

# RISING STARS



## Revenge for Revenge

by Sharier Khan

IMRAN felt a chill run down his spine. The infamous four was standing at the corner of the alley as usual. Jhuna is wearing a dog's belt around his neck and a sunglasses so dark that he could not see anything in the dim evening light. The winter is still four months away, but he is wearing the black leather jacket which he forcibly took from Imran last winter. Schizophrenic Tuhin stands beside him with a broken heavy chain around his neck. His parents used to lock him with the chain until one day, Tuhin locked their parents with the remaining of the chain. He had this khur in his hand as usual. Rabbi, the punk, was smoking a cigar. He had freshly shaved his head and wore his sister's earrings, a torn coat without sleeves, half

As Imran came close to the gang, Tuhin leaned to his face and sniffed. "Uh Uh, your mouth stinks." He drew out a toothpaste from his pocket, actually he knew about your bad breath problem that's why we brought this toothpaste to wash your mouth." "Whoa..." skinny Imran tried to run away but 'bully' Jhuna stood in his way. "Come on friend, why make your mouth

"How can we improve our IQ then?" Botts queried, seriously. The three others of the gang stared at Botts coldly. "Shut up! or we will make you eat the hockey stick." "Do it if you dare," Imran shouted.

half of the tobacco from each stick. Meticulously, he separated the "ammunition" from the heads of nearly 50 match sticks and inserted those inside the cigarettes along with the tobacco he had earlier pressed out. The cigarettes now look innocent, but they are ready to flare up. But this is merely one percent of his plan to bring down the enemy.

with a hockey stick in the alley in front of Kuddus' tea shop... I think you will find him there." "Botts? Who is Botts? Oh I see, my son? He plays hockey. Good. O.K. I am on my way. Let me take some musullis from the mosque to teach Jhuna a lesson." Botts' father rushed to the nearby mosque.

rounded. Botts took the lead. He raised the hockey stick and went closer to the victim. "Gimme all ya have..." and gave a hard puff. BAM! the cigarette flared up. "Orey babal" Botts jumped. In the flame of the cigarette, he saw the face of a very angry victim — his father. "Orey haramjada... tu mugging koroshi!" his father roared.



pants and wooden kharans. Finally there was Botts. He is just a 'spoon' of the gang. He looks like a Negro, and wears a magenta shirt and chrome yellow pants and sponge sandals. He had the hockey stick with him but he is ready to run for life if anybody raises voice. Botts is only a title, his original name has long been forgotten. Imran was scared of them because he had campaigned against the infamous four in the area. He called for collective resistance against mugging, gambling, terrorism of this gang.

stink by talking foul? Here, open your mouth, we will wash it." Imran's mouth was forcibly opened and he had to swallow the whole 70-gm toothpaste. It was a nauseating experience. "Is we bad?" Rabbi inquired in his bad English and released a thick cloud of smoke putting his cigar, on Imran's face, and "No no," choked Imran with the toothpaste in his mouth, "I don't have many friends to treat me to a toothpaste party. But honestly, the paste lacked salt."

"You are trying to strain our relationship, huh?" Jhuna pulled Imran's collar. Botts hit his legs with the stick. Tuhin poured some dust in his mouth and Rabbi dropped ash on his hair. "Is you ever gonna talk foul regarding us?" Rabbi screamed. "One clue about our Rabbi, he loves the English language but has no command over it, yet he talks... and others tolerate."

The Jhuna gang was sitting on the floor. There were cards and taka all around. There were two bottles of Phensidyl as well. The hockey stick of Botts, the khur of Tuhin, the dagger of Jhuna... all were there.

Jhuna's house is just a few yards away. His father, a retired police officer was walk-

ing in the lawn. "Uncle, uncle... do you know Jhuna is in trouble? I saw him being chased by Botts, Tuhin and Rabbi."

Now, let us stop thinking of politics for once and concentrate on cricket for a while. First time in the history of the World Cup cricket this year, 12 teams are participating in the tournament, nine Test playing nations and three babies UAE, Holland and Kenya. Just imagine if we had qualified in the last ICC tournament we would have been performing now, unfortunately we have miserably failed and are paying the price.

"My Prediction and Favouritism" by Shahed Latif

England. New Zealand is a team I believe can never win the World Cup. They started the tournament with tremendous enthusiasm but they seem to fuse after winning some matches.

First let us look at the Sri Lankans. They are also one of the favourites and likely to win the World Cup or pose a serious threat. The sport pundits are terming Lanka as a potential champion because they have performed quite consistently over the years and deserve to win the Cup.

What really matters is how well you perform in the world cup and win. I am not undermining the ability of the Sri Lankan players; they are extremely exciting to watch especially their flamboyant opener Romesh Kaluwitharana.

