

Nation pays homage to Ekushey martyrs



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia placing wreaths at Shaheed Minar. — Star photo.



Awami League leaders. — Star photo.



Dhaka University VC. — Star photo.



Dhaka University Teachers' Association. — Star photo.



People at Shaheed Minar in the early hours of Ekushey February. — Star photo.



BNP leaders. — Star photo.



Jatiya Samannay Committee. — Star photo.



Sammilito Sangskritik Jote. — Star photo.



Sammilito Nari Samaj. — Star photo.



DCC Mayor. — Star photo.

National

UP chairman arrested

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 23: Bajitpur police and the army personnel in a joint drive arrested Md. Moinuddin, Chairman, Halimpur union parishad in Bajitpur thana recently.

He was picked up from his village home at Dhaliarchar on suspicion of possessing illegal arms, police sources said.

New office bearers of RU Press Club

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 23: The annual election of Rajshahi University Press Club was held here on February 8 last. Uttom Kumar Das of The Daily Ittefaq and Tareq Chowdhury of The Daily Star have jointly been elected president of the club as each of them got equal votes. Uttom Kumar Das and Tareq Chowdhury



T Chowdhury (left), Uttom K. Das.

hury each will hold the presidents post separately for 6 months successively.

Jahidul Islam Sajal of Bangladesh Patrika and A N M Jahangir Alam of Dainik Bangla have been elected General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Other office bearers of RU Press Club are — Vice President M. Aminul Haq (Dainik Shakti), Abdul Wahab (Dainik Padma), Assistant General Secretary Abu Ojda Taj (Dainik Hizbulah), office secretary M. Shahidul Islam (Dainik Tattva) and Cultural Secretary, Azizul Haq Sircar (Dainik Rupali).

Press Club Adviser, Professor M. Moniruzzaman and Dr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui and out going secretary Mainul

Polythene shopping bag is not a pollutant if it is managed

From Tareq Chowdhury



Polythene bags are being cleaned after collection for sale. — Star photo.

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 19: Polythene shopping bags are not causing problems for our cities drainage system and not harmful for earthworm or other soil fauna. A research fellow of Rajshahi University Zoology Department reached this conclusion in his masters thesis titled "Polythene Shopping bag consumption in Rajshahi Metropolitan area and its impact on soil fauna and crop production" under supervision of Associate Professor Bidhan Chandra Das, recently.

The research fellow in his thesis paper said the waste which is recyclable is not a pollutant for our environment and could not be a problem to city drainage system.

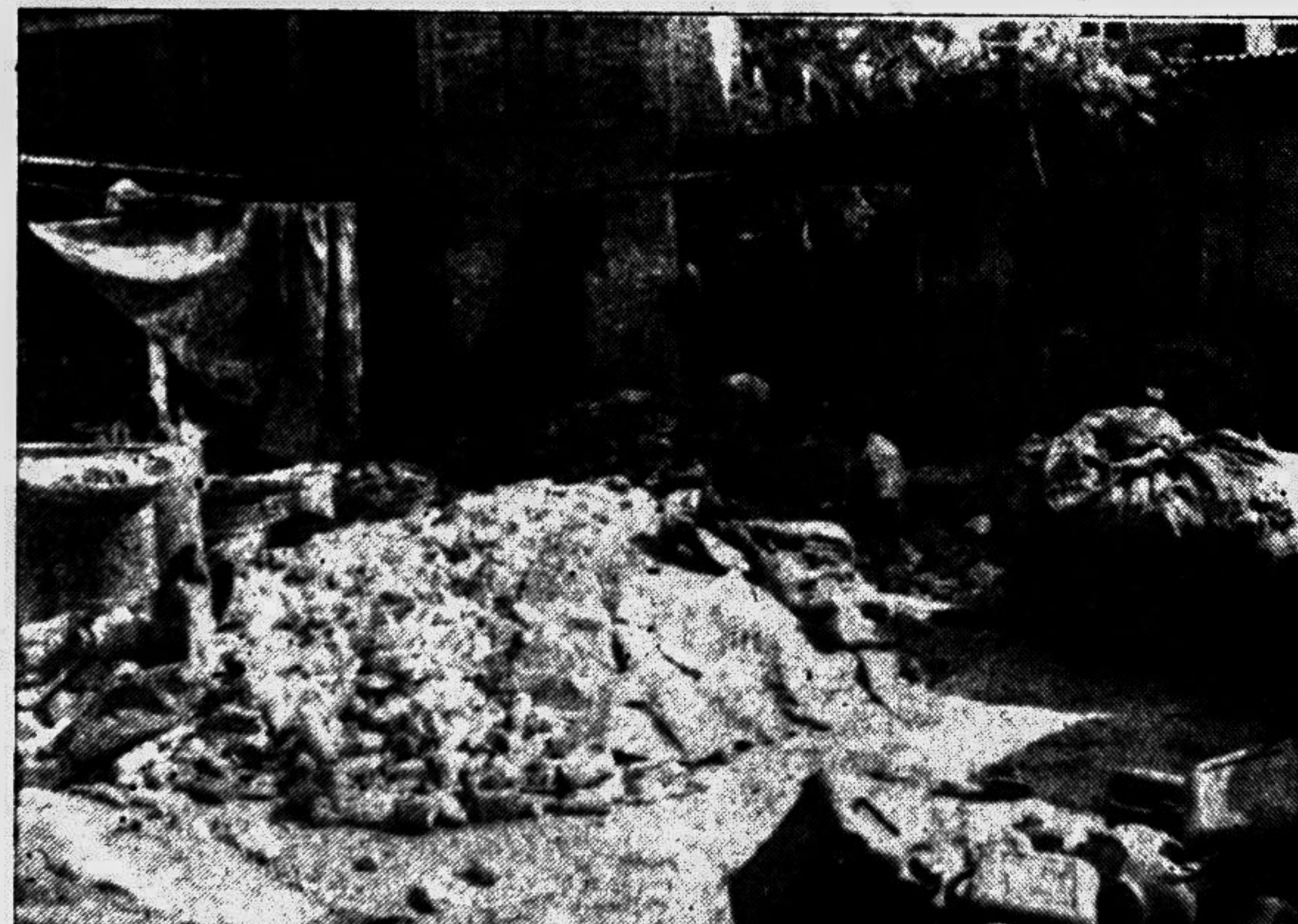
The study said that uprootious situation which has been created for the polythene shopping bags by the good number of consumers is not only due to polythene shopping bag alone, but also some economics. The research suggested that area wise or zone wise research should be conducted before stopping the production of polythene bags. He admitted that polythene bags are adding some problems to our drains. But if the polythene bags could be withdrawn from the cities, the drains would perhaps never be cleaned. Because most of the drainage systems are faulty. Almost all drains could receive solid wastes, viz papers, bottles, glass goods, woods, stones, bricks, plant materials, etc., which are also responsible for the blockage of drains. Moreover, 70 per cent drains in cities are unmetalled. So without polythene bags, drain blockage is a frequent incident in cities, he mentioned.

