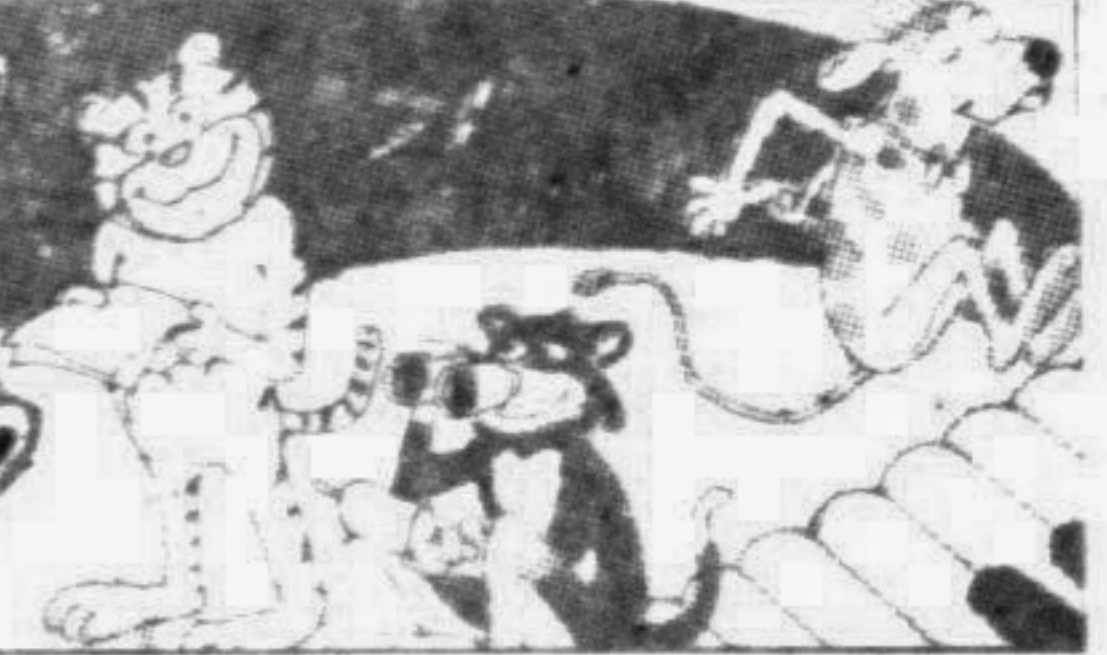


RISING STARS



WHAT, according to you could be the different types of relationships between a male and a female? You must be thinking of the bond between husband and wife, father and daughter, brother, and sister, uncle and niece, lovers, mother and son etc. etc. But one thing that never comes to your mind is 'friends'.

Yes, I know you're frowning in dubiety right now thinking if that is at all possible! Why not? Can't they involve themselves in this sweet relationship excepting those mentioned above or is it that you don't like it, without some not spices in it? As soon as you finish reading this article (if it doesn't kill your interest in the mid-way) you would probably jump on to the conclusion that the writer of this trash is a spoilt brat and must be having sooo many male friends or 'boyfriends' as you may like calling it.

God knows what other nonsense your creative mind will spin. But please, when you say 'boyfriend', you miss out the beautiful part of it — friend, then comes their sex. If you still have your doubts about what 'friends' mean then I advise you to look up the dictionary. I don't expect this article of mine to change your attitude as I believe certain things never do, but at least next time you start suspecting your child and take actions, think twice.

Being a teenager and especially an inferior teenager, I've had to face enormous accusations. Not only did strangers, but even the 'good ol' pals' didn't hesitate to call me by names I'd hate to call my enemies. People who themselves fail to look at their opposite sex without 'Cupid pupils' are the ones who can't believe that a boy and a girl can remain just as friends for life-time. You feel this way because you can subtract neither love nor sex

from such relationship. Hence, when my neighbour calls me up to know how I'm doing, you'll smell a rat. When a boy helps me with my studies, you'll smell a rat. If a boy on the street helps me to pick up the shopping bags that I may carelessly drop, you'll smell a rat. Well, let your nose go wild and continue smelling!

