

RISING STARS

Experience in 5th Asia Pacific Children's Convention

by Rabeya Sultana Ummi

We went to attend the 5th Asia Pacific Children's Convention '93' in Fukuoka, Japan from Bangladesh. We had 9 members in our team. We were eight children and one team-leader. I was one of them. I am an eleven years old girl and a student of Class-VIII in University Laboratory School.

I am a painter. I received many national and international awards for painting. For these awards I could represent our country in the convention.

First we went from Bangladesh to Bangkok on 25th of July. We stayed one night in Bangkok. On the next day we left for Fukuoka at 8.30 am. When we reached Fukuoka airport it was 5.00 pm. We were received at the airport by the members of the executive committee of the convention. After completing the airport formalities we went to the Marine Camp by bus.

The Marine Camp was very big and beautiful. It was near the sea. In the camp there were almost 200 children of different countries. I had many friends

there. We stayed 2 days in the Marine Camp. During our stay at the Marine Camp, the Bhutanese children were our room-mate. The things I enjoyed the most was the camp fire, dance and the beauty of the Marine Camp. At the Marine Camp we talked and exchanged ideas of our countries to each other.

The next day we went to the amusement park.

I liked it very much. It was full of fun. The thing I liked most there was the ghost house, though it was a bit scary.

Again next day we went to the Dazaiju Tenmanji-

place of my father. The following day we went to Ohori Park to see Hamabi. It seemed very beautiful by night and I was attracted by it. From there I went to see my host grandfather (paternal). They all were very warm and hospitable.

Next day again we went out for a trip, we went to Fukuoka city science museum, Fukuoka Tower, and the Fukuoka sea beach.

Again next day we went to the Dazaiju Tenmanji-

shirts of different colours divided according to our groups. We had at least one family members from our host families mostly being brothers and sisters. They also wore same tea shirts like us. This was given to us by the Executive Committee members of the convention. We said hallow to Mr Donald Duck. The function was graced by many honourable guests of Fukuoka city. Citizens of Fukuoka city gave us all our national flags drawn in a piece of paper and presented a fire protection dance which was

After the oath taking ceremony we performed our function and it was a very successful one and appreciated by all. We also gave interviews regarding the function performed by us. There were many songs in the ceremony performed by us as well as the Fukuoka ladies and last of all the programme ended with a melodious song, sung by a Japanese lady. The music and the lyric of that song I still bear in my heart and the words were as follows: 'See you again, smile again?'

With this song the roof of the



shrine I had my friend Molly with me. After that we went to another amusement park. That afternoon I and the rest of my team went to a place where we had a picnic and the host family mothers prepared dishes for us. We performed dances and songs.

The date of departure soon came near and I felt very sad to leave my host family behind. 2nd August was the main programme date of the 5th Asia Pacific Children's Convention '93.

This programme was held at the Fukuoka dome where we all entered by parade. We were 200 children from 43 destinations. We were divided into different colour groups such as Red, Green, Pink, Purple, Orange, Navy blue and Skyblue. We the children from Bangladesh were in the Navyblue group.

The programme began with an inaugural song composed by the Fukuoka School children and we headed towards our destination where we had to perform our programme. We all wore tea

very ancient too from the historical point of view. The most important part of the programme was the oath taking ceremony which gave me great pleasure and honour. 7 children from the 7 colour groups were our representatives on the dais and we repeated the charter with them and lastly it was read out by two small Japanese children. The oath so far I remember was like this.

We, the Junior Ambassadors, promise to protect our beautiful planet for the future. We have gathered together in Fukuoka, representing the Asia Pacific region to share with each other the beauty of our homelands and cultures. Today, we think about the future, with our friends, transcending national boundaries, sharing our feelings, impressions, precious moments and experiences. We can feel the waves of peace and friendships lapping the shores of our lives. With passionate hearts, we offer our eternal bonds of friendship to unite the world forever.

dome opened wide and we all could see was the brightness above, with all its wisdom and unity. We all returned to our host family and made preparations for the next morning.

Finally the fun days was over. I was very sad to leave my host family behind. Without them I days wouldn't have been so nice and enjoyable. One thing I must mention that they were all very kind and warm, they remind me of the Japanese hospitality. Especially, I felt very gloomy for my host mother who had tears in her eyes at the time of departure at the airport. The tears made me realise once more the truth that 'A mother's love is universal irrespective of race, colour and boundaries.'

When I see the gifts, presented to me by them, it makes me feel the warmth of a family so dear to me in an unknown city like Fukuoka.

