

# RISING STARS

## A Glimpse of the Big Apple

by Wasim Choudhury

**G**REETINGS or as American colloquialism would have it, hi, from New York. Welcome to the melting pot of the world. A city of over seven million residents, New York is by far the largest city in the United States. Known sometimes by its nickname, the Big Apple, the city is about as cosmopolitan as any city can get. New York's population is so diverse in ethnicity and culture that it can be perceived as the United Nations at work. The dwellers of this urban mass can trace ancestry to all inhabited continents of the globe. Many, if not most immigrants to this nation have chosen and continue to choose New York as their site of first landing. Some say it is the welcome sight of the statue of Liberty, located across the Hudson river, which draws the immigrants to this city. Whatever the reason, over the years, scores of immigrants have come to call New York their home. To the recent tide of Bangladeshi immigrants, home in the US has come to mean the same.

The city of New York is divided into five boroughs, namely Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. Manhattan certainly enjoys the status of the lead borough. Easily outsize by the other boroughs, Manhattan more than makes up for it through artificial elevation. The tiny island has a towering collection of buildings. Included within this assembly of structures are the famous Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the Empire State Building, the United Nations, the Met Life Building (which perhaps is still better known by its previous title: the Pan Am Building). Lower Manhattan is home to the largest financial market in the world. Almost every multi-national mega-corporation has offices here.

But business is only one side of Manhattan's many facets. Manhattan also serves as the cultural center of New York's arts and cultural establishments. Dozens of museums are located here, as are numerous theaters. Radio City Music Hall serves as a con-

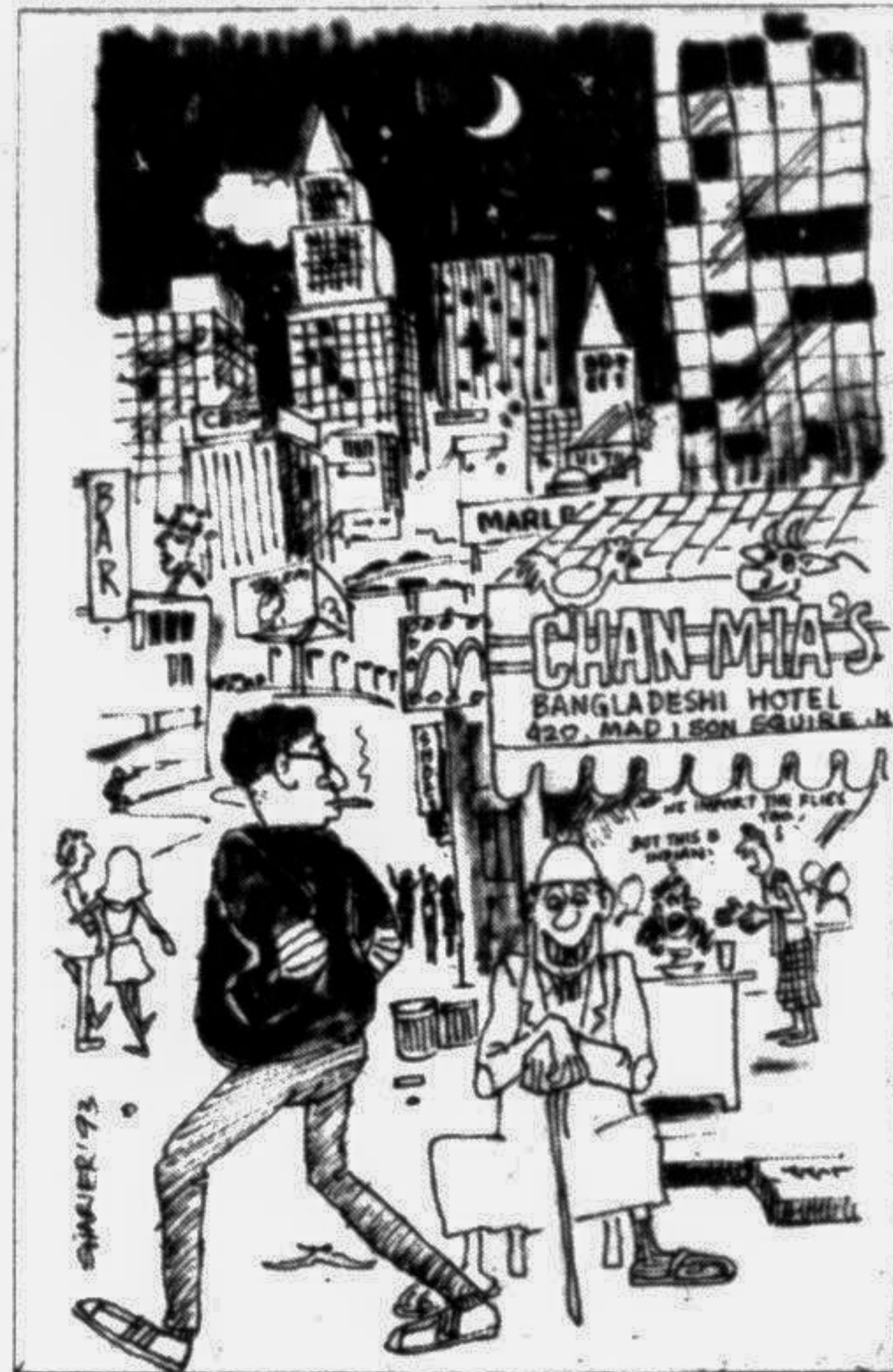
cert venue for many musical events. For those whose tastes include the classical, there is of course Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, where one will find an assortment of opera, orchestra and ballet being performed in all seasons. Finally, there is a bit of nature — albeit