When I noticed people disliking or rather not believing in such friendship I went on a survey to investigate what they really think is

Just Friends

by Trishna

what?

But if not lovers, they are ought to be brother and sister. There are rare cases when a couple turns out to be really friends. I don't believe that anything of that sort exists. Even if it does,

any chance they do, then I can be sure that they're definitely up to something. I didn't ask why she put her daughters and son in different kinds of schools, as the reason seemed too obvious. Then I tested the 'Head of



These addas are really the beginning of a life long friendship; yet many fail to recognize. Photo A K M Mohsin

wrong with free mixing. I started with a mother of two daughters and a boy. She said, "free mixing is not accepted in our society and I think this thing does not belong to our Bangladeshi culture. When we see a boy and a girl together, the first thing that comes to our mind is that they are lovers and in most cases we think right. (How does she know?) Does she go up to them and ask or

then only for a short period. Ultimately, friendship between old friends end up in a love affair. Since she's the mother of two daughters and a son, I questioned if her children have friends different of sex. She exclaimed with a grin, my son does, as he's in a coed school but my daughters have studied in 'all girls' school throughout, so I see no way of how they can mix with boys and even if by

the house' — a father of two free sons. I don't mind free mixing until my kids don't cross a certain limit, he said. Then he continued, "when a boy and a girl is older and if they really aren't having an affair, then they should not appear so in the eyes of this society (as society sees too much and hears nothing). If they're friends, then they should keep such a distance among themselves. I have no

objections about my sons mixing with girls. But what if he was cursed with a daughter? Would he act the similar way? Well, it really wouldn't be any different until and unless she was not mixing with the wrong kind of boys. Now, by wrong kind of boys, I mean the fast and spoilt boys of today who had probably been given birth just to run the life of the untainted ones." Well, his said did carry some points, though I couldn't assent to everything that he said. But in any case, I wasn't expecting him to speak my mind.

I asked this twenty-two year old, what he thinks of free mixing, he courageously answered, "I don't think there's anything wrong or absurd with it. Nowadays, people shouldn't (if only they had enough sense to understand what they should and what they shouldn't) even give a second glance to a group of boys and girls. There are numerous co-education schools seeing girls accompanied by boys most of the time (since protection is essential) where is the problem? True, that mostly close friends get involved in love affairs, its a pretty common thing here, but again, its not always the case. I think they should be given a break. Its because of these narrow-minded people that we have to imitate a girl's voice or make our sisters call up the houses of our female friends.

All these people are teaching us to what we do its considered a crime and surprisingly by the ones who were once our age and had surely been upto the similar mischief, society can't help being querulous. This young man has an elder and a younger sister and he claimed that he's not really over-possessive about them and gives them the liberty to lead their lives the way they want to. The nineteen year old girl,

whom I next questioned is an unfortunate sister of two elder brothers. "Strongest thing about me is that I go to a coed college but when I mention a boy's name or receive a call from them, it seems as if I commit a crime each time. My parents become suspicious, and my brothers start snooping instantly. I've been taught or rather it has been hammered in my brains that they are just my classmates and nothing more, I'm to know them when I'm in college and as soon as I step out of the college gate, I must forget about them.

The saddest part is both my brothers have uncountable female friends about whom my parents even know. That somehow doesn't seem to be a problem to them." Then she sighed and continued, "not only does my family behave this way but so does the neighbours. The guys around behave worse. First, they bug you, then they ask you out and after your refusal, they chase your reputation my mother comes to know about my affair which even I don't know of, my brothers find out letters which were never written nor received and what not! I guess its these males who have given free-mixing such a dirty name unnecessarily. Now if I talk to a male friend over the telephone, I have to lie and say its a girl, 'she says.

But what can you do? Just after you finish reading this, you'll throw away this newspaper and pick up your extension to find out if your daughter's really been talking to her female friend, while you were reading this article.