I hope that we can cherish in our minds the friendship and unity, and the oath to preserve and protect our planet, because it is the only one we have.

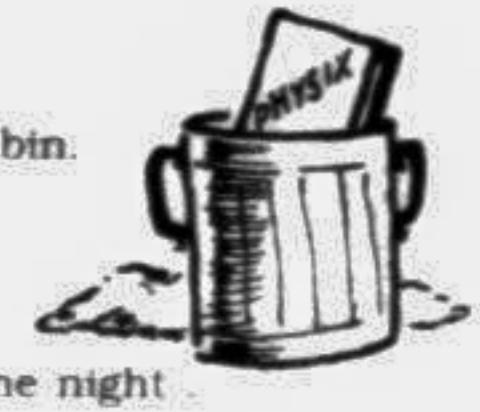
Physics Phobia

by Zinnia Ahmed

J UST the mention of Physics and I used to tremble like a leaf. It was a bad omen to me; it was a jinx. But now, that's over, I can give a sigh of relief.

Those laws, principles and theories. Used to make my head spin. Finally I can sleep in peace. And put all thoughts of Physics into the bin.

Electricity, Heat and Mechanics. Were all a terrible fright. Whew! I'm done with Physics. No more worries and anxieties during the night.



Newton's Laws of Motion. And The Archimedes' Principle. Made me cry; made me moan. Oh, don't ever remind me of them, please.

The Gas Laws were a headache. All the same there I did study. Just for Abbot's sake. But those I don't again want to see.

It was electro-magnetic induction. Which used to make me shudder. Coz they were worse than refraction. Oh! Was there anything ever any harder?

Waves are longitudinal. Waves are transverse. To me such stuff were hardly intelligible. And sure did they shake up my nerves.

You may think I was mad. You may think I had a mania. But the terrible truth is: I had Physics Phobia.



QUIZ CLUB

Compiled by Adeeb Z Mahmud

Hey, guys, check out these new quiz questions. To make the quiz club more interesting, we're divided it into four different categories — science, literature, entertainment and sports. Test your general knowledge and see how many you can answer — without cheating of course!

Due to unavoidable reasons our regular quiz club could not be published. We sincerely regret the inconvenience and hope to print it regularly again. Answers on 4.2.94.

Question

- What kind of animal is a Merino?
- What's the common term for acoustic energy?
- What planet is our solar system's longest volcano on — Jupiter, Earth or Mars?
- What kind of crafts made up World War II's "wolfpacks"?
- Which normally fly better — cocks or hens?
- What romantic Shakespeare title character is banished after he kills Tybalt?
- What's the English title of the Tolstoy novel "Voyna i Mir"?
- What fictional detective fell to his death at the Reichenbach Falls?
- What horse's harness starts when a drunken rider makes him gallop over stones with one'shoe lost?
- How many men are there on a dead man's chest, according to "Treasure Island"?
- Who were the first two singing siblings to boast a No. 1 LP and a No. 1 single each?
- What hit 1985 movie contains the line, "who the hell is John F. Kennedy"?
- What member of the 'A-team' is the best mechanic?
- How many women became meals for the hungry shark in "Jaws"?
- What pop group had a hit singing about Rasputin?
- What kind of hobbyist counts perforations and studies watermarks?
- What country beat India in 1960 to keep it from winning its 7th consecutive Olympic gold medal in hockey?
- How many meters can an Olympic Swimmer Swim without turning?
- What point is it when a tennis player is within one point of winning a match?
- How old was tennis' whiz Steffi Graf when she turned pro?



"The Desereted House"

by Gazala Yasmin Hoque (Urmi)

staring at a picture in the newspaper. It was the same lonely house I saw that afternoon. The newspaper's headlines were "The truth about this deserted house."

The story was that, it was called "Khan House" after the family called Khan. The Khan family had come from Pakistan and settled in Dhaka. They had two sons and a daughter. One night when they were all sound asleep there was this strange sound as if someone was hurt. Everybody woke up instantly.

Nazia, as was the name of the daughter, ran down the stairs to see what was the matter. As she was running down fast she did not watch her step and fell down rolling and rolling. Then she saw a figure in white with large red eyes or rather bulging-out eyes and the figure was still. She could not bear seeing this ugly figure and she screamed.

As soon as her parents and brothers heard her, they came down but also stopped when they saw the huge white figure. The white figure picked Nazia up with its hands and was about to take her away when her father shot him with a rifle.

