

TEENS and TWENTIES

The Night Sky

By M Amin and Syed Ashraf Uddin

HIS month the sky is full with the dense star cloud of Summer Milky Way. On a clear night and from a dark site you can trace a white band of light that starts at south in Sagittarius Scorpius region and goes upto north crossing the Cygnus. Use a binocular and see how dense the heaven is.

Let's recognize the principle constellation shown in the chart. To match with the sky hold their chart above your head with east with right hand and west with left hand. Follow this instruction when you are looking toward north. While looking toward south hold east with left hand and west with right hand.

At the northern sky a group of seven bright stars arranged like a big question mark will catch your sight. This is a part of constellation Ursa Major — the Big dipper. Four stars out of seven at the western side make the dipper and the rest three make the handle of dipper. Advance with the lower arm of the dipper and you will reach a 2nd magnitude star. It is Polaris — the north pole star. Polaris with other six stars make the asterism little dipper — a part of constellation Ursa Minor. East of Ursa Minor the Draco is dominating the sky.

Go back to Big dipper and advance with the length of it's handle five times. You will reach a very bright reddish star up the sky. This is Arcturus — 5th brightest star of entire sky. With other few stars it makes a "P" shaped structure and this is called constellation Bootes. A hunter is imagined by this constellation who went out hunting for bear (Great bear and Lesser bear) with his two hunting dogs. These two dogs represent the constellation "Canes Venatici" that lies a little south-west of Ursa Major. This constellation holds a famous spiral galaxy "MSI" — the Whirlpool galaxy. A small telescope will show its spiral structure. To the south of "Canes Venatici" a group of stars will be found and they look like a loose open cluster. This is constellation "Coma Berenices".

At your zenith you will get a group of stars arranged like a semi-circle. This structure is known as the constellation Corona Borealis — the northern crown.

Go to western sky and there some constellations are preparing to settle down. The zodiacal constellation "Leo" is

at there and covers most of the western sky. "Regulus" is the star of Leo's crest and the whole structure is easily recognizable.

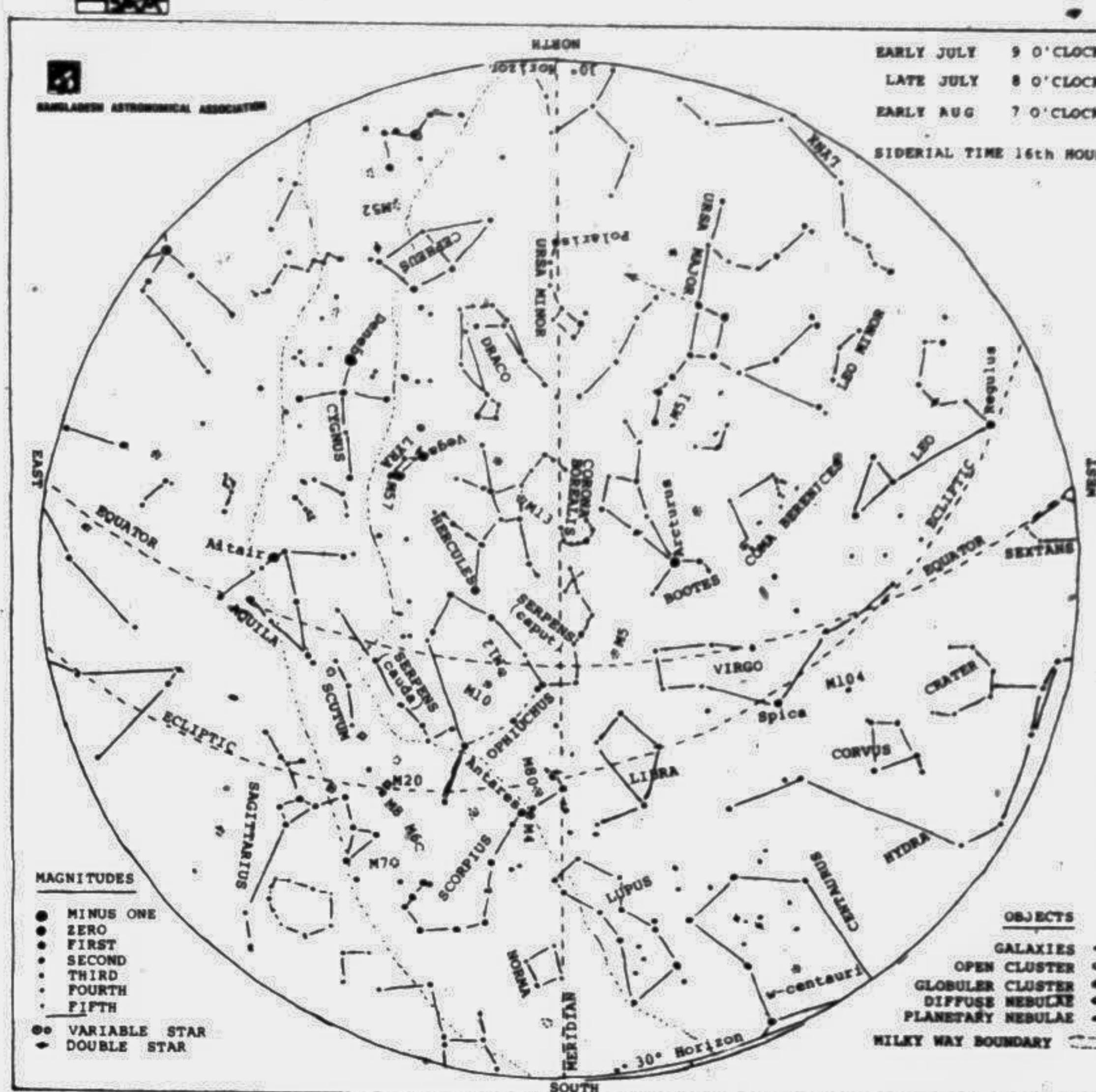
famous globular cluster "M13" lies here and is one of the easy target for binoculars.

