

ARISING STARS

Ekushey February — A Festival or A Day of Mourning

by Rabeth Khan

WE the youngsters have been given the idea of Ekushey February as a day, when we remember the lives lost in the purpose of establishing our language.

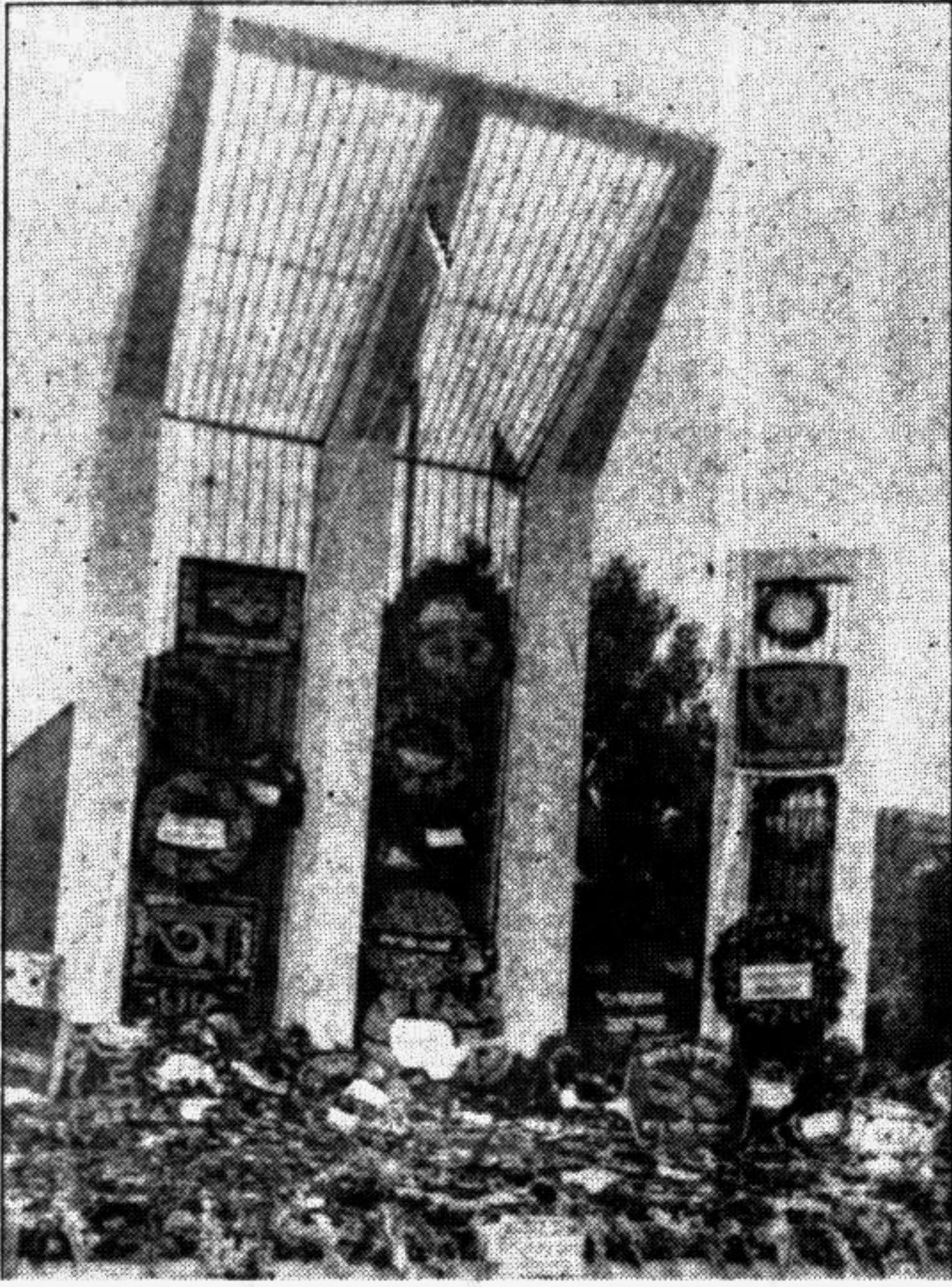
But nowadays, the way we are celebrating this day, might lead the younger generation into great confusion. Even I myself gave it a second thought.

A few days back specifically on the 21st February, I went to the month long ongoing Ekushey February book fair. I entered the book fair with great expectations. But what I saw passed my expectations. People were celebrating in such a way, that Ekushey February was nothing more than a pre-Eid festival.

