

Stolen but valid

Sports Reporter The National Sports Council (NSC) has declared its 25,000 stolen lottery tickets valid. The announcement was made yesterday after a meeting of the committee for the NSC raffles in the backdrop of the confusing curiosity over the fate of the lost tickets. The tickets worth Taka two lakh and fifty thousand were stolen from the NSC store room on March 26. A two-member inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the unprecedented theft by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Wise after the event, NSC has decided to disseminate the stored tickets to three banks. Six sentinels will be drafted to a private company to ensure security of the tickets that will lay within the NSC store room for the regulation, daily sale. This is the third lottery aimed at bolstering NSC's fund, following two earlier ventures that brought a net profit of about Taka two crore and 35 lakhs. Six NSC employees were taken to the police custody in connection with the felony but the NSC officials fished their thumbs to have the suspects released on bail.

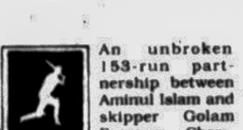
Independence Day gymnastics held

Sports Reporter The day-long independence Day gymnastics competition ended yesterday with eight men's and four women's events settled on the day at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain distributed prizes among the winners in the evening. Thirty-six gymnasts, including fourteen women, took part in the meet.

BJMC paddlers dominate

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) dominated the second day of the 19th national cycling championship, winning six out of the ten events decided at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. The other four events were evenly shared by BTMC and Ansars and VDP. The three day meet will conclude today.

Sylhet dump testy champs



An unbroken 153-run partnership between Aminul Islam and skipper Golam Faruque Chowdhury paved the way for Sylhet's passage to the final of the 20th national as Sylhet handed reigning champions Chittagong a stinging 23-run defeat in a much delayed, rather violent first semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Finally completed in four days, the prelude of the Pepsi Cup tie was originally scheduled to be played over two days with each team allowed a maximum of eighty overs. However, elements came in the way, completely washing



G FARUQUE, allround show

out first day's play. The match was resumed on the next day with Sylhet, who were sent in to bat by toss-winning Chittagong captain Minhazul Abedin, struggling to 120 for five from 30.1 overs when rain came down, forcing an abrupt closure of the now revised 40 overs-a-side match. The following day was another wash out, bringing embarrassment of the authorities to a head. Luckily there was no weather intervention yesterday although play got to a delayed start because of the damp spots at the dangerous areas of the wicket. Golam Faruque and Aminul started at around 12-30 from where they had left off on the second day of the 'cat and mouse' drama. After having dead-lifted their team from a precarious condition of five down for 52, the unconquered pair toted up 84 runs from the remaining 95 balls with some audacious stroke play. Former national cricketer Golam Faruque, nicknamed

Suru, hammered an unbeaten 75 off 77 balls. The unorthodox right-hander clouted two massive sixes and five fours in his daring knock. The ebullient Aminul Islam showed his excellent footwork and vast repertoire of delightful shots to compile an unbeaten 72. The ebony-coloured national cricketer played 86 balls and hit four fours and a huge sixer off Morshed over long off. The veteran left-arm new-ball bowler gave away 14 runs in his last over as Faruque and Aminul slowed 30 runs of the last two overs to raise Sylhet's grand total to 205 for five in 40 overs. Yet Morshed was Chittagong's best bowler bagging two for 38. Salahuddin, Rubel and skipper Minhaz took one wicket apiece. Champions for the last two years, Chittagong recovered from the early loss of national-discard Zahid Razzak as Nurul Abedin and wicketkeeper Ishatque batted enterprisingly to keep the port district in the game. Nurul Abedin left for 31 with Chittagong quite well placed but once young Ishatque threw his wicket in frustration creeping from a crippling leg muscle pain, things fell apart for the chasers. Then Sylhet's Athar Ali delivered the master stroke, removing danger man Akram Khan neatly taken by a running Aminul at midwicket as the burly national cricketer charged down the wicket to upset the rhythm of the nagging national allrounder. To complete a satisfying day's work Aminul then shared Chittagong's last hope Minhaz as the star national batsman stepped out to go for a big hit.

