

# DOWN TO EARTH

## Encouraging A Waning Sport

By A S M Nurunnabi

In our modern-day fast life, it is becoming increasingly difficult to hold on to a favourite hobby. At easier times, many persons used to have one hobby or another that helped to reduce the tedium of our day-to-day existence. There are of course some persons who, in spite of the present hectic pace of life, manage to pursue their hobbies.

Among the many hobbies that attract people, angling occupies a pre-eminent position. There are not many places in the Dhaka city where a person can pursue this hobby. The ideal spots are mainly the Dhanmandi lake, the Gulshan lake and the DND embankment. As these places are situated at some distance apart, it is not easy for an angler living in intermediate range to avail of the facilities at these sites. But, as everyone knows, an enthusiast in this line is not easily daunted by distance alone in the quest for proper environment. Angling is allowed at these sites on payment of prescribed fees. Particularly on holidays and on special occasions when competition is held, crowds of anglers keeping vigil on their fishing rods present an impressive sight. It is indeed a hobby which teaches its adherents patience, concentration and whole-hearted dedication.

There are, of course, other small water pockets within the Dhaka city area offering limited facilities. By and large, opportunities for angling at these spots have been gradually shrinking. There was a time when the city was dotted with a good number of water areas, ponds and tanks. With the fast pace of urbanisation, the topography of the city has been changing and with it the available sites for angling became the casualties.

Apart from the three main areas available for angling, as aforesaid, the serious anglers do not hesitate to go even beyond the city limits, for example, to Rungganj, Narayanganj or Narasingdi, in their search for appropriate location.

There is an Anglers' Association whose main objective is to encourage the sport and to improve and extend the facilities for this pastime. It also organises competition on important occasions. In course of discussion on the subject, a member of the Association referred to the positive steps taken in Indonesia for encouraging this sport. In that country fish sanctuaries are maintained where anglers are provided with all facilities, but when they are successful in catching a fish, they are not allowed to take home the catch. If they opt to retain it, they

will have to pay prescribed price for it. In spite of this restriction, there is reportedly great enthusiasm among anglers of that country to angle in these sanctuaries which are plentifully stocked with fish. After all the real pleasure of the anglers lies in hooking, tacking and pulling the catch.

The member of the Association also raised a point which needs consideration by the authorities concerned. It was alleged that in most cases professional anglers use poor quality bait and fish-lure (chara) which go to contaminate the water. The cumulative effect of this practice not only bears on the water which is polluted but also on the fish reared in the polluted water. It was felt that the concerned authorities should devise ways and means of controlling this practice for the preservation of healthy environment for fish culture. Another point made during the discussion was that if water areas are stocked with fish fry of carp variety, in preference to Ruhi, Katla or Mrigel, it will yield quicker harvest and offer better opportunities for angling. An angler does not mind if his catch does not belong to the better classes of fish. He gets equal exhilaration and excitement from his catch of lesser kinds of fish.



## 100 killed in Georgian separatist violence

TBILISI, Oct 2: Nearly 100 people were killed today when ethnic separatists in Georgia's Abkhazia region captured the Black Sea resort of Gagra with the help of fighters from Caucasian regions inside Russia, officials said, reports AFP.

In what was described by Georgian officers in Gagra as the biggest offensive since separatist violence erupted in August, the Abkhazians and their ethnic Caucasian allies used rockets and tanks in the assault. Georgian military officers here and in Gagra said, Jaba Yosseliani, Vice-President of Georgia's ruling State Council said Georgian troops were forced to abandon Gagra after intense fighting, leaving behind 30 soldiers encircled by separatist forces.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, show decision to send troops into Abkhazia in August to quell a separatist uprising sparked the unrest rushed to the region Friday, saying he hoped to "save the situation by political means if there is still time."

Members of the ruling State Council, holding an emergency meeting here to discuss the Abkhazian crisis said nearly 100 people were killed in the fighting, it was not clear how many of the casualties were Georgian soldiers, separatists or civilians.