each borough is unique in its population concentration. Because the city is a stepping stone for many immigrants, the city's population is ethnically divided into locales. Bensonhurst in Brooklyn is predominantly Italian-American, Flushing in Queens

come distribution, the fact that new immigrants find solace closer to their former countrymen might partially explain such concentrations. Bangladeshi immigrants have also set up their own communities in Astoria, Jamaica and Jackson Heights in Queens and Parkchester in the Bronx. The rise of the Bangladeshi communities in this city has resulted in importing as much of the 'old country' to this new land. Grocery stores catering to the needs of these immigrants nowadays flaunt an impressive display of goods from Bangladesh. Hilsa and Kot fish are always available, and achar is in high quantity as well. One can get paan-shupart here, as well as sweets, spices and a whole lot more. A Pakistani restaurant, obviously enjoying a large Bangladeshi clientele, advertises itself in three languages — English, Urdu and Bangla.

The dynamism of the Community is New York is relentlessly growing. The city has become the cornerstone of Bangladeshi immigration to the United States. Unlike only a few years back, it has become commonplace to find people conversing in Bangla all over the city. Four weekly Bangla language newspapers are published from here. There are numerous social, cultural, and perhaps unfortunately, political groups and organizations. There is even an annual soccer tournament for Bangladeshis living here. Like back home, the games attract enormous crowds. It is in events such as these that one realizes that despite leaving the beloved homeland, Bangladeshis have not lost their character.

The city New York is so vast in size and contents that there is no way one can cover all its aspects in one brief look. Hopefully, in the future, I will have the opportunity to share my perspectives of this city and the country it is in. Even more importantly, I hope to give the readers back home a glimpse of what we Bangladeshis experience in this strange and foreign land. So until then, it will be Khoda Hafez.



artificial — in this borough, as well. Central Park, named rightfully for its location is a massive green oasis to the concrete surroundings. The other boroughs are primarily residential, with a limited amount of business dedicated to its residents. However,

is Asian-American (Koreans and Chinese mostly), Upper Manhattan is Puerto-Rican, Woodside in Queens is Irish, Coney Island in Brooklyn is Jewish, and Jackson Heights in Queens is Colombian. While some of the divisions by ethnicity might be attributed to in-

## Triumphs and Defeats of Bangladesh in Sports

by Rabeth Khan

**I**N the last two episodes, I have tried to uphold the position and prospects of football and cricket in Bangladesh. This time I want to explore two more prospective sports of Bangladesh. They are hockey and chess, one very different from the other. The game of hockey creates a tense atmosphere and is more action oriented, while chess demands peace, silence and concentration.

Anyway I want to start with chess as it is ahead of hockey in alphabetical order. The birth of chess took place in India at about 531-578 B.C. But the first real success came in between 1929 and 1933 when Sultan Kha and Miss Fatema were the champions of chess of the British Empire.