The atmosphere was one of the happiest I have ever seen. People were wearing fashionable dresses of all kinds as if they were participating in a fashion show, hit songs of different bands, Hindi films were in full volume overshadowing the more-or-less inaudible popular songs commemorating Ekushey February.

When I tried to depart from the book fair through the adjoining park, as the exit was a bit far away, I stopped in my tracks. The part was full of people adorned in party-going dresses. Specially every tree-shades were occupied by young lovers. The day were like post-valentine celebration for them.

Another incident that struck my mind was that,



when I saw two young ladies busy with their cosmetics box, as if their to-be-husbands were coming to meet them. If this is what Ekushey February is all about, then we recommend that, it shouldn't be a government holiday. It is now a day of

rest for the office-going people, a chance for the women race to show off their elegance by dressing lavishly and a day of pure entertainment for youngsters and young couples.

It is true that a lot of people sacrifice their good-nights sleep for a visit to the *Shaheed Minar*, — the monument erected to show respect to the martyrs. But the number of people who go genuinely to show respect and gratefulness to the martyrs is very small most of them go for the sake of saying that, I went to *Shaheed Minar*.

As if they had to be given a special award for that and not realising that it is their duty to go to the *Shaheed Minar*. Even some people climb up the *Minar* and that shows how much respect they have for the people, who sacrificed their lives just to give a broad horizon of freedom. Alas, what have we given them in return? If this is what the elders are doing in presence of the rising youngsters, we doubt whether this remarkable day will be at all remembered, after next twenty years. One thing, which we could do, to spare more blushes, is that, we should stop celebrating *Ekushey February* and save the martyrs from more disrespect. We should only commemorate it when we have the right qualities of a human being. A day of mourning and a festival are far from each other and we should never mix them together.

Secrets of the stuntmen

"YOU rat," snarled the cowboy. "Nobody cheats me at cards and gets away with it."

Next second, a fist like a battering ram thudded against the crook's jaw. Gracefully, the crook took off and sailed backwards through the window of the Western saloon.

As he struck the window, it shattered with a tremendous crashing of glass. The crook continued in flight until he landed on an accurately placed mattress on the other side of the window.

Then he bounced to his feet with the agility of an athlete and brushed the "glass" from his clothes.

"Was that okay?" he said to a watching man. "Or shall we try it again?"

"It's okay," said the man. "That'll do."

A film was in the making, and the part of the crook was being enacted by a stunt man, a specially trained person who performs daring feats for films.

However, the feat was not as dangerous as it appeared. For the 'glass' in the window was actually made of a resin which is very brittle and shatters on impact without hurting the stunt man.

This is one of the effects created for films which belies the old saying that the camera cannot lie. For the camera can be made to show things which are apparently impossible.

For instance, you cannot smash a bottle over a man's head and expect him to get away without a scratch, unless the bottle is made of resin.

Neither can you expect an actor to rush through a battle-field enveloped in flames just because the author's script calls for such a dramatic death.

But such realism is necessary if a war film is to look authentic, so a stunt man is employed to do the job. However,

he takes every precaution possible to ensure that his life is not at risk.

One of these involves wearing a flame-proof suit under his outer clothing. It is made of asbestos or other non-burning material. When the equipment includes a face mask fed by

These effects are made by a machine called an optical printer. It consists of a projector which projects a film, frame by frame, into the lens of a camera. The two are synchronised to run together.

Some optical printers are only used for making copies of

Wipes are made by moving an angled mask across the final 48 frames of a shot. The parts of the negative hidden by the mask remain unexposed.

The film is then turned back 48 frames and the unexposed parts of the film are then exposed by the reverse movement of the mask, or wiper. Thus, one scene appears to be wiped off to make room for another.

To give actors the funny, jerky motion seen in comedy films, the optical printers camera is set so that it records every second or third frame of the film. This makes the actors seem to race across the screen.

For slow motion, each frame could be printed twice or, to freeze the action, copied many times to give the effect of a still photograph.

Another incredible effect films create is that of over-copied gravity. To walk up a wall is the sort of thing we may have thought of doing but knew was impossible.