MINHAZ THE BULLY The afternoon's drama came alive when Minhaz, booted by the spectators on his way back to the pavilion for 39-ball 25, stormed up the VIP to give vent to his frustration. Things could not go very far as the more sane section of players had the incensed Chittagongian cajoled back to the dressing room but the mood for entertainment was irrevocably gone. Play was held up for 20 minutes as the enraged spectators indulged in their turn of vandalism following Minhaz's provocative gesture of testing

the strength of his willow on the spectators. Members of the law enforcing agency were called with the routine tardiness and play resumed. It was a classic case of irresponsibility on the part of the authorities, who supposedly did not feel the necessity of deploying police personnel to tackle with any possible untoward situation. BCCB treasurer Reza-e-Karim, who is the chairman of the tournament committee was not even around when the hell broke loose at the arena. With the only option of being wise after the event left to the authorities, it looks like Minhaz will almost definitely be subject to some disciplinary

action. When play resumed, Chittagong were hit hard by Sylhet skipper Faruque, who took two wickets off successive balls to finish with figures of three for 28. Athar bagged two for 36 while Aminul had a haul of two for 25 as Chittagong managed 182 for nine from 40 overs. The second semifinal between Dhaka University and Bangladesh Biman will begin today at the same venue with each side scheduled to get a ration of eighty overs.

Sabatini falls to Majoli HILTON HEAD ISLAND, Mar 31: Gabriela Sabatini and Zina Garrison-Jackson became the latest upset victims at the Family Circle Magazine Cup, reports AP. Sabatini, the fourth seed, lost 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 to Croatian-born Iva Majoli in the second round Wednesday.

Sampras made to sweat OSAKA, Mar 31: Top-seeded Pete Sampras Thursday needed two tie-breaks before advancing into the quarterfinals of the 6,500,000 Salem open tennis championships, reports AP. Fourth-seeded Lendl was eliminated by Lionel Roux of France in the other second round match.

Stich's plight continues SUN CITY, Mar 31: World number two Michael Stich suffered a shock defeat by England's Mark Petchey in the first round of the South African Open on Wednesday.

Southampton on Monday. Elsewhere this weekend, Leeds host Newcastle in the Good Friday match. On Saturday, it's Chelsea vs Southampton, Coventry vs Wimbledon, Norwich vs Tottenham, Oldham vs Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday vs Everton and West Ham vs Ipswich. On Monday, it's Aston Villa vs Norwich, Ipswich vs Coventry, Newcastle vs Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers vs Leeds, Tottenham vs West Ham and Wimbledon vs Liverpool. In Division One, Crystal Palace seem a sure bet to return to the Premier League with a lead of six points over Nottingham Forest and 12 points over Leicester. As many as 13 other teams harbor hopes of grabbing either the second automatic promotion berth or one of the four playoff spots. One of the big games this weekend features sixth-place Tranmere at 11th-place Wolverhampton, where former England manager Graham Taylor make his home debut with his new club. The focus in Scotland will again be on Glasgow, where Rangers hosts last year's runners-up Aberdeen. Aberdeen is five points behind the five-time defending champions, and one point behind second-place Motherwell.

Lodhi clinches United Insurance IM meet title

Sports Reporter Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi proved the local chess pundits right as the Pakistani International Master clinched the United Insurance IM tournament title, beating Bangladesh's Sayefuddin Lavlu in his eleventh and final round match at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday. Ziaur Rahman, one of the three IMs to have taken part in the eleven-round meet, finished his campaign with a win over Indian Pritan Singh, raising his overall collection to nine points — half a point less than Lodhi's — and was placed second. Three players — Reefat Bin Sattar, the third IM of the meet, Indian Subhrajat Saha and Kalimullah Khan — were locked at seven and a half points on completion of their respective matches. Reefat, with a progressive score of 49 points in the tie-breaker, earned the third slot ahead of Saha, who managed 46.5 progressive points — only half a point more than Kalimullah. The sixth and seventh places were also decided through tie-breaker after Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Indian Paritosh rounded off their campaign with seven points each. Paritosh, who scored 45.5 progressive points in the tie-breaker, edged Tahmid out for the sixth place. Lodhi, the bouncy pathan awaiting a norm that would earn him the coveted Grandmaster status, will be richer for Taka 20,000 while Zia gets the runners-up purse worth Taka 14,000. Reefat, Saha and Kalimullah will each have Taka 6,666 to their names. The prize-giving ceremony will be held at the NSC conference room today with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain as chief guest.