If you're right about your suspicion you'll probably ground her for a month or beat her till she's half dead or use any other harsh way to punish her punish.

BTV...What BTV?

by Syed Shafat Zaman

MOST of the people do not watch BTV nowadays. When they hear this unfortunate word, the expression which forms on their faces is quite obvious. The most common sound they utter when this irresistible word hits their ear drums is YACK or FALTU. But every cloud has a silver lining. There are good sides and bad sides of everything. It seems most of us know about the latter but have we ever thought about the good sides? Well, I tried my best to figure out some ways in which BTV can be utilized.....

Utility I:
Mr Shahed was very busy shaving. He had only ten minutes to dress, take tea and go to his client's house. He had just dressed up when the door bell rang. He answered the door and found his old, retired neighbour Mr Faisal. He had come twice before for chatting but Mr Shahed was not at home in both cases. And this time Mr Shahed did not have the heart to tell him that he just can't talk to him now. So he let Mr Faisal in and offered his own cup of tea. While Mr Faisal was talking about politics, Mr Shahed was just nodding his head and thinking of a way to get rid of him. Suddenly he remembered his faithful friend BTV. He turned on the TV and as usual a boring programme was going on. Mr Shahed closed his eyes and waited for a couple of minutes. He opened his eyes only to find his living room empty. BTV had done it again! It had successfully got rid of undesired guests.

Utility II:
In the Hemayetpur Mental Hospital, many patients require shock treatment. Most of them think that their lives are useless and boring. So the doctors derived a new way of treatment. They now make the patients watch BTV for at least one hour every evening. The patients realize that their lives are not so boring as they had thought before. Now they know that there are can be more dull and uninteresting things in this world.



Utility III:
Russel had no choice. He had to go to the doctor. He had been three months and still he did not have a sound, peaceful sleep for even a single night. He had tried every medicine in his house and the nearby drug store but nothing helped. The doctor asked what his problem was. After he had finished telling that he was suffering from insomnia, the doctor asked him to wait for ten minutes in the next room. The room had only one chair placed below the ceiling fan and a television in front of it. A nurse told him to sit in the chair and turned on the TV. The nurse left and Russel had nothing to do but watch BTV. After watching only for five minutes his eyes became heavy and he fell asleep. So BTV, nowadays, is very much admired by the doctors dealing with insomnia.

Utility IV:
A few days ago the Director General of BTV received a letter from the Ripper. The letter stated that the hell had run out of fuel. So he thought that he could contact BTV and buy some of the video cassettes to show to the guests there. He also believed that the guests would enjoy watching programmes of BTV as much as they enjoy being made human kebabs in the fire. The DG was very quick in replying and now a big contract has been signed between BTV and hell. In this way BTV is bringing in a lot of foreign exchanges for the country.
So, I think, those of you who wished to go to heaven will change your mind and visit hell instead just to watch BTV!

Practise, Yet So Slow

by Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky

JUST after four months a sporting fiasco is going to take place in the port city of Madras. Yes, I am talking about SAF games, a game which all the citizens of South Asia are enthusiastic about.

Everybody has high hopes for their respective team and athletes. As we know the wheel of time runs by itself. It doesn't wait for anyone, nor listen to any body's command. It goes on and on. If we go back, it will seem to us only yesterday the SAF games has ended, but by this time two years have past, and will again start with seven nations participating in it.

The nations which will participate are — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal. Everybody in this meet will try to do better than the last encounter. But for Bangladesh it's a different story. The football team which became sixth out of six countries didn't even start their practise camp. The authorities knowing the time constraint is not working accordingly. Everybody in the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) seems reluctant, it seems that they don't even know when the games will start and still if they know they give many excuses.