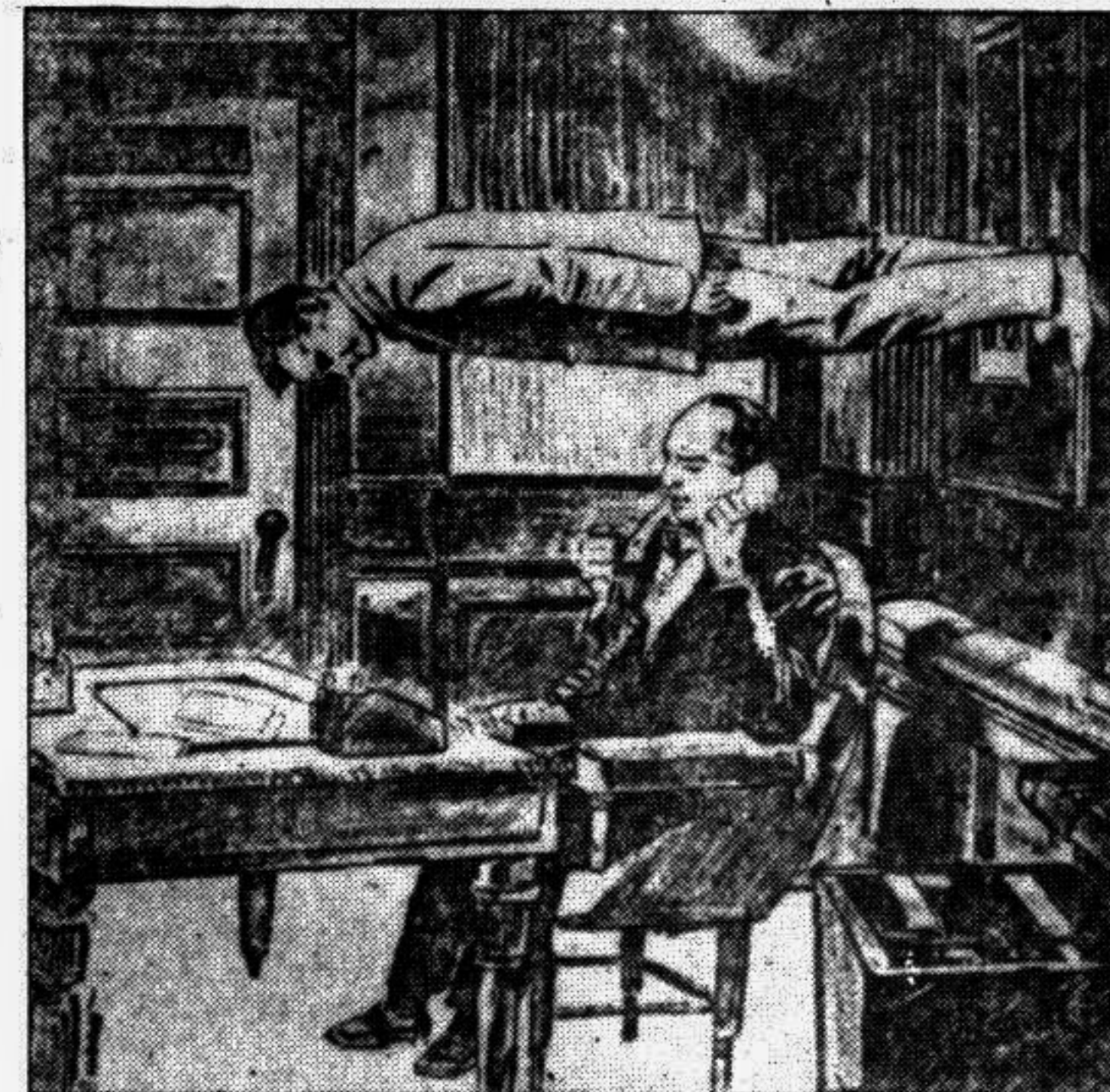
For films, however, nothing is impossible. The film set is built on its side, so that the man on the wall is really standing on the floor, and the man at the desk is the one fighting gravity. The table, chair and even his shoes are screwed to the wall.

By putting the camera on its side, the illusion of a gravity-defying wall-walker is created.

Seeing such a thing may make your spine tingle, but what must really give you the shivers is the sight of an eerie, misty churchyard with strange figures flitting about in the gloom, and an owl screeching on the top of the gnarled old tree.

Scared? Of course you are. But calm your fears. The mist is being made by a machine blowing out frozen carbon dioxide and vaporised oil!

Courtesy — Young Times



The man above is standing on the floor, not the wall, for the set and the camera have been turned on to their sides.

oxygen cylinders sewn into the suit's lining, the wearer can be covered in flames from head to foot and still emerge unscathed. Of course, firemen are standing by with extinguishers to douse the flames immediately the scene has been shot.