They were surprised when they saw him still standing there and Nazia trying her best to free herself of its grip. Suddenly they found out that they were surrounded by another five of the white figures. The mother screamed and they all ran, except Nazia. She tore herself free and was about to follow the others upstairs when a voice like a human being spoke up, saying that they meant no harm to her or to her family. But that they should clear out of the house as soon as possible. She could not believe a word she had heard! The next morning she told her parents what those strange crea-

tures had told her. They cleared out of the house as soon as possible because it was thought that this house was haunted.

That's why no one ever lived there nowadays.

I found the story in the newspaper quite stupid because it could have been someone pretending to be a ghost and scaring them out of the house so that they could steal the owner's money, jewellery etc. I looked at my watch and found out that it was nearly one o'clock. At that moment I heard my mother coming towards my bedroom and saying "aren't you ever going to switch off that light?" I switched off the light and found myself dreaming about "the deserted house."

Wise Words

Compiled by Ismat Haseen

1. Diligence is the mother of good luck — Franklin.

2. Fate is not the ruler, but the servant of providence — Bulwer.

3. If I take care of character, my reputation will take care of itself — D L Moody.

4. Guiltiness will speak though tongues were out of use — Shakespeare.

5. Patience in bitter, but its fruit is sweet — Rousseau.

6. If poverty is the mother of crime, want of sense is the father of them — Brayer.

7. Speech is great, but silence is greater — Carlyle.

8. Occupation is a necessity to the young — H W Beecher.

9. The greatest remedy for anger is delay — Seneca.

10. The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love — Wordsworth.

"Nature's fault"

by Samia R Islam

SOMETIMES dream seems so real that people can't even decide whether they were true or not. I like those people, have had a realistic dream.

It all happened when we went to America to visit my aunt. One night my parents left me and my cousin and went to a party. At about 10.15 pm my cousin went to the toilet and I was alone in her bedroom.

When suddenly, I saw a glowing door appear! The intensity of the light almost blinded me. I don't know what made me, but, I started to walk towards the door. I entered the door and saw, to my great surprise, a beautiful garden! It had countless of flowers, beautiful trees and a little pond in which many swans were swimming!

I turned around when I saw a person (or something) wearing a white cloak. I, at once, felt a stone in the pit of my stomach. It lowered its head and bowed. I was so stunned, that, I didn't even realize that many people, by this time, were crowding around me. They were also dressed in the same manner!

The person who was still bowing, finally, said, "welcome to 'Ghostland'! I am the king of this place and I am called King Dostp. I know it's hard to pronounce. You are the second human to come here. Most people are scared of ghosts. I am glad you did not faint after seeing us. It is a pleasure."

By this time, I had enough courage to speak. I said, "Thank you, King — Sorry I can't pronounce it. Could you please tell me how I came here?" The King said, "We are very ignorant. We went to humans to learn but they got very scared. We don't know why. Hence, we know nothing about the world down there. But we think that nature has made a mistake. That's what the previous human visitor thought. Anyway, please follow us." I started to follow them when suddenly I slipped and fell down!