International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi contemplates his next move against Sayefuddin Lavlu in his final round match of the United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday. The Pakistani IM beat Lavlu on his way to clinching the title. — Star photo

MU, Blackburn share malaise

LONDON, Mar 31: Perhaps both Manchester United and Blackburn are getting a case of championship nerves. The team that overcomes it in time for Saturday's showdown at Ewood Park can claim the momentum in the chase for the Premier league title, reports AP. Blackburn, who over three months had patiently whittled United's 16-point lead down to three, were all set to move into a first-place tie with the defending champions Tuesday night. Instead, Kenny Dalglish's team had one of its worst nights of the season, allowing three goals in the final 15 minutes to lose 4-1 at Wimbledon. Dalglish was at a loss to explain what happened. United, everyone's favourite to become the first team to sweep the league championship, League Cup and Football Association Cup in one season, fell at the first hurdle Sunday when they lost the League Cup final 3-1 to Aston Villa at Wembley Stadium. Suddenly, the once-invincible Reds looked vulnerable. Villa played a tenacious mid-field defence that never let United find their rhythm. Liverpool tried to copy Villa's tactics in a league game Wednesday, placing five men

in midfield at a rain-soaked Old Trafford. United won 1-0 to push their lead over Blackburn back to six points, but it was not a convincing performance. The nerves found in the championship chase are just as prevalent, if not more so, in the battle to avoid relegation. Last-place Swindon have shown improvement since their disastrous start, including holding Manchester United to a 2-2 draw earlier this month, but the Robins still have only four victories on the season and need to beat both Arsenal on the road Saturday and Sheffield Wednesday at home Monday to have any realistic hopes of staying in the Premier League. The other team in the relegation zone, Manchester City, host Aston Villa Saturday before a key game at 19th-place

Southampton on Monday. Elsewhere this weekend, Leeds host Newcastle in the Good Friday match. On Saturday, it's Chelsea vs Southampton, Coventry vs Wimbledon, Norwich vs Tottenham, Oldham vs Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday vs Everton and West Ham vs Ipswich. On Monday, it's Aston Villa vs Norwich, Ipswich vs Coventry, Newcastle vs Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers vs Leeds, Tottenham vs West Ham and Wimbledon vs Liverpool. In Division One, Crystal Palace seem a sure bet to return to the Premier League with a lead of six points over Nottingham Forest and 12 points over Leicester. As many as 13 other teams harbor hopes of grabbing either the second automatic promotion berth or one of the four playoff spots. One of the big games this weekend features sixth-place Tranmere at 11th-place Wolverhampton, where former England manager Graham Taylor make his home debut with his new club. The focus in Scotland will again be on Glasgow, where Rangers hosts last year's runners-up Aberdeen. Aberdeen is five points behind the five-time defending champions, and one point behind second-place Motherwell.