The offensive was launched late Thursday with an attack on the village of Kolkhida, just outside Gagra, and moved early Friday into Gagra, near the Russian border.

The Itar-Tass news agency reported that the separatists had taken control of virtually the entire town.

Yosseliani said the Abkhazians were later Friday

heading towards the village of Lesselidze, closer to the Russian borders.

He said the 30 trapped Georgian soldiers included the local commander Badriptskevani.

Shevardnadze and his security adviser Guram Salaridze reportedly went to the village of Gantiadi, 15 kms (10 miles) from Kolkhida, despite earlier plans for him to open the emergency council meeting here.

A spokesman for the state council said Georgian troops forced to withdraw from Gagra were regrouping in Gantiadi.

## Nurses: strike

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But a leader of Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA) last night confirmed their firm determination to go on an indefinite strike from today unless the government met the demands.

The leader said, "we have met the government several times but none of our demands were accepted completely."

Meanwhile, another group of nurses who split when some BDNA leaders and workers kept captive Morium Begum, a senior staff nurse of PG Hospital, in the DMCH nurses hostel for about 28 hours and tortured her, said that they would boycott the strike from today.

But another leader of Student Nurses' Union in the DMCH disowned the faction and said a few number of nurses were with Morium Begum who intended to foil the movement. "It will not hamper our programme", he added.

## Sylhet UP polls Missing ballot box recovered: 3 arrested

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 2: Police recovered today the ballot box which was snatched yesterday during the Union Parishad election in Balaganj thana.

An official source informed that three persons were arrested for their involvement in the incident that occurred at Shahjalal Hafizia Madrasa Centre of Goalabazar union.

Police had to open several rounds of blank shots to bring the situation under control. Polling in the centre was suspended immediately after the incident.

A case has been registered against the arrested persons, the source added.

## Four BCL (M-I) leaders held in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 2: Four leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) including the General Secretary-in-charge of the Sylhet Government College Students Union were arrested by Kotwali police Thursday night.

They were charged with their involvement in the incident in which the official jeep of the Additional District Magistrate of Sylhet, was damaged on September 12 last.

The arrested persons are, GS in-charge Faruque Ahmed, Mesbahuddin, Tapan Chandra Paul and Manruzzaman Selim. They were arrested from Talata Area of Sylhet town, a police source informed.

## Nepal orders probe into plane crash

KATHMANDU, Oct 2: Nepal, stunned by two major air disasters in less than two months, ordered an official investigation today into the crash of a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) arbus which killed 167 people, reports AFP.



Istiaq Ahmed speaking at a discussion on elimination of terrorism at the Institution of Engineers yesterday. Also seen in the picture (L-R) Dilip Barua, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Amir Hossain Amu and Mirza Golam Hafiz. — Star photo

## Paying heed to the hearing problem

By Asiuzzaman

When the state of the most of the state-run hospitals and medical institutes is precarious, a private organisation has come up with the most modern gadgets to treat some 20 lakh people plagued with hearing problem.

The Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children (SAHIC), a non-government organisation, has founded the National Centre for Hearing and Speech at Mahakhail, near Cholera Hospital, with such machine available only in two other centres in South Asia, SAHIC sources said.

"We have all modern technologies used for treatment of hearing loss and speech problem," Prof MN Amin, one of the founders of the centre said adding that "we are giving substitute for sound."

"It is possible to correct the hearing loss by using hearing aid," Amin, a Professor of ENT (ear, nose and throat) Department of IPGMR said adding that before setting up the centre there were no such facilities in Bangladesh.

One private clinic in Dhanmandi area has some facilities in this field but treatment there is too expensive, he added.

When SAHIC, was founded in 1987, planned such a huge and novel project, the government donated 2.46 bighas of land near the Cholera Hospital for it.

A German humanitarian organisation Ansheri-Hilfe provided additional support to establish the centre. The centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on February 25, 1992.