Not surprisingly, both the players were from the sub-continent. The standard of chess in our country is high in relation to the Asian standard. Regarding the players, we have produced one Grandmaster, three International Masters and a handful of FIDE masters. Niaz Murshed, the lone Grandmaster of the country is our best bet. Following in his footsteps are International Masters Rani Hamid, Reefat B. Sattar and Zillur R. Champak. Out of the three players, both Rani Hamid and Champak are fading away from the lime light and are in the twilight of their career. Meanwhile, Reefat seems to be marching ahead at a fast pace. Another player who may be able to realise our future dreams is talented Ziaur Rahman.

The game of chess is one of the least expensive games and so is rightly suited to our economic condition. It does not need any particular place for playing and is unaffected by the weather. So we can utilise all these advantages by spreading the playing of the game to all corners of Bangladesh and groom hopeful, talented players. Chess also gives us a chance to increase our patience, skill and intelligence. Once the game of King and Queens reaches every commonman the desired goal of international recognition will be achieved.

Now let's come to hockey. This sport has a wide range of attraction in this sub-continent. Both India and Pakistan are one of the highest ranked teams in

the world. Naturally some of the inspiration and talent of our neighbours have sprinkled on ourselves. Day by day the standard of our hockey is improving with the arrival of some talented players like Litu, Akhter, Guddu, B. Lusat, Tushar and others. They are bursting with talent, enthusiasm and skill; the only thing they need is astro-turf field and proper training and if they get it, in no time they will develop into a fine brand of players who will bring laurels for our country.

At the junior level of the Asian Cup hockey, our performances in recent years have been consistent. We can take some pride for holding Malaysia to a draw, losing one goal to two to both South Korea and India. But when it comes to the senior level, our bubble of success seems to burst. Why does this happen? The reason is because talented players don't get the proper training and guidance at the right time. As a result, they are lost like dust in the Sahara. Moreover, our domestic season is not well planned and there are no international events here. But our hockey championship is keenly contested with Abahani, Mohammedan, Mariners, Usha and Ajax competing for the trophy. The inflow of Pakistani stars like Qamar Ibrahim, Mumtaz Haider, Anjum Sayeed and others have increased the competition as well giving the league a new look. There are even rumours about the Pakistani star and the current national captain Shahbaz Ahmed coming to play in Bangladesh. Omigosh!

For further improvement, we need two astro-turf fields very badly. Incidentally we have only one astro-turf field in BKSP. In reality, we have better chances to go up in hockey rather than football and cricket. With a little more effort and concentration we can be one of the three top teams of Asia from the current fifth position. Let's expect that the experience of Jumman Lusat, Sadck, Harun, Asir and the talent of Biaka, Guddu, Fazal, Nakib will propel our hockey team to the roof of the best. Stay tuned for our "Dream Team" and the showdown of our country in sports since independence.

