

# RIISING STARS



## 'The Black Cat'

by Md Kabiruddin

HERE was a screeching sound as the driver slammed his foot down on the brake. The car skidded violently and then came to a halt. He got out and peered at the face of the black cat which lay dead under the car — its face covered with blood. He touched the shoulder, the black fur was soft and supple, but intensely cold.

Suddenly a horrible stench of decay filled the place. He could feel waves of evil power rippling through its body. For no explicable reason an uncontrollable fit of trembling took possession of the driver and he knew he was in great danger. In two bounds he had reached the



car and wrenched open the door. He pressed the clutch and changed the gear — the car slid forward silently gathering momentum as it rushed up the steep road.

He would not slow down and roared on, swerving from bend to bend with utter disregard for danger, in his fear of the greater movement behind him. He looked quickly over his shoulder and saw that the black cat he had just killed was sitting at the back seat of his car.

"Oh, god!" gasped the driver. His eyes were staring, cold perspiration broke out upon his face. The cat's fleshy nose

## DON'T

by Chowdhury Rashaad Shabab

I hate the word don't. Cause I hear it every day. And people use it in every possible way.

You can hear the word near and far. On a train, a bus. Even in a car.

It's used in poems. It's used in plays. It's used in books. It's used in so many ways.

You can hear it from your window. You can hear it from your car. And I know some examples which are:

Don't ride your bike. Don't fly your kite. Why don't you get your answers right? Why don't you stop giving me such a fright?

You think it ends right there I believe. Oh, no! I've got some more. Up my sleeve.

Don't come inside without rubbing your feet.

Don't be so timid, why are you so weak? Don't do this. Don't do that. Don't slam the door. Don't tease the cat. I say I hate the word don't. I don't like it a bit. Oh no, now look, I'm saying it!

Oh but there's one way I like it a teeny, weeny bit; And that's the only exception. From me hating it!

But these words Cannot be heard near and far And the words or phrases are:

Don't study. Go and play with your buddy.



REBECCA Reeves parents were out on a business trip to Wales for 3 days and Rebecca was left home alone for the time being. Her parents were sorry for her, as she had to stay alone.

That was really no problem. She was 18 years old and she could look after herself quite well. She was going to stay alone until her parents return on Sunday evening. She availed this excellent opportunity and arranged a slumber party.

She checked up the cupboards to see how much food was left. She was happy to find the cupboards were well filled. She called up her friends and found Sally Stevens, Laura Cole and Daphne Whitehead free. The three of them happily agreed to come on Saturday evening.

Rebecca had some work to do as her friends were going to come tomorrow at her house. She decided to get sleeping bags for her friends and she also thought of sharing her big bedroom with her friends. Then she went to the garage to feed her mother's pets — Bonny and Sooty. They were Mrs. Reeves' dear cats.

Before going to Wales, Mrs. Reeves asked her daughter to take care of the cats. Rebecca hated those cats. Perhaps they were cute but sometimes they could be very annoying and irritating. Earlier in the morning she had managed to keep them in a big cage in the garage. She left them with some milk and cat food and then returned to prepare her lunch. She quickly finished her lunch. Then she looked at several recipe books as she wanted to cook for her party. It wasn't until 2 o'clock that she'd made up her mind about the dishes. She would serve spaghetti with meatballs, pizza and fried rice for the main course and chocolate mousse for dessert.

She set all the ingredients she would need for the party on the table. At five she began to tidy up the drawing room. Then she selected the tapes and albums for the party. Then she had her dinner and went to sleep. She had a big day ahead tomorrow.

Next morning she spent all the time thinking about what

## Rebecca's Party

by Tarannum Laila

Registration No. 0361

should she wear, which hair style would she look nice in etc. She changed at least six times before she could set mind.

She began to cook at five o'clock. She hurried and scurried but she finally finished preparing the food. She checked her watch it was 7 o'clock, she had only an hour to dress up. She set the dishes on the table and rushed for a shower.

"Ding, dong." The bell rang. Rebecca came down to the front door in her leather pants and jacket. She was looking great. She opened the door and Daphne, Laura and Sally rushed in. They greeted each other and gossiped for a while.

Rebecca led them to the dining room and they all ate happily. As usual, Daphne was talking about the nature. Laura was talking about animals and Sally was talking about fashion. They thoroughly enjoyed their meal.