In the 7th SAF games Bangladesh will take part in all the fourteen events, and out of them how many gold they will bring home is everybody's guess. In the previous SAF games, Bangladesh got 11 gold medals altogether. First time they got 2, second time 9, third time 3, fourth time 1 and fifth time they won 4 gold medals. For the SAF games, Bangladesh started practising in many various events, now let us see how many athletes are practising and how much money are allotted for them

Athletics — From the 2nd of April, 25 men and 18 women started practising under a Bangladeshi coach. On the 31st and 1st of September the final selection will be made. For Athletics the government allocated 10 lakh 40 thousand Taka.

Swimming — 18 men and 12 women already started practising under one Chinese and 2 Bangladeshi coaches. The government has allocated for this sport 6 lakh 70 thousand Taka.

Shooting — 37 women altogether, already started their practise in the Gulshan shooting complex. For shooting the government has allocated highest sum of money that is 13 lakh 2 thousand 8 hundred Taka.

Judo — 46 male and female, from the month of May have already started the practise for this.

Tennis — 14 male, Tennis players started practising under a Bangladeshi coach. There are no female players. The Government has allocated 5 lakh Taka.

Table Tennis — In January with 32 players the practise camp has already started. The government, for this sport has allocated 3 lakh 40 thousand Taka.

Hockey — In the month of July taking 70 players the practise camp have already started. They are practising in the synthetic turf of BKSP. The government has allocated for this sport 13 lakh taka.

Football — This sport gave us the most horrendous shock. A German coach has been called. He will come in the month of September. The government has given for this sport 6 lakh 51 thousand Taka.

Boxing — The 24 men who are taking part in this event has already started practising from December. The government has allocated 9 lakh Taka.

Weight lifting — From 22nd February 10 participants started their practise for the SAF games. The government has allocated for this sport 3 lakh 10 thousand Taka.

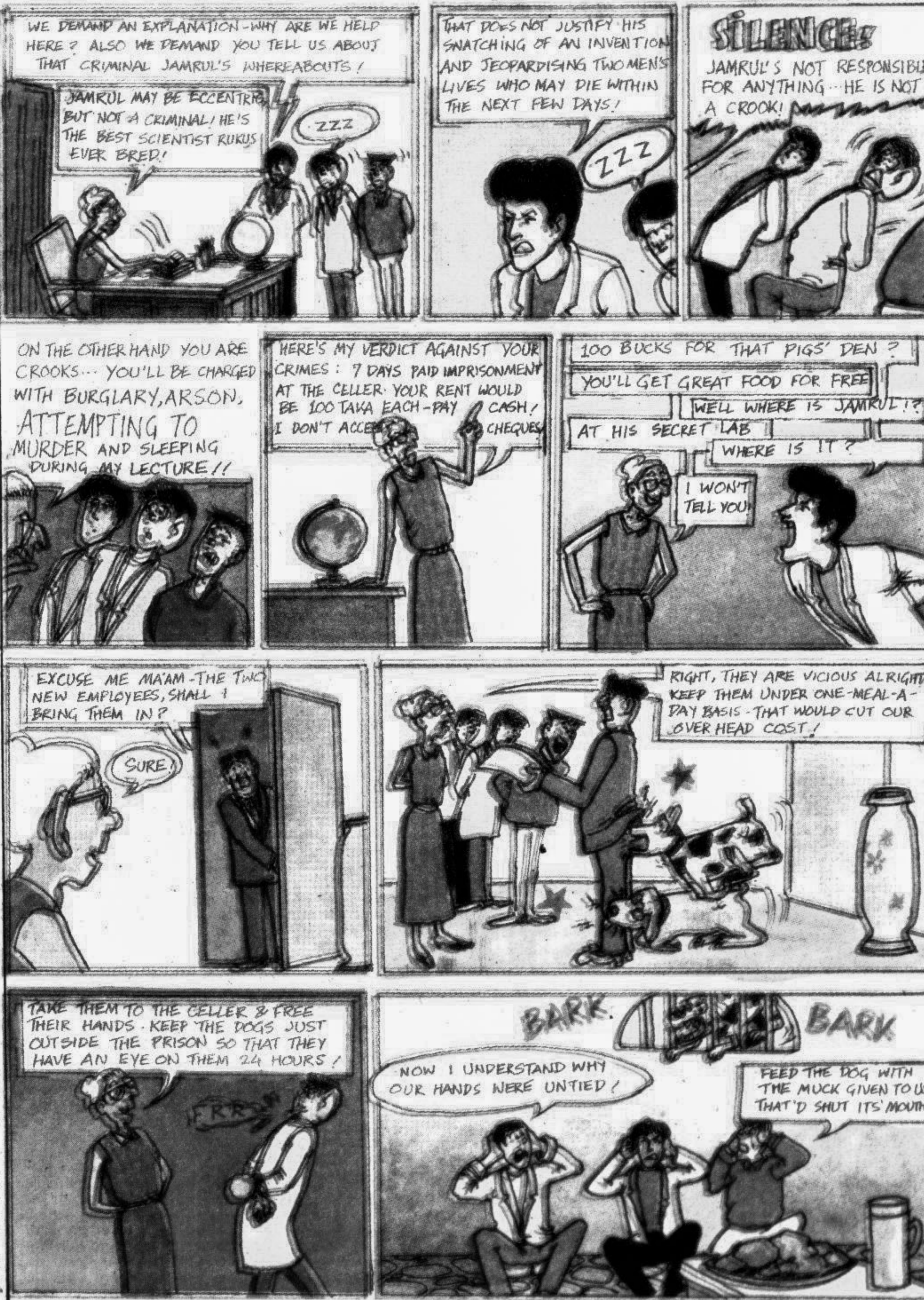
Wrestling — Taking 16 athletes the practise for these strong youths have already started. The government has allocated for this sport 5 lakh 85 thousand Taka.