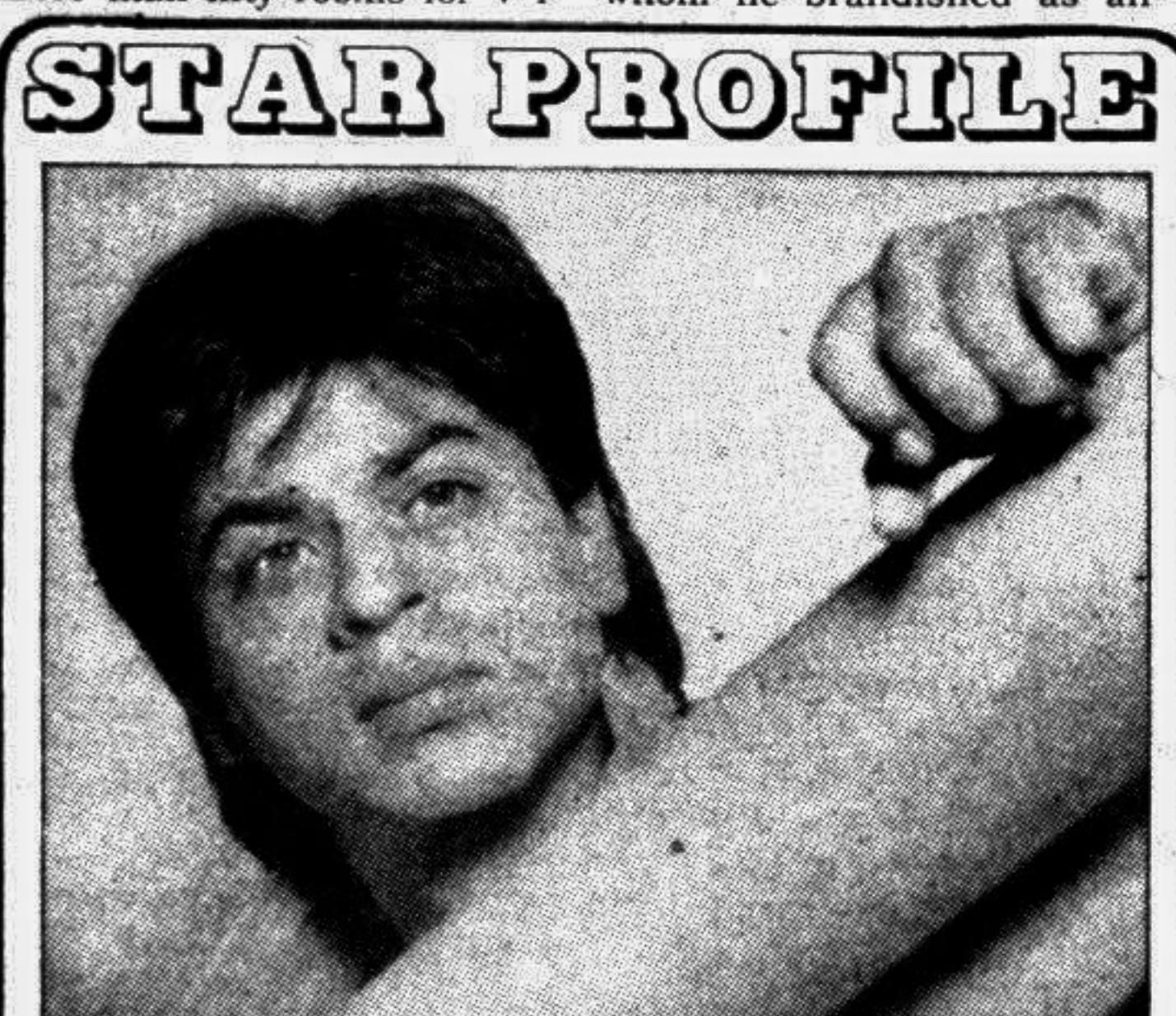
I experienced a tremendous jerk! But what's this? I was right in my cousin's bed! It couldn't have been a dream!

It seemed so real! When my cousin came back, after listening to me, she laughed and laughed. And then a sudden thought came to me, — "Was it really nature's fault?"

Have I been dreaming?"



STAR PROFILE



Name — Shah Rukh Khan

Age — 28

Martial status — Married

Did you know:

He enjoys watching the films of Amitabh Bachchan and Madhuri Dixit.

He wants to be a director in future but won't act and direct simultaneously.

Shah Rukh wishes that his first child be daughter.

His wife is more impressed by the films of Sanjay Dutt and Amir Khan than his ones, and this opinion of his wife inspired him to do well.

He never envied his opponents and on the contrary is pleased that more actors of his age group is coming up.

Shah Rukh prefers to be with his family in the spare moments than at wild parties.

He loves football.

Bet You Didn't Know!

When the volcano Krakatoa erupted in 1883, the sound was heard in Texas, USA.

When you blush, your stomach lining also becomes redder.

During the chariot scene in Ben Hur, a small red car can be seen driving in the distance.

Only male canaries can sing.

The population of the world could fit on to the Isle of Wight, though there would be standing room only.

Giraffes cannot cough.

The inspiration for Defoe's Robinson Crusoe was a sailor called Alexander Selkirk who spent four years alone on a desert island.

A solar eclipse cannot last longer than seven minutes and fifty seconds.

Scientists have found that the number of UFO sightings increase when Mars is nearest the Earth.

they were a bit surprised by my silence because usually I am the one child who talk the most, especially at the dinner table. They asked me in their sweetest tones what happened to me, and I murmured "nothing", saying to myself that I intended to keep a secret what I was up to. When I went to bed I could not sleep, instead I lay awake because I had a terrible tummy ache which was hurting me badly and I decided to go down and eat something, since I had not eaten much at dinner-time, I only ate a plate of rice with chicken-curry and swallowed some "yucky" milk. When I went down, slowly and softly so as not to wake my parents or my sister or brother I went to the sitting-room with my walkman deciding to hear "Michael Jackson's Dangerous". I sat down on one of the rocking-chairs and was

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