When you have been watching a film, have probably seen one scene fade into another, or appear to be wiped off the screen as if by a car's windshield wiper. You have also seen speeded-up action and slow motion.

But others can be used for obtaining various effects. Fades, for instance, are made by copying the film twice. One of these is done normally. For the second, the camera shutter is closed at the start of the fade and opened gradually for each successive frame. Fades-outs are made in the same way, but in reverse.

To have one scene fade into another is called a dissolve. It is made by printing a fade-in of the next shot over a fade-out of the former shot.

The Naughty Kids to the Rescue

by Mahjabeen Hassan

STEVE, Leslie and Dennis were the three naughty cousins. They were always upto mischief and had many adventures.

It was raining that day and they were getting bored. Steve and Dennis had come to Leslie's house to spend their holidays. As Aunt Sally, Leslie's mom, came in they all went to her and asked her permission to go out. But she firmly said no because they would catch cold if they

their favourite pies. Steve liked apple pie, Leslie liked blueberry pie and Dennis liked lemon meringue pie. She had baked all three and also made pancakes, doughnuts and pasta. At the breakfast table, Leslie asked Aunt Martha, what was the matter and why was she gloomy.

Aunt Martha told them the whole story in detail. "A few days back, I noticed many of my



went outside to play in the rain. Their faces became gloomy, and she decided to break the surprise. "Okay, Okay, no need to get long faces, your rich Aunt Martha invited all of you to go and spend your holiday at her place. The children were happy at once."

Aunt Martha lived with her maid Becky in a big old fashioned house which many said to be haunted. Although, the cousins were very naughty and were up to no good, Aunt Martha liked them very much as she had no children of her own because she had never married.

So, the next day they went to Rock Valley where Aunt Martha lived. It was a sunny day and not a cloud was to be seen. When they arrived they were surprised to see their dear old Aunt Martha's face gloomy. They were all used to seeing her happy and gay always. Anyway, as it was getting late, they went to bed.

The next morning a lovely breakfast awaited them. Aunt Martha's maid Becky had baked

precious antiques disappearing. And even the portrait your grandpa bought from the antique shop has disappeared. It's worth about a million dollars. Even the antique vase I bought at the auction from the Duke of Rotterdam's palace is gone. I am ruined!" with that Aunt Martha began to cry. Leslie went up to comfort her.

After breakfast Aunt Martha began knitting while Becky was busy washing the dishes and cleaning up the table. The children decided to take a walk in the garden. "I think Aunt Martha is in a desperate situation. She needs help," Leslie asked. "So, what are we going to do to help?" Then Dennis spoke up. "Let's think of a way and work out a plan." So they decided to explore the house that night after every one was asleep.

That night, in the darkness of night they began to explore. As they went from room to room they came to the playroom where Aunt Martha once played when she was a kid. Suddenly

they heard Leslie gasp. Steve and Dennis turned and came towards her. She had discovered a little passage behind the curtains. It had glass doors which led to wooden a staircase. They opened the door and crawled to the staircase. Dennis led the way. The steps were very wide. When he put his foot down on the fifth step a trap door opened. They stepped in. There they found Aunt Martha's lost valuables and a staircase which led to Aunt Martha's antique room. Someone had discovered this room.

Then Leslie showed every-one a window in a corner which led to the back garden. Suddenly they heard light footsteps and quickly hid behind an old cupboard. They saw two men crawl through the window and enter the room through the window which led to the back garden. But they had already sent Leslie to get help while they guarded the antiques. The two men were packing the valuables in some bags. Just then Dennis coughed. The two men became alert.

They searched the place and found the kids. Then the men asked how they had found the hidden room and when they related the story the thief's tied them with a piece of cord and stuffed their mouths with handkerchiefs. After packing all the valuables they decided to get away but were stopped by someone. It was the police. When they were asked how did they know about Aunt Martha's valuables, they said that they had read about it in a magazine where an article was published about the richest person in Rock Valley where Aunt Martha's interview was published.

Anyway the police took them away and Becky made the children some hot cocoa and fried them some hot pancakes. And in this way the naughty kids come to the rescue and saved the day!

Far Away

by Shamim Ahmed Shamu

You are far away from me. But not far from my dream. I don't know where you are. But of my dreams you are the only theme.

I don't know when you'll come back. But I'll spend my life waiting for you. One heart is only for one. And I've given it to my love.

A strange visitor

by Noomi Ahmad

IN December 1992 we moved into a new house. There, in our garden we planted many vegetables. We also planted beautiful flowers.