The centre has also taken up a Taka 12.5 crore extension programme since March '92. Prof Amin said that the some 2,000 patient mostly children had already been ex-

## Mini-convocation

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Professor Miah put part of the blame on his colleagues (teachers) for deteriorating teacher-student relationship and the downside of the "Oxford of the East", an attribute to Dhaka Varsity for its three features inherited from the British university.

All the three residential university, tutorial system and three-year honours course are in a disarray, the VC noted, terming it one of the causes of campus unrest.

He cited some students' in-vectives against teachers amidst a tutorial scandal following the recent expulsion of a student of the university.

He cautioned against abuse of the prestigious post of a DU teacher in other purposes for undue gains.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor distributed certificates by quoting what the Chancellor of universities says at the time of awarding certificates at a convocation: "By your conduct and character, you will prove worthy of the same (certificate)."

Presided over by Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof KM Mohsin, the graduation ceremony, held in the Planning and Development Development Academy auditorium, was also addressed by pro-VC Dr Wakil Ahmed and Chairman of the Department of English Dr Khandaker Rezaur Rahman.

## Riyadh denies Qatar's allegations

RIYADH, Oct 2: Saudi Arabia on Friday accused Qatar of exaggerating what it called an accidental border incident and disputed its neighbor's account of the clash that killed two people this week, reports AP.

Qatar said Saudi forces killed two soldiers and captured one in an attack Wednesday on the al-Khofous border post in the disputed frontier region.

A piece of 1.5 bighas of land has already been bought near Foy's Lake at Pahartali with financial help from a Japanese organisation Kriano Kai.

SAHIC has plans to establish such centres in other divisional cities, the SAHIC founder member said.

The organisation regularly organises car camps in remote villages and so far has treated 11,500 people in 47 camps.

# The Midnight File

## Gorbachev barred from leaving Russia

MOSCOW, Oct 2: Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been barred from leaving Russian territory until he testifies in a trial of the former Soviet Communist Party, the Itar-Tass news agency reported today. The agency said the Russian constitutional courts, which has sought Gorbachev's appearance at the trial on the legality of the former Communist Party, has asked the Foreign and Security Ministries to stop citizen Mikhail Gorbachev, former Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party from leaving the country until he has testified, reports AFP.

## Terry Anderson quits AP

MYSTIC, Oct 2: Former hostage Terry Anderson announced Friday he was resigning from The Associated Press and endorsing Democrat Bill Clinton for president. Running for office himself is "an option," he said. Anderson was freed last Dec 4 after almost seven years as a hostage of Muslim extremists in Lebanon. He has been on a leave of absence from the AP, and spoke Friday before some 200 newspaper executives at a meeting of the New England Newspaper Association, reports AP.

## Indira suffered nightmares for 2 years before being killed

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: For two years before her death in 1984 Indira Gandhi suffered from chilling nightmares warning of her assassination, says a new biography of the former Indian Prime Minister, reports Reuter.

Gandhi also gathered intelligence reports on opponents she suspected of invoking evil spirits to destroy her the book claims.

"Night after night I dream of a venomous old woman, full of hatred, reaching out to destroy me. I felt paralysed, unable to move," Gandhi told author Pujal Jayakar two years before she was killed in a hail of gunfire in October 1984.

Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh bodyguards in revenge for her instigating an army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple in the northern state of Punjab to flush out separatist militants using it as a headquarters.

"The moment I close my eyes the woman is there. I have been receiving secret reports of 'tamtrik' rituals and black magic rites being performed to destroy me and my sanity" the book quotes her as telling the author, a friend for more than five decades.

Excerpts from the book — "Indira Gandhi: A Biography" — to be released next month by Viking (Penguin India) were published in India Today magazine issued today.

Jayakar said that when

## Mostafiz

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tant figures including the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"All want return of the refugees to Myanmar and assured us of every possible assistance in resolving the problem," he said.

The Foreign Minister said, there is a greater awareness of the need for international presence in the repatriation process to allay the fears of insecurity on the part of the refugees.