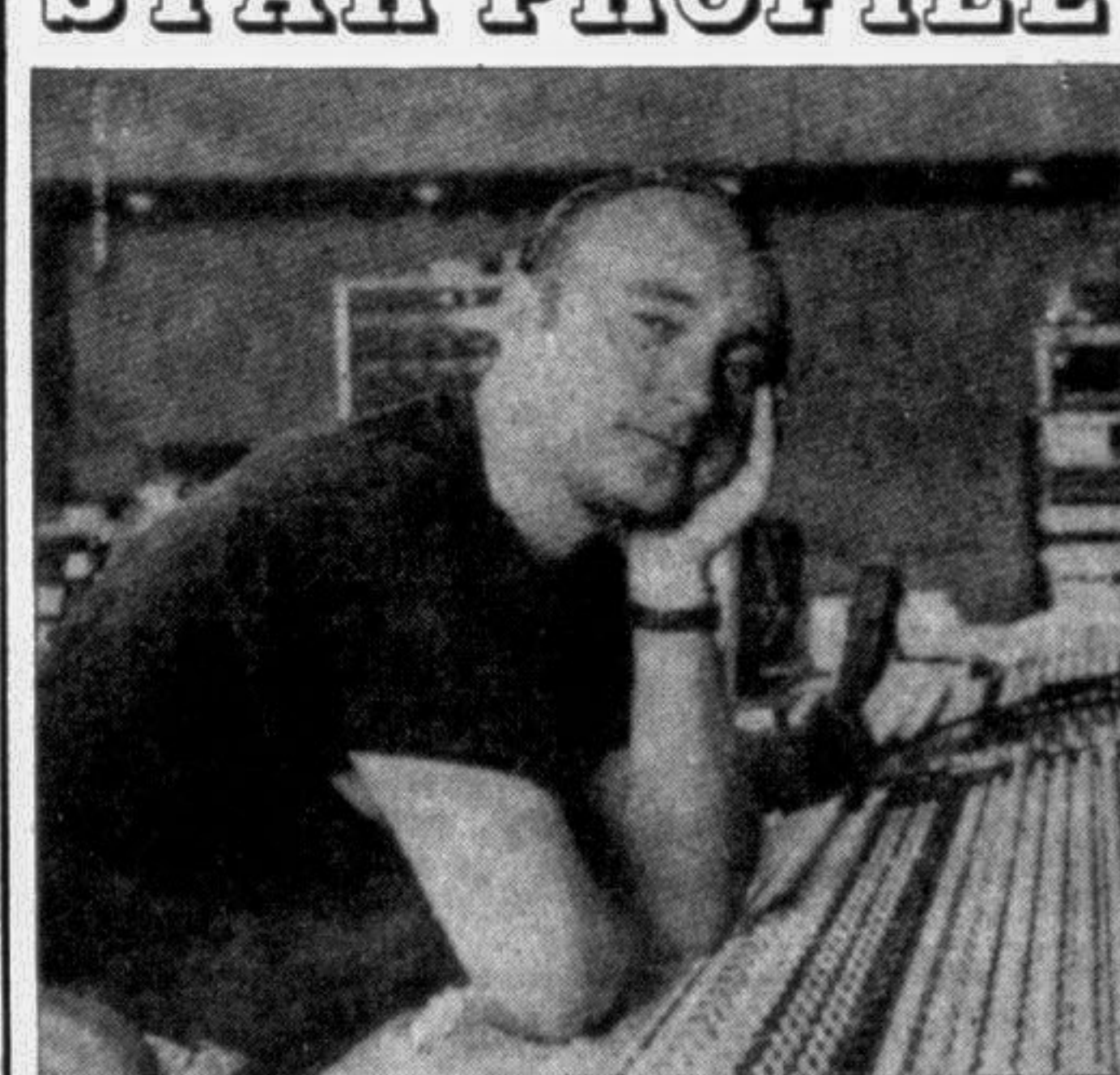


### The Nightmare

by Fariha Kamal

The sea was wild, the wind was howling I was trying to keep my little boat from drowning. The wind took my breath away from me And the salty sprays made me unable to see. The mast broke, the sail tore I was being washed ashore; The waves pounded and grounded me I was forced to tumble into the sea. I tried to scream, but no sound came out I woke up, in my bed, and looked about. O! what a relief, it was only a nightmare. Though, it did give me a good scare!

## STAR PROFILE



Name— Phillip Pavid Charles Collins (Phill Collins)  
Date of Birth — 31st January, 1951  
Did you know that He is recognised as a one time actor, drum player, vocalist and producer.  
He played in 4 films notably in Zettirellis Laviv's Romeo and Juliet and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.  
He made his debut in film industry at the age of 13 in 1964.  
The song that brought him to the spotlight was "You can't hurt love" in 1991.  
He is a fan of something crazy — dogs.

**W**HEN asked a couple of cat lovers as to why they had cats as their pets instead of other animals, the answer wasn't short or simple. But when summed up, the conclusion was that they were all simply crazy about cats.

There's no question that cats as a species are extremely intelligent. They exhibit this superiority in a variety of ways. I've seen some cats, for example, teach themselves how to open a door so they can get in and out. Others quickly learn how to please you and get what they want by purring and meowing softly. Some cats like to be praised for their bravery. If they kill a mouse in the cellar, they'll definitely bring it to you, so that you can see and appreciate it. And many like my Banjo, Tiger and Doopy come racing into the kitchen at the clattering sound of their plates because they know from experience it means a tasty tidbit.

