

## MARCHING TO BE MARTYRS

These new recruits train barefoot and bare-chested in the cold of Tehran. Within weeks, they will be called to the front in the four-and-a-half-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, and if they get their wish, they will die. They are members of the Basiji (Popular Mobilization) volunteers, a group made up mostly of Iranian students between the ages of 16 and 20. These fanatically religious young Muslims, eager for martyrdom, often are asked to serve as human land-mine detectors for the Iranian Army's ground forces.