Now, let's talk about the current world Champions Pakistan. All I can say is that every year is not '92! No doubt that Pakistan is a very strong team and they had good players. One thing needs to be mentioned here though, that they were luckier that year and you cannot be lucky twice! Pakistan is a very strong force and they have some tremendous records in both Test and one-day matches, both at home and abroad.

### Quiz Club

NOT down the correct answers, send them by the usual deadline (in this case: Thursday 7th March, 1996) and win away the Quiz Club Prize. Simple as that!

- In the Wills World Cup Cricket, the match between Pakistan and Holland ended with Wasim taking — wickets.
- Who won the WWF Royal Rumble '96?
- Who is the writer of the book, 'Midnight's children'?
- In Homer's 'The Odyssey', Telemachus was —
- Who is the Prime Minister of Great Britain?
- Name a woman, noble laureate, pro-democracy leader, who comes from South East Asia.
- Who is the US Congressman recently visited Bangladesh?
- After a staggering nine-month Liberation War, the instrument of surrender was finally signed at —
- On Sunday, last week, two bombs exploded in Israel killing — men.
- Arwar Hossain Manju was arrested on —
- What is the full form of LA?
- What are isomers?
- What is E.P.E?
- Tripain acts on — of Armenia
- Yerevan is the — of Armenia
- Before he could circumnavigate, Magellan was killed in —
- In which year Charles and Diana got married?
- German Army officer, Erwin Rommel, committed suicide in the year —
- What is the state language of Venezuela?

Answers

- Zaire
- 631m/28250 ft
- 163.2 m
- 36.6%
- Japan
- 1912
- 6690 km/4160 mi
- A box designed to maintain constant internal temperature.
- Kinetic energy
- Repeated stress above a certain critical value.
- An electron ejected from an atom by a fast moving ionizing particle.
- 9th-11th century Scandinavian warriors
- St Petersburg
- George Washington
- 1988
- Jane Seymour
- Pierce Brosnan
- International Monetary Fund
- Paris, France
- 23%

Australia, at present is the hot favourites and the most well balanced team in this world cup. They have the experienced Mark Taylor as their captain who seems to be doing quite well with his job. Australia has some good batsman like Mark Taylor and Michael L. Hevan who seems to be doing their job quite well by scoring good runs for the first wicket. It is vital for the opening batsman to score so that the middle order can score without the extra pressure and the lower order score, if needed. And that is what Australia is doing at present. All the players know what they have to do to win. They don't rely on one specific player but all of them play well and are thus so well balanced.

England is a good team, they have some good players who can win the cup for the team. They have reached the final three times out of the six world cup but their fire seems to go off when it really matters, and I seriously do not think England can win the world cup this time. But who knows if Mike Atherton's team plays well there maybe a very thin chance.

South Africa are unquestionably at present a superb team. They have a ferocious hunger to win and they have some players who can turn the tables around all the other teams. The Cup might just go to them. Even though they were isolated from international sports for all those years, they performed extremely well in the last world cup and I think they were robbed from that could have been a superb victory over

India have a very good batting line-up from number one to eight. They have the talent of their captain Azharuddin, the coolness of Navjot Singh Sidhu, Ajay Jadeja the all round ability of Manoj Prabhakar, the flamboyant batting of Vinod Kamble and Sachin Tendulkar. And considering all these very good players, we can say that if they play up to their standard and perform well then they might win the World Cup. Obviously most people would differ from my predictions and will be angry with my favouritism but hey that is the way I feel!

As far as the three new teams, Kenya, UAE and Holland, are concerned I think Kenya is the best and in the next World Cup we have to look at them as a probable challenger, who is capable of upsetting the champions. As far as UAE is concerned they might win the cup some time in the next 100 years but that is still a dilemma. Holland, I don't know anything about their cricket and this is the first time I came to know they play cricket, but I guess we will see their bats flashing against UAE, Zimbabwe and Kenya. However, they are not a dangerous opponent.

Let us now look at the three teams of our subcontinent India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. 'Singer Cup' held in Sharjah defeating West Indies and current champions, Pakistan. That same year if we go back to April we will remember that they played the 'Sharjah Cup' where India and Pakistan also participated. We very well remember what happened: India won the Cup beating them quite comfortably, in the final and breaking their jinx of not winning the Sharjah Cup for ten long years. Just winning one tournament does not make you a world championship challenger; but yes, a contender of course. We saw how they performed against Australia in the tests and the one day matches, and of course it does not matter whether you lose consistently for four years.



## Scouting in the Family

by Shehriyar Rahman

I was born on the 22nd of February, the joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, and came to Dhaka with my parents a few days before my first birthday. From the family album, I find that my first birthday was celebrated in Scout uniform, a present from my grandmother, Mrs. Siddiqua Taufiq, a Girls Scout (called a Girl Guide in Bangladesh). At that time, she was rendering voluntary service as a Guide Commissioner.