North east of Hercules a bright blue star shines with

At north-eastern sky a constellation is rising. Soon you will find a bright star there as night sets in. This is Deneb and the rising constellation is

Part-II

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Let's check the condition of eastern sky where new constellations are rising. East of Corona Borealis is the great constellation "Hercules" that looks like a man who is standing with his head downward. A

huge brilliance. This is "Vega" — the 4th brightest star of the sky. Just south of this star you will find four stars in short area and they form a parallelogram. Vega and these stars make the constellation "Lyra".

"Cygnus". The Cygnus — the swan is swimming across the Milky way. At due east the constellation Aquila — the eagle can be found. Its brightest star Altair can be found easily. Altair, Vega and Deneb make a

triangle in the sky and called summer triangle. At the horizon of north-east sky some stars of constellation "Pegasus" may be found.

The treasures are at the southern sky. Sagittarius and Scorpius are dominating the southern sky. They will cross the meridian in the night time. Both the constellations are easily recognizable and Scorpius really looks like a Scorpion. It's brightest star Antares — which is a red giant is the only brightest star on that part of sky. Sagittarius — the Archer is also interesting but it's "Tea pot" asterism is known to many people. The richest part of our Milky way galaxy lies between those constellations. Many interesting deep sky objects are here for your star gazing.

Just west of Scorpius, there are the centaurus alpha and beta centauri. These two stars of this constellation are placed at lower sky. They are the 3rd and the 10th brightest of stars of the sky respectively.

High up in the southern sky the constellations "Ophiuchus" and "Serpens" can be found. In Greek Mythology Ophiuchus represents the doctor Asclepius who tried to save the life of Orion when he was bitten by a Scorpion. Between Ophiuchus and Sagittarius a small constellation "Scutum" is situated. A dense star cloud can be seen here using a binocular. "Aquarius" and "Capricornus" are also rising at east and south-east sky.

At south western sky the biggest constellation Hydra is setting down. It's tall is remaining and over it the "corvus" and "Crater" constellations are placed. Above "Corvus" a bright star can be found. That is Spica — the brightest star of "Virgo" — the virgin. At the foot of Virgo lies the constellation "Libra" — the balance. "Virgo" represents the Goddess of Justice "Astraea" who has gone up the sky striking the balance of justice as the people on earth became cruel.

Now what about your planets. Venus is at the morning sky. The only evening naked eye planet is "Jupiter". Roams in Sagittarius — just north east of its tea pot asterism. The "Saturn" will come at midnight. If you got a binocular or small telescope you can observe the Jupiter's four Galilean moons.