Laura wanted to see the cats so all of them went to the garage to see the cats. Laura let the cats out of the cage as she didn't like to see animals shut up in cages. Rebecca didn't mind because she knew she

could put them back in the cage with her friend's help. They watched the weather forecast and came to know that it was likely to snow in the night. Rebecca was really worried about the cats as they were outside. Daphne and Rebecca went outside to take care of the cats. They walked out of the stiff kitchen door and banged it hard. They called Sooty's name and Sooty came towards them and went straight to the garage. But Bonny would not even come near. Finally Daphne managed to get Bonny inside the garage, but as soon as Bonny went in, Sooty came out. It went on like this for the next hour. They finally did manage to get both of them inside. Rebecca sighed with relief. It was very chilly outside so Daphne tried to open the kitchen door, but it wouldn't open.

As soon as Rebecca and Daphne went outside, Sally went upstairs to have a bubble bath and Laura went to sleep. There was nobody to open the door for Daphne and Rebecca.

Snow flakes were gradually falling from the sky and the two



## Turtles on the move

by Nishat Hussain

In a faraway town in Newfoundland, was a burger joint belonging to turtles. No they were not Ninja turtles, just ordinary ones. The food was great. It was one of the best joint but the delivery would take hours before the customers got their orders.

This was quite a problem, since turtles aren't fast movers. Day by Day the customers de-



creased. They had to do something.

Slow Poke Yellow (SPY), one of the waiters thought of a solution to this problem. Day and night he thought and thought, till his mind was a complete blank. Then a bright idea came to him. The next day he told the boss. Boy! was he delighted. So, the required things were bought. The news spread from town to town that SPY's idea was running round. SPY was now known as 'Speedy' and he had also gotten a raise in his wages.

No longer were the turtles slow. They were fast and right on time.

## Do You Know?

When Humphrey Bogart died on 14 January 1957, his wife Lauren Bacall placed a gold whistle inside his coffin. The inscription on the whistle read: "If you need anything, just whistle," which is a line from their first film together, To Have and Have Not.

The hydrochloric acid in the human digestive system is strong enough to dissolve a nail.

People in Siberia usually buy their milk frozen on a stick.

Spain literally means "the land of rabbits".

Cats cannot taste sugar.

We eat an average of 140,000 pounds of food in our lifetime.

"EXPLAIN!" said Shamir and Crougher both trembling.

"Outside chaos, nothing exists. In fact everything has been engulfed by the chaos. The chaos exploded inwards bringing in the whole universe to its pre-beginning stage."

"You mean, darkness covers darkness upon darkness?"

"According to your limited perception," the face continued to say, "universe began from emptiness or nothingness. It is actually a point where all energies are neutral — all things are at a standstill. Everything is equal, actually nothing exists. A human and the vast space; both have same energy in chaos, and therefore nothing exists," the face explained.

Chaos, in fact gives birth to an universe. To do this it requires a single energy discharge from an outside body. One little short wave that you use for broadcasting can ignite the process of creation.

The meaningless nothingness becomes something with a single drop of energy. Within a billionth of a second it multiplies the energy level. Then the chaos explodes, and the universe expands, the face continuing explaining intently.

The three figures looked at the giant head in awe. The giant is talking about the so-called big bang obviously.

"After the birth of the universe the dimension of chaos separates itself from the three dimension according to the order of the universe. But there is always a doorway to chaos — which you have accidentally discovered. To your three dimensional world, the endpoint of chaos is one trillionth of a millimeter. But its sheer existence gives off a radiation level that equals 20 suns. For which you have found the cave walls so dark."

"You mean chaos was inside the cave?" Crougher asked.

"No, one of its entry point was. But actually nothing could enter inside the chaos as it is separated from the three dimensions. But your use of sonar beams was outrageous. The sonar beams went inside the chaos and exploded. It reversed, meaning, it had pulled in the whole universe.

"How can it I don't understand and by the way you?"

"I am an integrated energy force of chaos created to communicate with you. Before you came here chaos had no energy to create me."

"Who wants to communicate with us?"

"Not who, say what! The chaos exists without any shape you will not understand because your perceptions do not work that way. But let me tell

you — you have interfered with the nature — you have a duty to restore it."

"Can the universe be restored?"

"Yes. Since nothing exists excepting you two — you can help the chaos to restore the universe to its original status."

"How can we exist and nothing else does?"

The giant paused, "It will be a little complicated for you to understand. I will simplify. Miraculously, both of you have equal level of energy. Same brains, same egos, same heartbeats. You are twins with no similarity of faces or skiings but both of you emit equal level of energy. Absurd, isn't it? There is no energy-twin in the whole universe — excepting your pair! You can celebrate that!"

Then all of a sudden there was a huge blast in the giant's head. The environment glowed and within seconds it was gone.

"Hurry up! Steve cried, 'You have already spend one tenth trillionth of a second. By this time, even if you are able to restore the universe — you have passed at least an hour!'"

"What does that mean?" Shamir asked the crumpled body of Steve.