Magazine

The Hollowness of Human Beings

by Fayza Haq

preoccupied with the predicament of our times which she has tried to present in tangible terms. Laila believes that modern man is in a state where he feels that he is in a speeding train, alienated from the others around him. It is difficult for us to understand the subtleties and nuances of people, she feels. They suffer from a spiritual barrenness and that is why I have used two dimensional weightless figures, lacking in colour and appearing like cut-outs, the artist elaborates. In "Les Fleurs du Mal" the artist has depicted women as beautiful but spiritually barren. Three grey women are done in black lines. There are lines be-

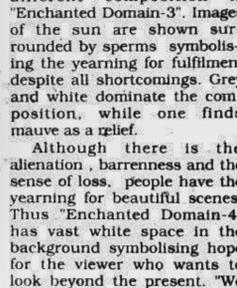


Two Women: lithograph 1991 (left), Love: woodcut 1991 (above), Four Persons-2: lithograph (below)

they are losing their individuality. The flat green and beige colours denote the lack of feelings of the people today. The characters appear to be avoiding each other and have not even a smile to spare. The effect is a combination of a sketch and doodling. Four figures are seen standing sideways instead of facing each other in "Four Persons-2". "People exist close to each other but do not communicate with each other," the artist comments. The faces have no expression because the people have no feelings. Primitive forms and basic white and grey are used in "Enchanted Domain-1". One can see human figures combined with birds, moon(s) and clouds in the etching. The same theme is presented in a different composition in "Enchanted Domain-3". Images of the sun are shown surrounded by sperms symbolising the yearning for fulfillment despite all shortcomings. Grey and white dominate the composition, while one finds mauve as a relief. Although there is the alienation, barrenness and the sense of loss, people have the yearning for beautiful scenes. Thus "Enchanted Domain-4" has vast white space in the background symbolising hope for the viewer who wants to look beyond the present. "We are yearning in the midst of a

semi-abstract form with doodles for eyes and nose. The elements put on the collage are everyday items but they have been assimilated in a manner that the final effect is unusual. A photograph, with a background of black is found in "Enchanted Domain-6". Ferns, leaves, flowers and fish bones have been scattered to give the impression of a face. The suggested face has cascading hair to enhance its beauty. Despite the fact that the objects in the composition are scattered yet there is harmony in the final composition. All the objects in the composition are taken from reality yet they have a decisive ethereal effect. Yet another creation of "The Enchanted Domain" is inspired by Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" and Eliot's "Hollow Men". The Theatre of the Absurd is a third source of motivation for the artist. Three hollow sketched faces are combined with brown and gold dots. The individuals are lost in a jungle of people — suggested in the backdrop — with no idea of their identity. Yet there is a ray of hope. "If dreams were not there despite the crises in our lives we would surely have resorted to suicide," the artist comments. A pair of lovers is seen in the woodcut "Love-2". The figures are shown close together, yet they have an element of unhappiness. There is the crescent moon and a veranda outlined at the back, while purple and blue dominate the backdrop bringing in gloom rather than romance. Two figures are seen in the lithograph "Human Relations". Pink, brown and white go into the distorted faces and figures. Both the figures have vacant looks and there is no element of warmth for each other, although the two apparently live together. This portrays the sense of loss and meaninglessness in life. The spindly figures, evoking the isolation of the individual, as seen elsewhere in all Laila's work, remind one of Giacometti's attenuated figures. Through the artist's study of figures she has tried to bring the sense of loss, pain, isolation, pangs of loneliness, traumas and barrenness of decaying bourgeoisie sentiments. In her vision and style come subtly vibrant the constant rush of the industrial and mechanical existence of the nineties.

crisis," the artist comments. Gold-dust has been used in the collage to usher the element of hope. One finds a collage of broken and crushed bangles, strings from a bird's nest, burnt wax and embossed paper in "The Enchanted Domain-5". Three faces can be seen in



Two Women: lithograph 1991 (left), Love: woodcut 1991 (above), Four Persons-2: lithograph (below)