This is all about your star gazing for this month. Wise you clear sky and good observation.

Courtesy: Bangladesh Astronomical Association.

Another Dimension

by Md Kabiruddin

there for the night. I made my way up the shaky stairs to the bedroom. I closed the door behind me; walked to the window and booked out. Below was a garden filled with tins and cans and the whole area was a jungle of tall weeds. Thirty minutes passed away

travelling through space to the time when I wasn't born.

Then I found myself in a world completely different.

I could see myself in a large comfortable car. It pulled up in front of a wooden porch, a woman emerged from a path on its far side. It was the same

edge through the pocket inside the jacket, then buttoned the jacket so that the knife could not be seen.

I joined her and pointed to a church a little further off. Few minutes later we reached the place. It was a very old church.

I still don't understand why you brought me here she said grumbling. Without replying I took out the knife from my pocket and stabbed her on the back. She screamed with pain and turned around. This time I thrust the sharp edge of the knife into her chest. Blood spurted out. She fell with a thud I dragged her body inside the old, isolated church and buried it there. "Stop it... stop it!" I shouted then there was another bright flash. Millions and millions of light beam started radiating from every direction, sweeping through me, carrying me with them. I was the centre, around which the light particles were orbiting like small planets. I started passing through a tunnel of clouds, there were thunder and lightning so intense that it penetrated into every cells in my brain, making me blind-stopping me from seeing anything and trying to retain the secret of their mysterious world. Then I saw the face of the woman in front of me.

"What evil trick are you playing on me?" I shouted.... "who are you?" "Don't you remember me... I'm your wife. I have waited a long time for her revenge and that time has come....."



and I began to feel that I was wasting time.

But suddenly the room became ice cold and I felt I would freeze to death. At that time the door opened with creaking sound and there before me was standing the most beautiful woman I'd ever seen in my whole life. I stood there bewitched staring at her. I just couldn't take my eyes away. There was so much light in the room. Everything was blank. I couldn't see anything but her. No walls, no beds nothing — just complete blankness, as if we were floating in space. It is all a dream I tried to convince myself. I'll wake up and find myself in bed. But something inside told me that it was real. Then I found myself going back. Going back where? I don't know. It was hard for me to believe but it was happening. I was going another dimension. I was

woman I had seen few minutes ago. I went inside the house holding her hands. The furniture in the room looked good, all made of solid oak. Then there was a flash. Everything went blank. Then the vision came again. I was driving that car and was running through a valley. The woman was beside me. Then we began to cross the far side of the ride there were narrow valleys and we began to approach the coast. The scenery was picturesque. A little way beyond it I pulled up. As I was about to climb out she said huskily "why did we stop here... aren't we supposed to go to that restaurant on the beach".

Yes, but I want to show you something. I said.

Before getting out I took a knife from the gloves compartment and pushed its sharp

The Rose

by Asrarul Islam Chowdhury

In three maroon rose petals I saw
The joy of laughter and the sorrow of pain.

The first had many things to say

For she could not blossom

As there was too much rain

And unfortunately, as the saga goes, the lad turned her

down

For being not hers, but on another's crown.

The second lies in the heart of a dazzling damsel

For she is the happiest as she has everything in the

game.

And the last, alas the saddest of the three

was on the grave of an obsessed man

Left by the lass who was never meant to be

And when she awoke and saw what she was to him

She had no choice, for all the hope had died

And melted away in the vast loneliness of time.

And the rose she stands there even today

In the midst of the stream of darkness and light

Showering her love and hatred....

Our school was famous for its path-shala-type looks and high standard of teaching, during those days. Did we have some wet days then? I can still remember those harsh days when rain came through the roofs and we used to get automatic off-periods. Now, the school-building says hello to the Empire States Building! It's simply huge and is gradually turning into "Fort Education" with nearly 20-feet high walls surrounding it!

The teachers have always been nice to me (with a couple of exceptions) and have helped me in every way they could. I especially like our always-smiling (beaming when she sees me) Ms. Tape-recorder (she has a habit of repeating the same thing on and on when she's annoyed with anyone) although, she isn't liked by too many. We have a Ms. Pedrotalagala whose classes are always really colorful (!@#%). I could go on forever if I went on to write our class conversations about our teachers in detail but, I won't. But, I certainly must mention "The teacher with the nupur". She could be heard from five classes away

from school just to trim his hair! I'll miss my small number of "fans" at school and out, the twins — M & T, the boy whose nose I smashed in my previous school ("I'm sorry, I didn't mean it"), "Manchu" whom I must thank for something, and also the big, simple "Fardous" who believes everything that is said to him.