"It means, if the universe is to restored right now then one hour is already gone from its time dimension. So you'd better hurry up and think what you can do for the chaos."

Crougher inserted his hand in his pocket. Looked for something. He asked Shamir, "How old are you?"

"41... but what does that matter?"

"I am 56, father of three children. All well-off. Widower." Crougher paused, "I don't get it how can we be parallel energy?"

"Do you believe it?" Shamir asked.

"Hurry up ... no questioning," Steve interrupted, "Don't waste valuable time. You will ultimately foil the single opportunity to restore the status of the universe." Steve stopped and added, "After one trillionth of a second — you loose all chance to restore the universe; that's the principle of the reverse explosion of chaos."

Shamir did not hurry up. He asked Steve slowly, "If you are 'suspended' at the time of dying — it surely means you still have some energies left, right?"

Steve's face darkened a little. "Yes."

"That means you're not a neutral energy yet — just like

friends were slivering in the cold. Several times they shouted Sally's and Laura's name, but in vain, no one answered. Suddenly Rebecca remembered that her mother always kept a duplicate key with their neighbor Catharine. She ran out of the garden jumped and toppled over the short hedge. In a moment or two, she was on the doorstep of her neighbour's house. She rang the bell again and again. As it was 11:00 pm nobody answered the door at first, but after 10 minutes Catharine came down to the door in her dressing gown with a puzzled look on her face. Rebecca quickly explained the situation and Catharine gave her the keys. Jumping with joy, Rebecca went back to her garden where she found Daphne almost freezing with cold. Two inches of snow covered the ground. Rebecca quickly opened the kitchen door and hurried Daphne inside. They made themselves some hot chocolate drink and ate some biscuits. They went upstairs and found Laura snoring in her bed and Sally massaging her face with cream. She had no idea about what her friends went through. Sally woke Laura up and the four friends went down to the living room. As Daphne was relating the story Sally and Laura remained silent but they burst out laughing as soon as Daphne finished telling the story.

## The Expansion of NATO — A Threat?

by Joy Alamgir

RECENTLY the 16 nation alliance NATO has taken decisions to expand. Though with tough opposition from the Russian Federation, NATO has decided to grant partial membership to a number of European countries. This 'partial' membership includes joint military exercises so that two or more armies can effectively work together. After the demise of the Cold War is it still necessary to expand NATO's role? The motive to expand this treaty organization is rather blurry since NATO has failed to do anything effective to stop the atrocities in Bosnia. In a world where people die of starvation and hunger, the western NATO leaders are pondering expensive joint military exercises. Maybe they do not think about humanity that much. But chances are that their actions could provoke another Cold War. For example the Russian military command is not very happy with this idea of NATO expansion. If this idea is implemented, that could spark nationalist feelings among Russians. If that happens, Russia in future may not have such a western minded leader as Boris Yeltsin, they could have a leader like V. Zhirinovsky. If that becomes reality then the west will have much more serious headaches. Even the present Russian leaders could be stimulated by nationalist emotions to form their own military and political union. That means that rather than establishing lasting peace in Europe, the west could be inducing the birth of another Cold War.

The west could have taken milder steps or could have guaranteed security to the eastern countries through Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It would have been a prudent decision because then the chances of national-

ist feelings rising in Russia would be slim. Another dark side of this treaty is that by this decision, the west is treating Russia as a foe, and not as a friend. More so after the Liberal Democratic Party headed by Zhirinovsky won the highest number of seats in the Russian Duma, the lower house. On this aspect the words of the NATO general secretary can be recalled. He said, "Without alienating Russia" NATO could expand its borders. This already makes clear Russia is not being treated as a friend in the western community.

Another problem is that Russian military decision makers might feel that they are being isolated from the international community. It is evident that instead of cooperating with Russia the west is conspiring against Russia, with the goal to sequester them. It certainly would not be in their best interests to infuriate Russian military commanders because they still hold the largest nuclear arsenal. But it seems that the decision to include partial members into NATO might just be one step towards thinking the unthinkable.

So, the expansion of NATO could lead to hysteria among potential military commanders and might resurrect the Cold War. Indeed it is a threat to be taken seriously in the background of the atrocities in the Balkans, the ongoing conflicts in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the economic tensions and energy crises in Ukraine, and above all, escalating nationalist sentiments all over Europe.

Usually Rising Stars is a teenagers' page reflecting their ideas and thoughts on simpler aspects of life. But sometimes bigger and much more serious issues like this appeal our young members.

