

Enforce law against use of polybags

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must immediately enforce the law against using polythene and ensure supply of eco-friendly jute and paper bags across the country, speakers said at a discussion at National Press Club yesterday.

Use of polythene bags was banned in 2002 but the government has been reluctant in enforcing the law, they said at the discussion on the use of alternative materials replacing polythene hosted by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa).

Many laid-off jute mills may start producing shopping bags if the government stops the use of polythene and plastic materials, said Nazrul Islam Khan, quality control manager of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).

The BJMC had launched a drive to make jute bags popular following the ban but over the time polythene made its comeback, he said.

"Sometimes the government's role appears to be supporting polythene manufacturers and distributors," said Prof Bazlul Haq Khandaker, president of Dhaka University Teachers Association.

There has been no example of implementing of the law

since it was promulgated, said Hossain Shahriar, an ecologist.

The polythene aggression has assumed to such an extent that it seems there are no authorities to control it, said Quazi Mojahid Hashem, organising secretary of

Environment-friendly Shopping Bag Manufacturers Association (ESMA).

Ziaul Haq, deputy director of Department of Environment, said they would make an effort to stop polythene production.

Nazmul Karim Sabuj, a

project officer of Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB), highlighted the harmful impacts of polythene in a key presentation.

Polythene is non-biodegradable and causes various health hazards and environmental pollution, he said.

Sabuj demanded reopening of jute mills, ban on polythene production, measures to create public awareness and limited use of plastic materials in his presentation.

Bapa Vice-President and former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan chaired the discussion. ESMA president, among others, also spoke in the discussion moderated by Tasnim A Khan.

BNP memo to Dhaka DC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As per previous declaration BNP will place a memorandum to Dhaka District Commissioner at 10:00am today, says a press release.

All leaders and activists of the party are requested to be present in time at the party office in Nayabazar in the city.



Environment-friendly Shopping Bag Manufacturers' Sangstha takes out a procession in the city yesterday demanding effective steps to stop use of polythene bags.

PHOTO: STAR

Foreign ships with imported cars start anchoring at Mongla June 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Foreign vessels carrying imported cars will start arriving at Mongla port in Khulna on June 3.

A vessel carrying the first consignment of 300 reconditioned cars imported from Japan will anchor at the port on the day, said Mongla Port Authority sources.

This is for the first time in the history of Mongla port that a foreign vessel carrying imported cars will anchor at the port.

Director (Traffic) of Mongla Port Authority Md Mahabullah told this correspondent yesterday that the imported cars would be formally unloaded from the vessel after a simple ceremony at the port.

All preparations have been taken to complete the formalities for unloading the cars.

A high official of the Ministry of Shipping will attend the function as the chief guest, said Mahabullah.

He said it would be possible to unload all the 300 imported cars within 24 hours of the arrival of the ship.

Mongla Port Authority will earn at least Tk 10 lakh in revenue by unloading the cars, he added.

