security of the embassy and its personnel.

MURDER OF 2 WORKERS IN CAPITAL

Suspect killed in 'gunfight' with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An extortionist suspected to be behind the murder of two construction workers on Tuesday was killed in a "gunfight" with police in the capital's Aftabnagar yesterday.

Monirul Islam Sohag, 26, a local goon in Uttor Badda, was shot in the right leg and later succumbed to his injuries at the capital's Nitor.

When a police team approached to arrest Sohag and his cohorts at a fish farm, the miscreants opened fire on them triggering the clash, said Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station. The other goons ran away, he added.

The law enforcers suspect that Sohag had killed the two workers at the site of an under-construction building in Uttor Badda after failing to extort the building owner.

A gang shot dead Faruque Hawlader, 30, a mason, and Milon Hawlader, 22, a day labourer, on Tuesday morning and wounded another worker, Mahmud Gharami, 35, who is being treated in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. All the three were shot in the chest.

Hanif Hawlader, father of Milon, demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

BSTI sues 3 Ctg factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, Chittagong yesterday filed three cases against three factories over manufacturing soyabean oil in an unhygienic environment and marketing those using the BSTI logo without its approval.

The cases were filed against Bismillah Oil and Agro Food, Musa Food Products, and Raihan Consumer Food Products with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court.



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- Name and address of the office from where tender documents will be obtained & to be dropped : Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, (12th floor), Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- Last date & time for selling tender document : Up to 6.00 PM (BST) **on 26.12.2013**
- Last date & time for tender submission : Up to 11.00 AM (BST) **on 29.12.2013**
- Date and Time for tender opening : At 11.30 AM (BST) **on 29.12.2013** in presence of bidder (if any).
- Special Instructions : i) Tender document along with an MS Excel Calculation Sheet to be submitted in sealed envelope.
ii) Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to accept partly or fully any quotation or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest quotation.

Sk. Golam Mohammad
General Manager

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