Volleyball — From 15th June 18 players started practising in Dhanmondi gymnasium. This time only the male team will go. The government has allocated for this sport 8 lakh 30 thousand Taka.

Kabadi — 18 strong men under the guidance of a Bangladeshi coach has already started practising. For this sport the government has allocated 8 lakh 20 thousand Taka. In my opinion the players and athletes should practise more harder.

The Missing Machine

by Sharier



The Moving Clouds

by Tarannum Laila

NILA looked up at the guy clouds in the sky. She thought that the clouds were so careful, moving around from place to place like the way they wished. Now, Nila could not do anything she wished. She had a rigid and harsh way of life. Being an eighteen year old girl in a city like Dhaka was not easy for her.

She was average in every possible way. She was not exactly glamorous and thus could not be a model. She was never considered a beauty because of her complexion, and that made her parents worry all the more.

Nila's life could be gualsed as a simple B. She was not exactly the class genius and so, she could not dream of getting a scholarship. She was just like the grade B. Unremarkable, good for nothing.

Nila wished she could do something. She had always depended on friends but due to the 'extinction' of that species 'friend' nobody ever really helped her. Nila's parents always worried about her and thought of her in a negativer way. They were not proud of their daughter. Nila though oneday "I must change my life. I must make the best of my life even if I have to do it alone. I must go out somewhere, where I can build myself." With her new found belief and determina-

tion, Nila strove to do her best.

Nila Choudhury enrolled in a private university. After four years of shar hard work and determination, Nila faced the world. "Yes," thought Nila, "I have done it. I have changed my life, even though it is a minute change. I have developed myself for the better" a month or two later she saw an ad for a job in the newspaper. It was in an Australian firm in Dhaka.

A week later, Nila was interviewed for that job by the board members of the firm. Nila came out of the firm with the great feeling that she would get the job. After a month, Nila Choudhury joined the firm as a junior executive. She began to work read hard as she knew she had to reach the top of the ladder.

Two years later, Nila Choudhury boarded the plane to Sydney. She was promoted to the post of the Chief Executive, due to her integrity and quality. The chief executive's office was in the head office of the firm, which was in Sydney. Nila stepped down from the plane in a land unknown to her. But then she looked at the beautiful blue sky in Sydney. "Why?" thought Nila. "Why does the sky with its clouds look so beautiful, so promising?"