It is upto the United Nations to secure such a role after talks with the Myanmar government for the interest of the refugees, he said.

Rahman held talks with Foreign Ministers of different countries and the Deputy Prime Minister of China, whom he requested to convince Myanmar to accept a UN role in the repatriation.

About his meeting with the Myanmar Foreign Minister, U Ohn Gyaaw, Rahman said, Yangoon is not in favour of UNHCR role in the repatriation. However, he said, Gyaaw expressed himself in favour of some kind of role by the UNDP in the process on specific "project" basis. Rahman said voluntary repatriation that began with 49 refugees will continue.

Asked about the current concern and anxiety in Bangladesh over the Indian "operation push back" he said the Foreign Ministry had earlier come out with a statement on the issue.

The issue could be discussed when he would visit New Delhi some time later this month essentially to extend an invitation to the Indian Prime Minister to attend the next SAARC summit in Dhaka in December, this year.

## Premadasa

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authorities of the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in July this year.

"They are likely make headway in the signing of a commercial agreement between the Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the Air Lanka, the official said.

The two leaders at the talks scheduled Monday, will review bilateral relations, apart from dealing with matters related to the seven-nation regional body.

"The relations have been excellent, there is no dispute on any substantial issue," said a senior Foreign Ministry official commenting on the Dhaka-Colombo ties.

"The meeting will certainly look into possibilities for further cooperation for example an enhancement of the two-day trade," the official said.

The countries trade goods worth 20 million a year on an average. There is a slight imbalance in favour of the island nation.

On SAARC, the two leaders will review the progress since the Colombo summit and exchange views on the proposals awaiting consideration of the Dhaka summit.

The President is to leave Dhaka Tuesday.

## 2 killed

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was working in the factory. The victim, Morshed, 25, was sent to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries immediately after admission.

Police sent the body to the morgue.

Yet in another incident, Pradip, 22, hurt himself seriously as he jumped off the first floor of a hotel in city yesterday at 7 am.

Pradip, a receptionist of Hotel Midway at Nayapalton alleged that he was held captive in a room by Nazrul Islam, Executive Director of the hotel since 9 pm Thursday.

He was held on the allegation of stealing Taka one lakh and 34 thousand from the hotel cash box.

During the lock up Pradip was allegedly tortured with electric shocks and was beaten with iron rods by four to five of Nazrul's men.

He managed to slip out of the room early morning yesterday as he was threatened with death.

Pradip was immediately taken to the DMCH from where he was later released.

Nazrul Islam however, lodged a theft case with the Motijheel thana after the incident.

## Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

quantum of foodgrains damaged in godowns and explaining why those could not be used in time.

She said authorities were learnt to have planned to sell unwholesome food on auction and demanded that such auction should be stopped immediately.

"The government is involved in a conspiracy to feed the people rotten rice", Hasina alleged and said the administration can neither sell rotten and unwholesome food in the market nor distribute those for test relief work.

She said before the rice was rotten in godowns, the government could supply the rice to the people in the northern region where many people died of starvation.



The image of goddess Durga at a city mandap yesterday. — Star photo

## Hekmatyar bans BBC reports from Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2: Fundamentalist chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has banned British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reports from Afghanistan and threatened to arrest its Afghan staff and try them in spies, said reports received here today, according to Reuter.

"We have decided that henceforth no foreign reporter of the BBC would be allowed to enter Afghanistan," said message of Freedom Radio, run by Hekmatyar's dissident Hezb-i-Islami Party.

## Durga Puja

From Page 1 Col 5

The puja pandals were tastefully decorated with festoons, banners and illuminated in the evening.

The 'mahaashtami' and 'mahanavami' of the puja festival will be celebrated on Sunday and Monday respectively.

The images of the Goddess Durga will be immersed on the 'Dashami' the last day of the festival, on October 6 (Tuesday) the day will be a public holiday.

## N'ganj

Durga Puja, began here yesterday in a befitting manner. Hundreds of Hindu devotees visited the puja mandaps in the town.

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