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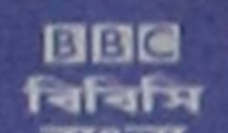
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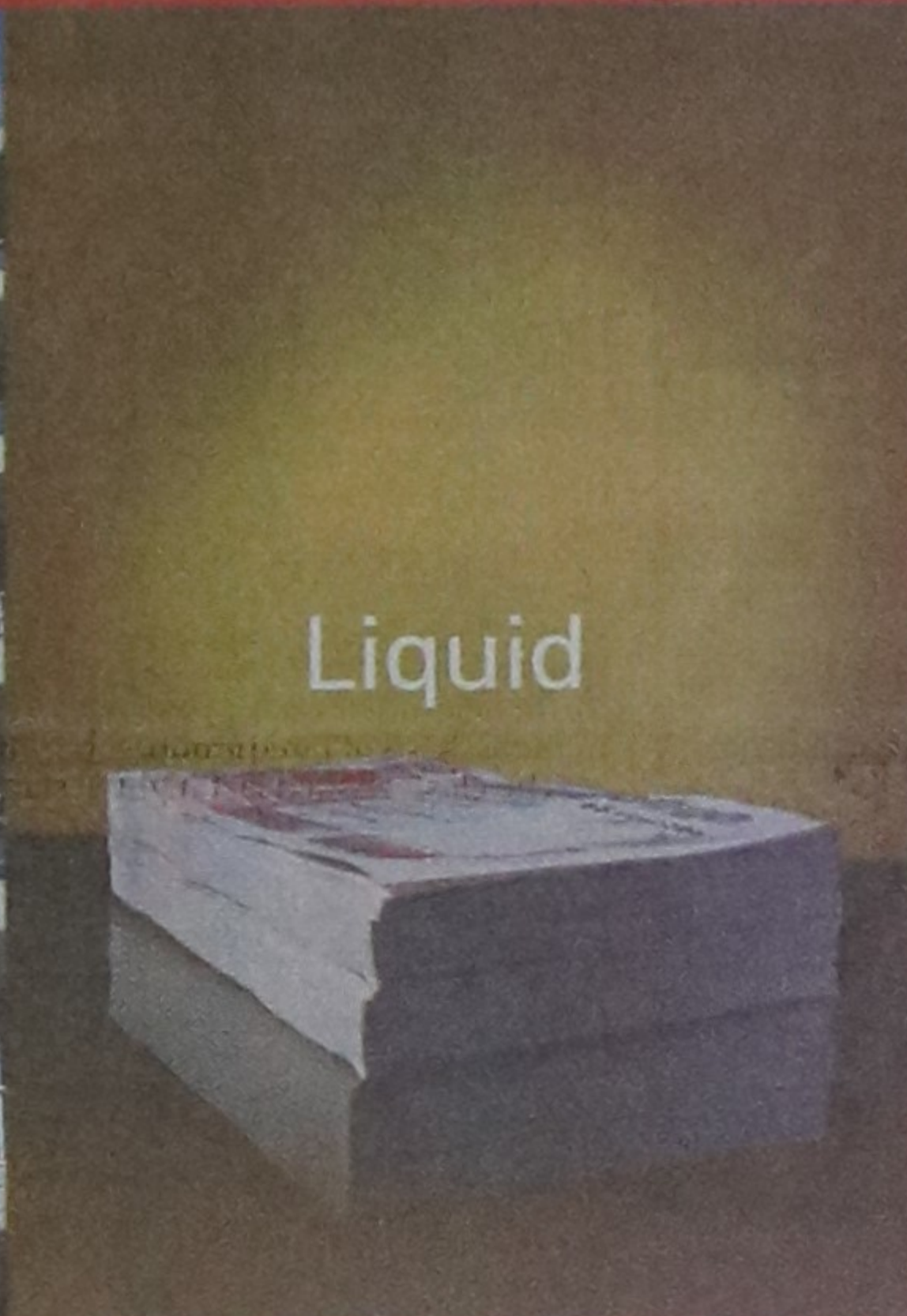
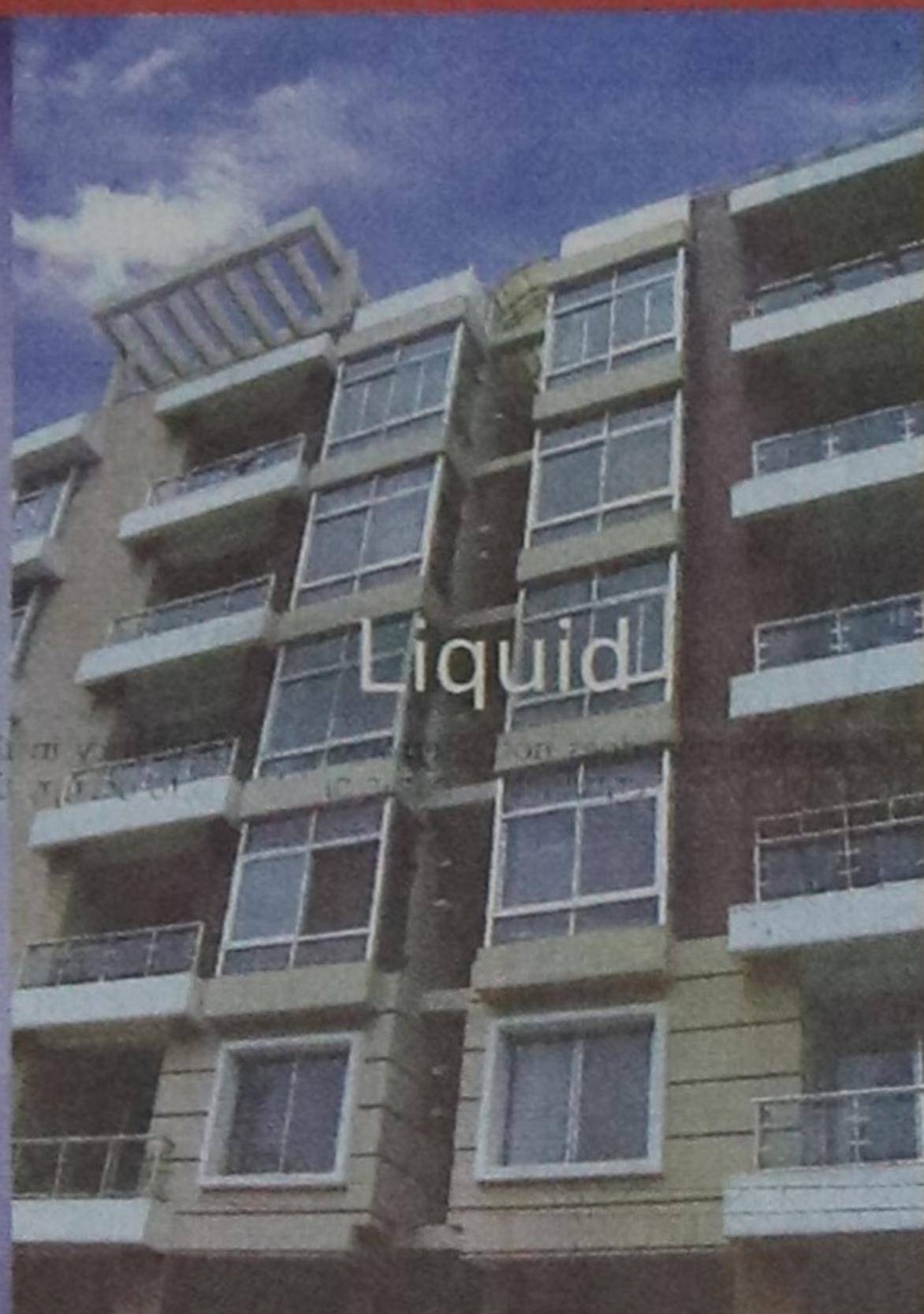
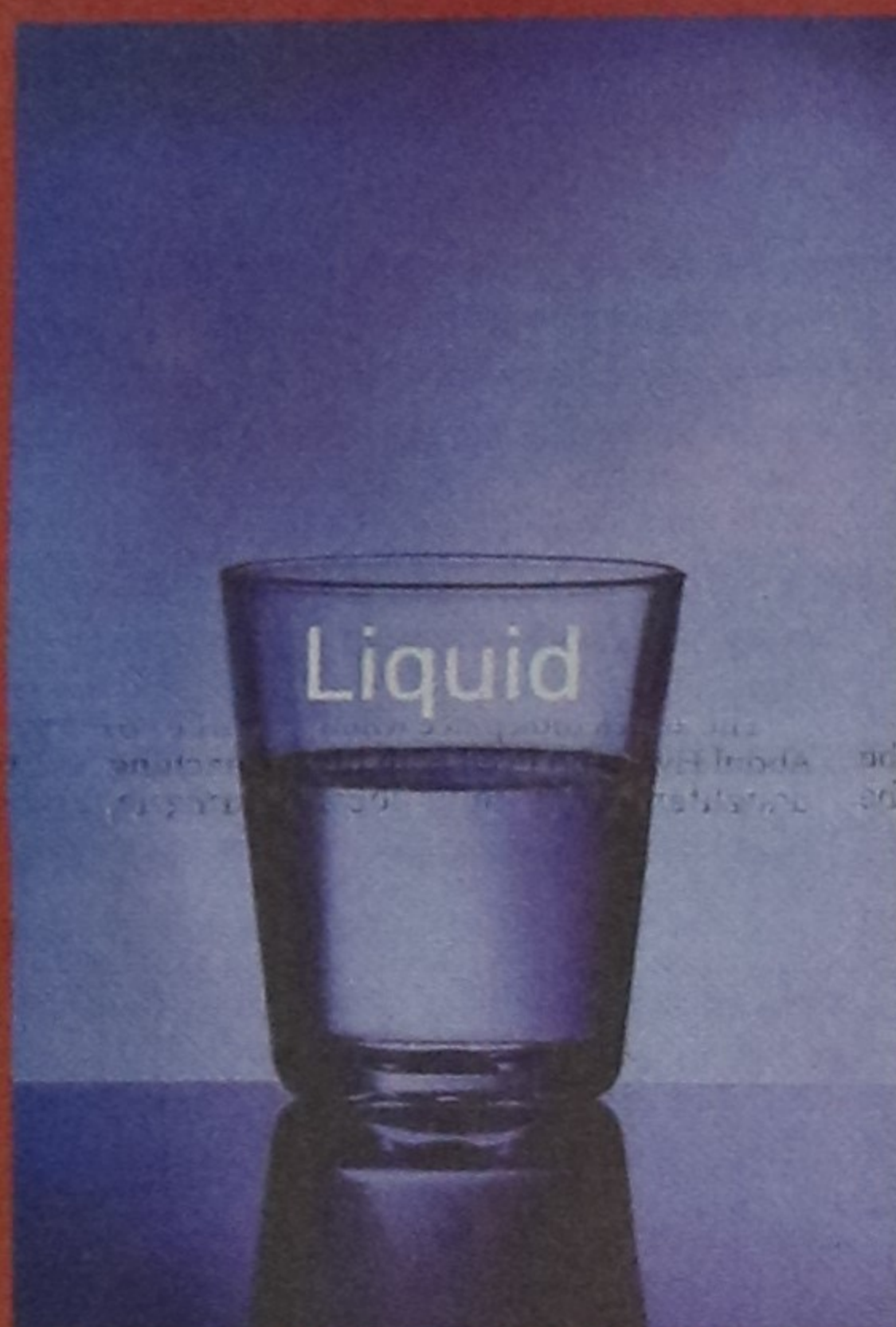