In the backyard we planted vegetables and in the frontyard we planted flowers. In our vegetable garden we planted tomato, lettuce, carrot and many kinds of beans.

One day when my sister and I were going to school, we came to see our vegetable garden. We were surprised to see a beautiful butterfly sitting on a leaf of a carrot plant. We rushed indoors to inform our parents.

Father said that he had seen a butterfly yesterday flying in our garden. We asked mother "Can we take a big cage and keep the butterfly there?"

"No!" said mother. "It will be bad once we keep a butterfly in a cage, no more butterfly will come to our house."

"Why?" said I. "Because if the butterfly flies away she will tell all butterflies not to come to our house."

"Okay, we will not put it in a cage."

Then we rushed to school. When we came home mother said she has a surprise for us today. Then mother said, "The butterfly you have seen was dead but it looked as if it was alive. Do you know what have I done? I have made a stand of Styrofoam, and I had placed the butterfly on the stand and I have covered it with a nice glass."

"Oh! mother your idea is perfect."

"Let us put the butterfly in our drawing room said mother."

"Okay" said my sister and I. When father came home we told him all about our plans and he agreed. Then we put the butterfly in our drawing room. And it still looks just as if it is alive.

Make Pollution a Thing of the Past

by Faraz Rahman

Pollution is the biggest problem from which almost all the countries of this Earth is suffering now a days. Everyday every moment we are polluting this Earth.

From millions of cars and factories sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen are released in the atmosphere which are resulting holes in the ozone layer.

Through these holes sun direct ray will come causing skin cancer and other diseases and it also will melt the ice bergs and in the next century a rise in sea-level, possibly between 0.3 and 1m will force people to flee from Maldives and some Pacific Atolls, and from fertile delta areas of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Burma, Pakistan, Nigeria and the Plata and Orinoco deltas in South America.

Cutting down trees are also harmful to our environment. Trees are helping us with two most important things man needs to live — oxygen and food. Trees are also helping us by taking a large amount of carbon dioxide which is very harmful to man and environ-

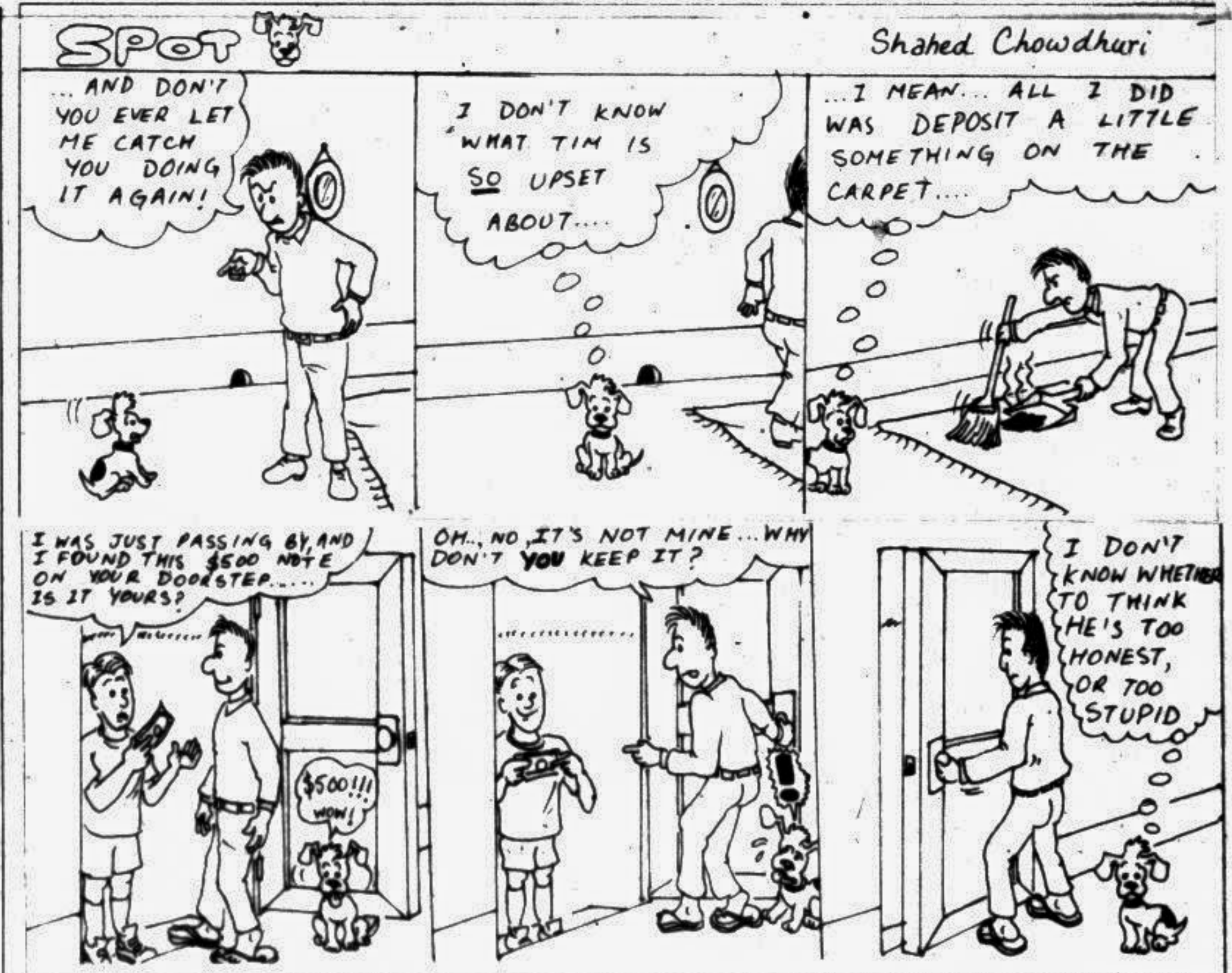
ment. Polythene is also polluting our environment. In Bangladesh nearly half a million used polythene bags are dumped in the Dhaka City everyday. Of this half a million, 80 per cent blocks the sewerage as they are thrown, because polythene does not decompose. Polythene bags should be fought with paper bags. We can use hard paper bags which will decompose if thrown away.