## The Chaos

# Restoring the Universe

by Sharier Khan

both of us." "That's almost the truth," Steve somberly said. Then, we can not be parallel energy," exclaimed Crougher. "No! You are!" protested Steve. Shamir looked directly into the eyes of Steve. The eyes of a dying man. Somehow Shamir thought, Steve managed to 'fake' a look of painlessness. Now, Shamir could see there is a trace of pain behind his blue eyes.

"Tell me, did any one of us hold you while we were falling into the abyss."

"Steve said coldly, 'You did. You grabbed my hair to save yourself from the fall. But it did not help. We both fell.'"

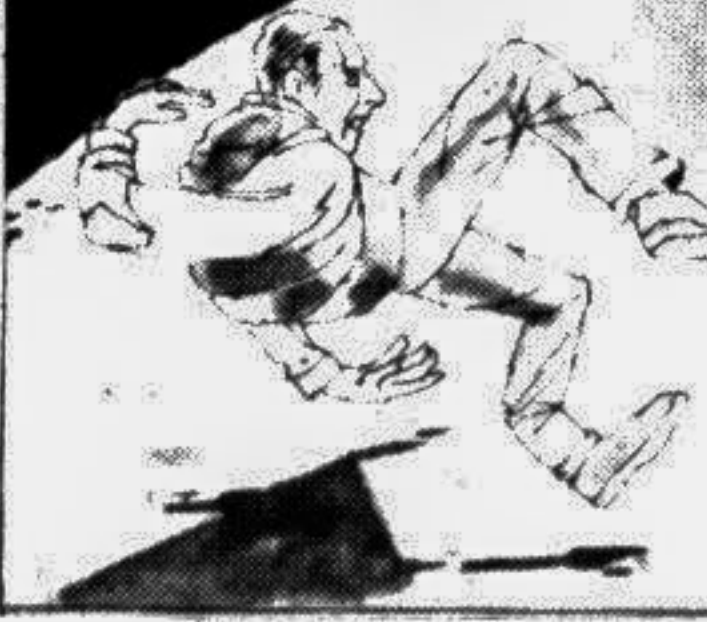
"Yes, Steve ... you are hiding the truth. You and me, we equal Crougher!"

"Why should I be hiding the truth?"

"Because you know you are finished, I guess, and you will cherish the moment of your death which will be the death of the universe," Crougher shouted.

"Hah!"

"The only solution to restore the universe is that one of us should perish totally. And it is logical, since you are practically dead, you should perish ... because with one death the neutrality of our energies will be disabled! The chaos will be able to reactivate the positive process of the universe!"



Suddenly three of them became silent. A sound of rumble could be heard from a distance. "Warning!" murmured Steve. Shamir noticed now a little of Steve's blond hair looked like missing.

"I believe the remaining energy of yours and the full energy of mine equals the energy of Crougher," Shamir said impatiently.

"Stupid calculation. It is meaningless," Steve said. "It is not," Crougher said. "We are no energy parallels — yet it seems you are campaigning for that."

them started whirling slowly. There were lightnings from distance, and sounds of thunder. "Too late... ha ha ha! the universe dies with me ... there won't be any future for anything." As Steve became frenzy, Shamir and Crougher tried to swim in the air. It was useless. Then the thunders started to blast everywhere. There was winds, lights and everything. "Let's wish Steve death!" Crougher hopelessly suggested Shamir.

"Die Steve! Die! You don't deserve life!"

"Knoof!" screamed Steve. His pain exploded. There was an atomic blast. Crougher and Shamir lost consciousness.

The deep blue sky was silent. It was warmer than any of the other days in Antarctica. The weather was clear. From the top of the Washington Peak, which is one of the peaks of Lincoln belt, you could see for miles now. Nothing moved on the continent. The blue waters of a small lake in the Lincoln belt carried no sign of any explosions, if there was any.

Shamir opened his eyes. The sudden flood of light blinded him. A smell of something burning brought him to all of his senses. He jumped up. Looked around him. He was outside the cave. In fact there was no trace of any cave.

"Crougher!" he shouted. He could hear a sound. Someone's moaning. He rushed, over the rocks and ice. Crougher was lying on his back. "Thank God!" Shamir leaned over Crougher, "Everything lives... everything!"

Crougher sat down. "Was it really chaos?" He said. "What time is it?"

"8:30 am" promptly replied Shamir. "We entered the cave at the same time! Can you believe it?"

Crougher smiled. Maybe it did happen. Maybe the universe doesn't know, it had passed a day, may be a year who knows?"

Crougher sniffed, "What's burning?"

Shamir looked for the source of the smell. It smelt like hair burning. "Over there..."

On the white ice lay a handful of hair. Blond. It was burning like electric bulb, slowly. A reddish glow.

"Is that the hair of Steve I got hold of?"

My God! Shamir murmured, only to himself.

The End