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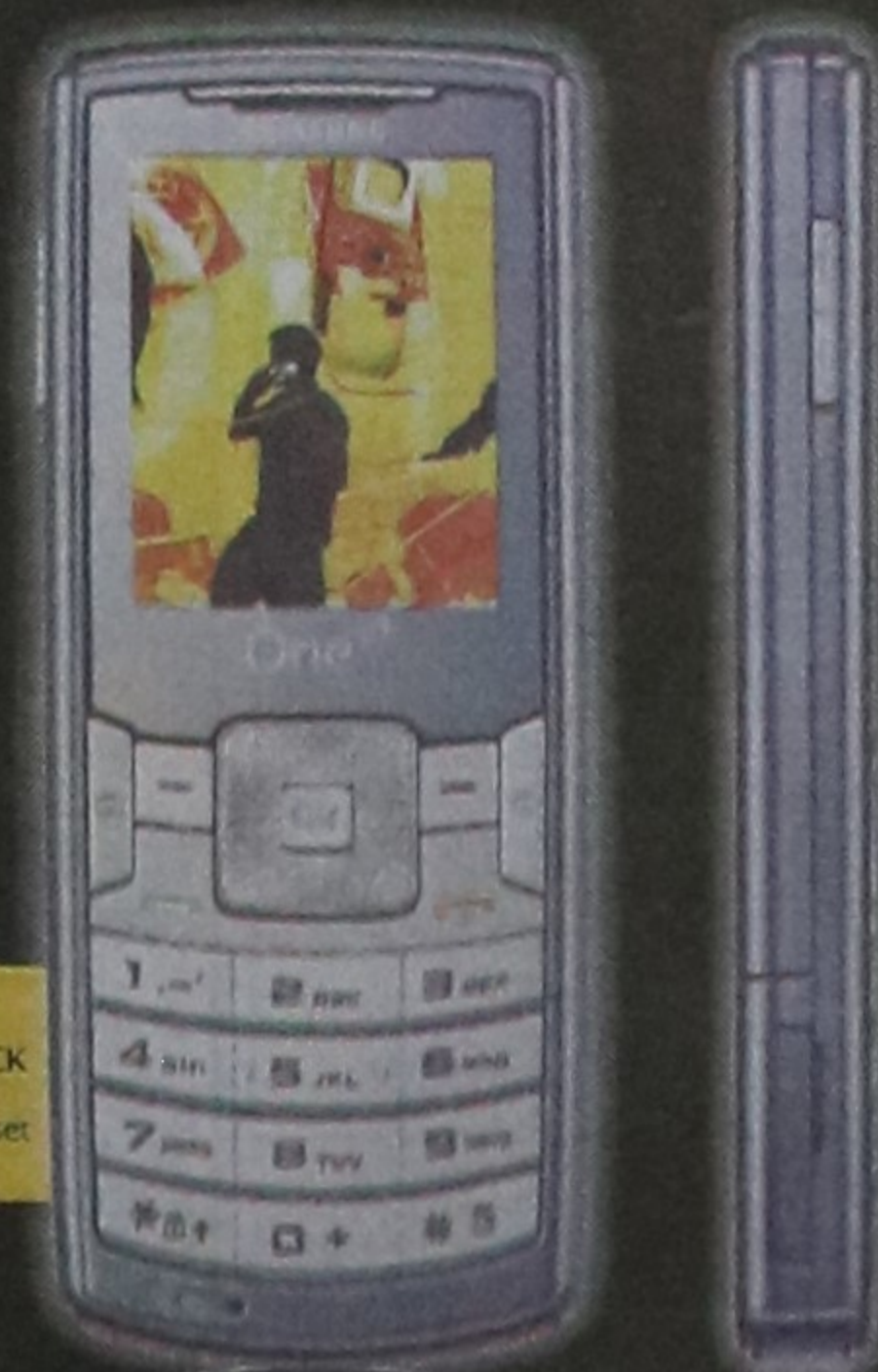
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