As I pack up my bags and head for my new but temporary home, I appeal to the leaders of our country: they must unite and for once, forget their differences and take "progressive" steps to make this country a better and "secure" place to live in. Because, I do not want anymore Yasmin rape and murder incidents happening. I do not ever want to see my best friend being beaten ruthlessly by mafsaads for speaking justice while, the police stand a few yards away staring, watching him struggle helplessly. It Has Got To Stop. Now!

I'm fortunate enough to leave a country trying to emerge from a grave political crisis and at least hope to return to a Sonar Bangla one. As for my first school friend, he wasn't as fortunate. The last time I saw him, he was working at his father's stationery shop at school smiling.

It's time for me to leave now. Leave my friends, my loved ones, my huge circle of relatives and Dhaka. I'll miss Bangladesh, my friends and my relatives a lot. And who knows, I may even miss Dhaka's noise and pollution!

Goodbye Bangladesh! See you in three years!

Friends, Relatives and Dhaka - I'll Miss Them All

by Arshad Hussain Shad

It all seems like yesterday when I entered my 3rd grade classroom — a dark, gloomy classroom with over 50 students packed in it, on a cold January morning of 1989. I can still feel the hostile atmosphere that prevailed over my arrival — everyone glaring at me as if I had come from another planet. They asked me questions like, "Werent you promoted?" All except, the boy I was seated next to — he sat smiling at me and said, "Hi, my name's Omar Farukh. What's yours? Isn't it a coincidence that our roll numbers happen to be 54 and 55 and we sit next to each other?"

Omar Farukh looked much older than I did. It took me another year to figure out why, when he didn't pass along with us. For that one year he was my only classmate who could be called a "friend". I remember that he once forbade me to call my parents Ma Baba! Why? Well, he had his own beliefs and I can tell you, I didn't like them a bit. Anyway, that was the beginning of my Bangla-Medium schooling in Bangladesh. My parents had earlier put me in a very well known English-Medium school and then had second thoughts about me learning more about European history and culture rather than Bangladeshi history and culture!

It didn't take me long to realize that during exams there were a considerable number of students working away tuklifying or in other words copying, others' exam papers and as I was the innocent newcomer, my new friend found me quite an easy customer to tuklify off. Anyway, I became popular with my classmates pretty soon and by the next year I had made a good number of friends. Meanwhile, my smiling friend had left school.

Throughout the last eight and a half years I have seen, read and heard a lot. I've seen the victory of democracy over autocracy but what followed it was terrorism and the enormous "decline" in our "Law and Order" situation. Living on the DU campus, I've been stuck at school during crossfires between rival groups. I've seen the corpse of a student leader in front of our apartment as a 12-year-old; his head had a hole bullet-made, brains and blood spilling out.

I'll miss Ms Einstein, for whom Romeo once had and probably still does have a crush on. The sweet but sometimes terrifying Ms Steffi Graf (she has a lot of similarity with the real one) is someone I'll also find hard to forget. I shouldn't forget to mention the members of her terribly noisy and talkative gang and certainly not, Ms Chatterbox with fish-like eyes and Chachi, who'd tear me apart if I didn't.

There is something I don't understand — Why do they have to call me Arshad? Can't they find something more sophisticated? Anyway, then comes the small, irritating Serajuddoula who seems to be rather annoyed when I talk to Steffi. He doesn't have to be anymore. And of course, last but not the least, I'll miss that lovely girl, whom I first met in grade VI. I'll always remember the time when bitter rivals became friends, very good ones and will have a lot of happy memories with her. I'll remember a "silly" friend who threatened me for talking to her once. I thank him — At that time, I was only talking to her, he made me talk even more. I have one regret though, that is, I will never be able to know who my mysterious caller really was but, I must thank her for giving me company when I needed it and also something else for which I will be ever grateful to her.

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HAVE YOU GOT RID OF THE BOIL IN YOUR BOTTOM?