The study said, polythene bags would be a problem to the drainage system, when they are thrown into the drains. Thus, if we are able to prevent the mixing all kinds of

problem could be solved. He also said, public awareness should be increased, regarding their house wastes disposal.

The thesis result also says that the polythene shopping bags are not creating any problem to the soil fauna and crops though the polythene could be collected during ploughing. The soil fauna includes earthworm snail, insects and myriapods, etc.

The result says, polythene bags if mixed with the soil specially to the surface soil, the rates of production of sediment certainly would be increased.



Processing of polythene bags for recycling. — Star photo.

total yearly consumption of used polythene shopping bags in the only recycling unit of Rajshahi is 51063.67kg, which is equal to 30,656,502 pieces.

The report says, the total number of plastic producing industries in Bangladesh is controversial. The Daily Ittefaq of 01-12-93 mentioned that in Bangladesh there are about 180 plastic industries, whereas the daily Azkar Kago newspaper of 20-01-94 reported that the number is about 2,000. But the Statistical Year Book — 1982 reported that the number was 169. The researcher quoting various Registration Boards, viz. BSIC, Board of Investment, etc. suggested that the number could be around 500 out of which 15-20 per cent are producing polythene bags. There is also controversy regarding the number of polythene bag production in Bangladesh. Chowdhury (1993) mentioned that about 6.5 crore polythene bags have been producing daily in

Bangladesh. The amount of daily sales of polythene shopping bags is about 65 lakh in Bangladesh. Probably the daily total production of polythene shopping bags is about one crore. The fellow observed that, no authentic statistics is available regarding the number of production or number of consumption of polythene shopping bags in Bangladesh. Aimed in weekly Jal Jal Din (1993) mentioned that about 8219178 polythene shopping bags are sold daily in Bangladesh. Chowdhury in Inqub (1993) reported that about 6.5 crore polythene shopping bags are produced daily in this country. So, these results are contradictory. According to the fellow polythene shopping bags are not exported from Bangladesh. So, if 8219178 polythene shopping bags are daily consumption, 6.5 crores cannot be produced daily from the market demand point of view. The research fellow ex-

pressing concern said that a good number of literate people in our country believed that polythene bag is harmful for our environment and the effect of the plastic materials as harmful to our drainage system and soil fertility. But unfortunately nobody did any experimental work, regarding the impact of polythene bags on soil fertility, soil fauna as well as crop production.

According to research fellow, Bangladesh Government is a circulation (October 28 1993) said that all polythene shopping bags producing industries would be closed within 18th January, 1994. Later, Bangladesh Government took a decision that the closing date of polythene shopping bags production will be extended (Sangbad, of 1st January, 1994). Since 1994 there is no governmental announcement has come so far regarding production of polythene shopping bags.

10 person convicted for robbery

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 23: Shamsunnahar Begum, Assistant Session Judge, Second Court while passing her judgement in a dacoity case recently convicted 10 persons under section 395 BPC and sentenced them to suffer RI for 10 years. The court also found all of them guilty under section 397 BPC and sentenced them to suffer RI for seven years. Both the punishment will continue, concurrently.

The tried persons are — Hadis, Soad, Rashid, Osman, Mujbar, Rokonuddin, Fazlu, Menu, Azimuiddin (absconding) and Moharuddin (absconding). The court also found another accused Hamida Begum (absconding) guilty under section 412 BPC and sentenced her to suffer RI for six years. Three persons were found not guilty and they were acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution story, on the night of December 19, 1984 a gang of dacoits entered the house of Deloar Hossain of village Kharirgichar in Karinganji thana by breaking open the door and looted cash and goods amounting to about Taka 4,670. The dacoits then forced their way into the houses of Abdul Gam and Abdur Rashid and started looting.

Meanwhile, the inmates of the houses raised a hue and cry following which the police on patrol duty rushed to the spot and caught one of the dacoits, named Moharuddin red-handed.

Elder brother allegedly kills younger brother

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Feb. 23: Younger brother was allegedly killed by his elder brother at village Damodarpur in Kaliganj thana of the district recently. According to police sources, the incident happened following mending of an axe and at one stage elder brother hit the younger brother, Abdur Rahman, 28, with a stick on his head on February 7. Rahman was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital and succumbed to his injuries.