We are polluting the Earth as much as possible and are not thinking about the future. If it goes like this than our future is going to be — "once upon a time there was a planet known as Earth".....

So we, better start thinking about our future from now onwards and save this beautiful Earth and make pollution a thing of the past.

Any one who would like to help me and my friend to save the environment, are most welcome to contact at the address below:

Faraz Rahman, 343, Jafrabad, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh.



Pele — Bare Feet

by Gazala Yasmin Haque (Urmi)

THIS year, 1994 is the year of the World Cup. Some will win and some will lose. Brazil, Italy and Germany had the honour of winning the World Cup for three times.

Brazil was able to win the World Cup for three times only because of "Pele".

By the way, what does "Pele" mean? It means "bare feet". His actual name is "Edson Arantes Do Nascimento". He played in his first international match on the 7th of July, 1957. Brazil, at that time was playing against Argentina.

Pele was really scared at the thought of playing for the first time in an international match. Argentina's goalkeeper was very good at his job for nobody could get past the penalty line but the lanky Pele scored the first goal of his life in an international match. He was only 168cm tall at the 1958 World Cup held in Sweden. He was in the team as a substitute.

In the final they beat Sweden to win the World Cup for the first time and especially Pele was to be thanked for, for playing a major part in it. When he had gone to the VIP Stand with his other teammates to hear their national anthem Sweden's King, Gustav the sixth

shook hands with Pele and his other teammates. When the reporters later asked him how he had felt, in reply he said that it was the first that he had shook hands with any king and he said that he will remember that occasion for the rest of



his life. In the 7th World Cup held in Chile in 1962, Brazil was the defending champion and hot favourites to win the World Cup. Out of the eleven players who had taken part in the 1958

World Cup nine players were chosen to play in that World Cup and Pele was one of them.

In the first round Pele scored one goal against Mexico, in the second round against Czechoslovakia, Pele was sent out of the field and in the third round he helped Brazil to win against Spain. In the final they met face to face with their second round rival — Czechoslovakia. They were 1-1 during the first half of the game. In the second half Vava and Zito scored a goal each. In that World Cup, fifteen goals were scored for and five goals against Brazil.

Again Brazil, had the honour of winning the World Cup for the third time in 1970 in Mexico. In the first round, they won against Czechoslovakia 4-1, second round against England 1-0 and drew in the third round against Romania 3-3. In the quarterfinal, they won against Peru by two goals and in the semifinals, they won against Uruguay by two goals in Mexico City. In the final they played against Italy. The first and the last goals were scored by Pele.

Well, I wonder when will (Bangladesh) ever be able to qualify for the World Cup? Probably when we are dead! Well readers, that's all for now and hope to give you some more information about famous soccer players.