My first public appearance with my grandmother as a toddler was on the 22nd of February celebrations, called 'Thinking Day' by the Girl Guides and 'Founder's Day' by the Boy Scouts. I gradually started growing up in a Scout and guiding environment.

I vaguely remember my grandparents participating in Scouting events in their uniform. My best memory, in fact, is seeing my grandmother in a white and green sari which I guess was her uniform, and my grandfather in a khaki uniform with a bright green scarf. Generally when they were in uniform, they were probably heading to a national or an international event that was either at home or abroad.

My grandfather, Group Captain Taufiq Khan, a Scout himself with the distinction of being a leader and organiser at national events, also frequently represented Bangladesh Scouts at international events and conferences. He is still involved in Scouting in an advisory status with the Boy Scouts of Bangladesh. My grandparents are not the only Scouts in my family.

My mother and my uncle were also involved as an adult member, since membership is open to all ages. She is one person who I will always remember who sent off and took back bags of soiled clothing that came with a son who was exhausted from camping and hiking, and she always has them ready from the next time.

My grandparents love Scouting from the core of their hearts and they try to get themselves involved in Scouting as much as possible. They believe that every family should have at least one member who is a Scout. They believe that this is vital because Scouting helps develop character and offers the country people who are worthy of being called patriots because they usually are dedicated people striving for the good of one another.

I myself am a Scout. But there is one difference. All the Scouts in my family have been involved in Scouting in Bangladesh, I am the exception. I am a member of the Boy Scouts of America at the American International School of Dhaka, the Scouting branch that is based on America. Our activities are very much the same.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was founded by William D. Boyce on the 8th of February, 1910. It was not founded in the same manner that Lord Baden Powell had founded his Scouts. The World Boy Scout Movement was founded by Baden Powell (BP) to help British boys grow up to become fine young men. The same was with Mr. Boyce except inspired by the British Boy Scout. The story of how he was inspired is often called 'The Story Of A Good Turn.'

It starts when Mr Boyce was visiting London in 1909; when he got lost in the dense fog which was usual. As he stopped below a street light to find out where he was, a boy approached him and asked Mr. Boyce if he needed any



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help. Mr Boyce responded by saying that he was looking for a business office in the city.

The unknown boy showed him the way and when Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket to reward the young man, the boy refused to accept saying that he was a Scout. He then proceeded to explain what a Scout was to Mr. Boyce, who by this time had become quite interested in such a group. After he finished his task, Boyce had the Scout take him to a British Scouting office.

In the office, Boyce met BP and they talked for a while. At the end, the impressed Mr. Boyce took Scouting with him when he went back to America. Thus on Feb 8th, 1910, Mr Boyce and a number of other people officially founded Scouting in America and the story of the unknown Scout and his good deed became legend in the legacy of the Boy Scouts.

Scouting at the American International School (AIS/Dhaka) is both similar and different to the other Scout in the world. What is different is that our school is an international school, meaning that the students are from different countries. Thus the BSA at AIS/D is an international group that belongs to the Direct Service Council of the BSA. The organisation of the troop is somewhat similar to other troops in the world. A troop consists of two or more Patrols which are the core of any Scout organisation.

The troop is headed by a Scoutmaster or Scoutmasters (SM). The Senior Patrol Leader's (SPL) duty is to be the liaison between the troop and SM. The SPL is also helped by another fellow Scout who is called the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). The skills that are taught are decided by the Leadership Core which consists of the Scoutmasters, SPL, ASPL and the Patrol Leaders.

The troop is further divided into smaller groups which are called patrols and each patrol has its own distinct name. Each patrol has patrol leader and an assistant who are in charge of the boys in patrol.

The activities planned by the leaders try to work both ways. They are planned in such a manner so that the boys can have fun as well as learn something. When a boy first joins Scouting, he is taught the necessary skills of Scouting. As all other Scout, the BSA also has a list of requirements that are necessary to complete so that the Scout can advance in rank.

There are six ranks. There are six ranks in total. They are Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout, Life Scout and finally the Eagle Scout which is the highest rank in the BSA. What do we do? We go around camping and learning many skills that are fun. We stay in school. We go to Mouchak, Rajendrapur, Savar and various other places. In short, the Boy Scout of America will go anywhere. Some of the activities that we learn involve merit badges. A merit badge is a badge that one earns after he has learnt specific skills and has demonstrated that he knows them. Merit Badges are not easy to earn! Other activities include learning first aid, cooking for camp and other activities that are essential to Scouting.

Being sixteen now and looking back, I find that Scouting has been unique for men in many ways. I started of being exposed as a small child to the Boy Scout of Bangladesh and I end up as being a Boy Scout of America! My grandparents are very proud of me in the way that I have grasped Scouting. And I hope that the Scouting tradition will continue in my family.