Literateurs in South Asia

Continued from Page 8 by the litterateurs. There are some fine pieces of works done by our poets depicting and glorifying popular movements of South Africa, India, Palestine, Vietnam and so forth. We are not aware of a good poem or a novel that narrates the plight of the people in Kashmir or Jaffna or Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Government of India's claim that "Kashmir is an inseparable part of India" is echoed in the same manner by almost all in India's literary arena. We do not hear a dissenting voice within the majority community about the growing militarism and consequent genocide in the villages of the valley in the name of national integration and state security. Similarly, the persecution of the Tamils in Jaffna and other parts of the island territory have found little space in

ular nation states" and are not willing to risk their position by inviting antagonism with the State policy. The State policy in South Asia is common across the region. It is divisive. Often it preaches covert and overt communalism and protects fundamentalist forces. It creates all sorts of obstructions and barriers so that the people within the region cannot interact with one another. Living in a South Asian metropolis, it is safe to chant slogan against violation of human rights in Bosnia or east Timor, but not so easy to raise voice for the people of Kashmir or Jaffna. The author is a cultural activist and social worker. The above is from her paper presented at the South Asian seminar on 'Understanding Root Causes of Religious Fundamentalism' jointly organised by the Network Culture and the Asian Cultural Forum on Development in Kathmandu 18-21 March.

the literary works of the majority community in Sri Lanka. In 1971, three million innocent people in Bangladesh were killed and ten million more were forced to seek refuge in India in one of the largest genocides in human history. How many pieces of literary works have been devoted to this issue in Pakistan in the subsequent years? Some of the finest poems, plays and novels of our time in Bangladesh are based on the inspiration and the struggle of 1971. When more than thirty thousand indigenous Chakma people of Chittagong Hill Tracts left their ancestral home and went to India as refugees in the eighties, not a single verse was written on their plight. Litterateurs are not state-neutral. There may be some exceptions. But largely they are "law-abiding citizens of partic-

The 'Big Challenge' Seen from Outside

by Arjuna

When Sheikh Mohammad Kalim Uddin's grandfather lay dying, he could not leave any material inheritance. For the old man, a primary school-teacher, was poor. Instead he left his grandson with a request and a hope. My will is, become a primary schoolteacher. It will give you peace and keep you honest," he said. Kalimuddin, as he is known, is proudly fulfilling the wishes of his grandfather. Now 40, he started his career as an assistant teacher 17 years ago. Currently he is an Assistant Thana Education Officer, the lowest officer in the hierarchy of the country's primary education system. Yet he has made himself known for his dedication to the schools and families in his thana, or district.

Without extra resources, Kalimuddin has brought about a number of innovations. He holds periodic workshops for about 20 teachers of six to seven schools. Members of the school's managing committee, guardians' representatives and local members of teachers' associations also take part in these workshops. They discuss the problems of the schools and figure out solutions when they can; those that cannot be tackled locally are sent to a higher level. Kalimuddin believes children should leave primary schools with the skills and attitudes necessary to earn an income or assist their parents in their professions. He wants to explore the potential of starting horticulture projects, garment shops and poultry projects in schools. Understanding the profound poverty of most students' lives, he wants to give something useful to the children when they complete school. To this end he has started cooperative shops and savings projects in two schools. He is confident that starting next year the schools will be in a position to offer 500 Taka (or about US \$12.50) to each student leaving school. A short man with a long beard, Kalimuddin is always on the move. His working territory, the small township of Saidpur, is densely populated, centered around a railway station and a workshop. Anybody who needs him looks for his dilapidated motorbike or follows the trail of 'vat-vat' noise it makes; it's easy to catch up with because the old bike does not run fast. It's common to see the motorbike parked in the lanes of Saidpur, and no doubt Kalimuddin is inside the house, talking with a parent or guardian. His 18-hour days are already legendary. — Depthnews Asia

We are a poor nation," he says. "Primary education should prepare a child with all basic things for life." We must send back every child to his family with education, attitude and with skill prepared for his struggle in life. What matters most to Kalimuddin is how prepared the country is to face the 'big challenge' of educating all the children. He strongly believes that the country can bring 95 per cent of school-age children into the classroom by the year 2000 and can retain them for five years. But the learning must be enjoyable and lively. As of 1990, the literacy rate for adult Bangladeshis, or those aged 15 and above, was only 35.3 per cent. Statistics compiled by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) showed that the country's adult illiterates totalled 43.6 million. In 1990, Bangladesh had 6.6 million primary school-age children who were not enrolled. The annual dropouts from the primary grades num-