The man who drives a bus from Dhaka to Chittagong with responsibility, may not be good at writing a novel. The fishermen who risk their lives in the deep sea may never have sat behind a wheel. The farmer who tills the soil was never seen a sitar.

It is important that we discover our potentialities as early as possible. It is more important that we do not try climbing up the wrong tree. If I am not good at acting, I should give it up. If I cannot sing, let me not use other means to land half-an-hour on television. If I cannot excel at school, let me not brood that I am useless. I am not. None of us are. We all have different abilities; in some it is only more hidden than in others. But, then who said that diamonds grew on trees?

Discovering the faculties of children is often the task of the parent, the teacher and the elders. It will



Maria Sharapova



Shakib Al-Hasan

then be the concern of the adult to guide the child along his gifted strengths, and by no means push the child in to dark rooms with the hope that the light will light up eventually.

Some of us understand our limitations in our mid-teens. The teenager left alone to hone his or her aptitude is the most fortunate, and potentially the most likely to succeed.

If we can accept, for example, that world cup footballers and cricketers, thanks to television, are a different breed, and be content with enjoying their prowess over snacks and drinks, why is it so difficult for us to understand that not all of us can be No 1? Otherwise the unique number loses its meaning.

Our individual task is to ascertain in what field or areas we are each better than those whom we know and think are better than us. The night sky will not look bleak any more, for each of us shall be twinkling along with the stars that we come to admire. You never know, they could become your fan too. ■