Cat owners say that they find these little tricks endearing and fun to watch, but these tricks also prove beyond doubt that cats are capable of greater brain power than most people give them credit for. Other facts back this up.

The cat's natural cautiousness, for instance, suggests a strong sense of self preservation lacking in most other animals. For example, frogs are just smart enough to survive, but their brains don't allow them to go much past that, which explains why you see so many of them splattered on the streets.

In addition a cat's overwhelming need to investigate everything it runs into whether it affects its life or not proves it has more on its mind than just living from day to day, says a Siamese cat owner.

To cats, exploring and learning is as important as eating and sleeping. They can't

## Can Cats Think?

by Afifa Raihana

help themselves.

But exploratory behaviour does more than just increase brain power. Jumping up on the table and scampering behind the couch also improves their physical fitness and

sharpens their lightning-quick reflexes.

And that's not all. Cats are also quite capable of simple problem solving and you can prove this at home with your own cat. I tried the same exper-



iment and it gave quite surprising results.

Simply show your kitty a full bottle of milk, then put the cap on and leave the cat and the bottle alone. Almost certainly the cat will begin to sniff and paw at the bottle and in all likelihood, knock it over. The bottle's fall may startle the cat, but it'll quickly resume its investigation and continue pawing at the bottlecap because it knows that's how to get to the tasty milk inside.

A cat's inborn sense of independence offers another clue to its superior intellect. Once a dog owner trained several dogs to jump up on their hind legs at the sound of a bell after rewarding them with a treat. But such an experiment would certainly fail with a room full of cats, whose bored expression would suggest that they have much better things to do with THEIR time.

Someone who didn't own a cat might think that its unwillingness to master such a trick means cats are stupid and incapable of learning. But in fact just the opposite is true. It's not that a cat can't learn, it's just that most cats are simply too independent and self assured to participate in such foolery.

Cats have strong emotions too. They cannot bear the thought of being neglected. And once it feels that it is being neglected, cats rebel by stopping to take any food for days. My cats become jealous when they see another cat in the house or any other new pet.

According to top animal researchers, cats need a steady flow of intellectual stimulation to keep their brains working at a peak level. That's why it's essential that you spend good deal of time everyday playing with your cat, games of hide-and seek, chase and get-the-mouse enhance the owner and pet relationship.

## JOKES

Shaun: 'What's in your bag?'  
George: 'Chickens.'  
Shaun: Will you give me one of them?  
George: 'No.'  
Shaun: 'If I guess how many you've got in your bag, then will you give me one?'  
George: 'Certainly! If you guess correctly I'll give you both.'  
Shaun: 'Six.'  
...

Jose was on holiday in Killarney and talking to Patrick. 'We have a word in Spanish,' he said, 'manana. It means tomorrow — it will have to be tomorrow. It seems to be a difficult idea to translate. Do you have word for it in our country?'  
'No,' said Patrick, after considerable pause for thought, 'I don't think we have any word with quite such a sense of urgency!'



★ Dear (Ack!) Show Teem

Shake off your coat, get hail and hearty, cause it makes me feel sick.  
From T2

★ JFU Mr Joy Alamgir, I don't like your intention of blackmailing me by that 'tape'.  
From, Rex.

★ JFU Mr Scarecrow (Tasin Ahmed), How many 'Crows' did you scare yet?  
From, Rex

★ JFU Dear Anwar, How was your trip to south America?  
Did you climb the Peruvian Andes? I'm all ears.  
Your best friend, Rex.

★ To our dearest friend Ehmertn, Cheer up! We promise you that we shall give you enough food to eat at tiffin time — when the school opens.

Love Bushra and Nusrat

★ Dear T2, I was glad to know that Rafeal remembers me. But for Gods sake please don't compare me with a ..... (you know that). Anyway say hello to him.

Love Bushra

## From the Year 2000 AD

by Zinnia Ahmad

**H**I Pals! Yesterday I received a letter from my pen-pal who lives in the year 2100 A.D. I decided to share the fun and excitement of reading that letter with you guys. So, here it is:  
50 sec 10 min 06 hrs  
Thursday 31 August 2100 AD

Hiya Zinnia, I received your letter this very minute. Your communication systems must be really slow. It took more than 24 hrs for your letter to reach my hands!!

