at 68," she recalls. What really pickled her young mind at that time was that she stood second with her entry in the exhibition that followed. It was during the exhibition that she met Zahirul Haque, the photo editor of Janakantho. "He said if you really think you would like to pursue a career in photography you can join the Janakantho," she remembers.

But Godhuli did not follow suit. It was not until she met Haque a month later that she realised the prospect that lied ahead of her. On the insistence of Haque she kept visiting his Janakantho office. It was during one such visit that the editor of the paper confronted her. "He asked me to join Janakantho, and I did. Though at the onset my parents were skeptical about my future in photojournalism, I pressed on," she says.

"I was young and I resorted to all sorts of crafts -- from crying to even going without food for days on end," she remembers. After she received the parental nod things went her way. Now, she recalls how supportive her parents were throughout the years of her ascent to fame. She left the print media only to pursue her education. After obtaining an Honours degree in political science from National University she entered into a short course on reporting and editing. She thought she would turn to reporting and joined the Dailly Sangbad in 1999. But her temperament made her think twice.

"The feel was not right. The excitement of taking photographs didn't match the charm of writing reports," she now exclaims. After a two year stint she left reporting for good. She went on to complete her Masters and once she was back she was sure of herself and the pen was replaced by the camera forever. Her subsequent jobs -- one at Channel i for one month and the other at DRIK for eight months -- made her realise that her destiny was sealed with the camera.

She got married in December, 2001. And her husband, who is also a photojournalist, joined the AFP's Pakistan Bureau in 2003. His visits back home were few and far between. He has been supportive to the extent that once when Godhuli was hesitating to go abroad on a professional trip, which would have meant that he would not see her upon coming back home from Pakistan, he insisted that her professional duty take precedence.

Godhuli joined the AFP on September 2003. She turned her talent to good account by becoming a photographer for this international organisation.

She is considered something of an oddity among her fellow photojournalists who are mostly men. It is also for her dusky skin that she stands out in a crowd. She feels that for any woman it is the acceptance by the male counterparts that counts in the end; and the rest lies with the person who must have determination and confidence to make it through the highs and lows.

Strategic thinking

Chess

PLANNING is the most vital component of the cerebral warfare. It is so important that masters have gone to the extent of saying that it's better to have a poor plan than having no plan at all.

Planning is known as formulation of a strategy for the game as a whole. Of course, adjustments have to be made from time to time, as the opponent may not be that obliging as to play according to your plan! But still it's necessary to set goals. In fact, strategic manoeuvring is an area where a master has a clear edge over an amateur. It is a complex thing as the term itself suggests. The opening phase of the game is usually played according to the book; masters and beginners might look like doing almost the same thing as the game moves along at great speed. But there is a difference between the player who has memorised everything and the master who understands the nuances of a particular variation. The beginner finds himself in totally unfamiliar terrain as soon as he steps out of the book, while the master knows how to handle the position.

But strategic play cannot win a game by itself. A time will come when the battle will assume a tactical character. There will be a direct fight in which the better placed pieces are likely to have the upper hand. Tactical play can be brilliant as the attacker might unleash something spectacular like a series of sacrifices leading to checkmate. Yet, chess teachers are known to be more interested in a player's ability to think strategically. Tactical play is treated as the logical outcome of superior manoeuvring which any good player should be able to conduct smoothly. That said , there are players who seem to relish only tactical complications and they , too , are doing well. That points to the inexhaustible nature of the game. Chess can be played in many ways, surprising though it may sound!

Today, after a long "adjournment", I have chosen a game played by Wilhem Steinitz , the first official world champion.

White- Wilhem Steinitz
Black -A Mongredien [B01]
Congress, London 1862



Position after 16.Rxh7!

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.00 00 8.Be3 b6 9.Ne5 Bb7 10.f4 Nbd7 11.Qe2 Nd5? 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Rf3 f5 14.Rh3 g6 15.g4 fxg4 16.Rxh7!Nxe5 17.fxe5 Kxh7 18.Qxg4 Rg8 19.Qh5+ Kg7 20.Qh6+ Kf7 21.Qh7+ Ke6 22.Qh3+ Kf7 23.Rf1+ Ke8 24.Qe6 Rg7 25.Bg5 Qd7 26.Bxg6+ Rxg6 27.Qxg6+ Kd8 28.Rf8+ Qe8 29.Qxe8# 1-0

-PATZER