Well, anyway, nice knowing about your place or rather time. What I can deduce from those 20 pages is that you're really lucky. For one thing I love everything you wrote about your school. At least your teachers are human — I mean the same stuff as you are with flesh, blood, emotional feelings and all that. But Pilot OZ1 that's my teacher is a machine. I'll tell you about our schooling.

Every boy/girl has a teacher of his/her own. Like you lucky guys we can't study altogether in one 'classroom'. Pilot OZ1 is a store-hearted teacher. After all, he is made of steel, wire, glass and godknowswhat. The teachers look like computers. Our lessons are printed on the screen. And we read them as the lessons appear one after another. I liked the description of the thing you called 'books'.

You could turn the 'pages' and re-read the lesson whenever you feel like it. But once Pilot OZ1 says something it's gone and never appears again. By the way, it can, of course, speak. Otherwise, how do you expect it to explain all that gibberish to us? So the screen acts like 'books' and 'black boards' while the voice is the teacher speaking.

Now, we don't have to do any 'writings' there is this machine called 12x04. Everyone owns one of such a thing. You put this metal plate inside a slot and you put your head inside

the 'head cavity'. After switching on the necessary buttons you think of what you want to 'write'. Whatever your mind says is printed onto the plate. And that's how I 'wrote' this letter. Homeworks are done in the same way.

The homework plate is put into a slot in Pilot OZ1. The homework is checked in 3 zillions (1 Zillion=1/100sec). Of course, one mistake means we do the whole stuff again. You could ask Pilot OZ1 about any doubtful answers.

By the way, I don't see what there is to boast about doing product integration and trigonometric functions. I have done with them 2 years ago (And I am also 15 yrs, so, what's the big deal?). My favourite subjects are bio-statistics and pure trigonometry. Its no use telling you about them coz they're too advanced for your brains.

Thanks for the world map 1993 you have sent. Actually word map 2100 is slightly different. For example: (i) there's a new country called Xnygip (pronounced any-way-you-like) it wasn't discovered by any voyager or something. In 2050 it suddenly appeared from no where. It is now the most dominant country on this planet. Everything starting from foreign trade to political affairs is somehow controlled by Xnygip. It's situated at lat. 12.08 E. Long. 75.13w.

(ii) Japan is divided into 7 islands. This was the result of world war III in 2030. What happened was crown Prince Naruhito's youngest son wanted to marry Fredrick Jonathan's (American President) Daughter.

And, of course, neither sides agreed (coz then they were arch-enemies). But they cloped to Timbuctoo (the nincompoops). Japan blamed America who got mad and caused an artificial landslide plus earthquake in Japan (don't ask me how that's done). I don't re-

member the rest. After all, who's interested in ancient history?

(iii) There was this civil war in America 2 decades ago and its how broken into West America and East America. (iv) There's no such country as 'Bangladesh' on our map. I consulted this with Pilot OZ1 he told me that it sunk some 100 yrs ago owing to the simultaneous occurrence of a tornado, Whirlwind, hurricane, Tidal bore and flood.

These are the major changes of the world map. You were speaking of illiteracy, poverty and whatnot in your letter.

Such stuff do not seem to prevail nowadays. You asked what we used as currencies. What did you expect? Gold bars? Paper money. Of course. The most valuable currency is 'lloz' (xnygip's currency). 1'lloz = 168 pounds. Some of the imminent problems of 1993 seems to be 'pollution', 'extinction', population explosion. Thankfully pollution and extinction has somehow been taken care of by the intelligent homo sapiens over the last century. And with the 'populations explosion' problem, cartz — a planet belonging to another solar system a few dark years (1 dark year = 10<sup>23</sup> light years) from Earth — has signed a contract to import some humans in exchange for diamonds (which is supposed to be in abundance in Cartz). This was the headline news last week.

Anyway, how are your siblings? The 2085 Act allowed only one child per couple because of the population explosion danger and as a result I'm the only child. Other than studying, I help my dad and mom on their project. It's a research on grapples (the result of grafting grapes with apples) and their adapting abilities to snow, hail, etc. etc. Rather interesting!

Guess, I'll have to end here. I've still got to do my homework on applied English. Expecting to hear from you soon.

With all my love  
19.14.14.9.24

