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What's on today . . .

Seminar: A seminar on 'Developing Child Science Literacy' will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Indian Cultural Centre, Samsajid Road. Time 5 pm. Dhaka Grammar School has organised the seminar. Prof Shamsul Huq, Chairman of National Committee for Education Policy will be the chief guest.

Jatiya Party: The conference of Lalbagh thana unit of the party will be held. Venue: Shaesta Khan Kalyan Kendra, Lalbagh. Time: 4 pm.

British film session: As part of ongoing four-day British film session jointly organised by Chalachitram Film Society and the British Council, the film 'Much Ado About Nothing' directed by Kenneth Branagh will be screened. Venue: The British Council Auditorium, 5, Fuller Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka New City: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: FICCI. Time: 5.45 pm.

Rotary Club of Shahbagh: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officer's Club, Bailey Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

Steps taken to contain contamination 1420 with arsenic poisoning identified so far, JS told

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that so far 1420 persons with arsenic poisoning have been identified in the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a question of Mohammad Fazul Azim (BNP, Noakhali-6), the minister said the government has taken extensive measures to contain arsenic contamination through identification of patients, treatment, follow-up programmes, supplying pure drinking water, training doctors and creating awareness.

Yusuf said the government is running two projects, one conducted by NIPSOM and the other by Public Health Engineering Department, to combat it.

He said, three committees, namely Arsenic Steering Committee, Scientific Research Committee and Technical Committee on Arsenic, are guiding, directing and coordinating the programmes for containing arsenic contamination.

The minister said a task force is being constituted to run district-wise programmes.

The minister said Public Health Engineering Department has already installed some deep tubewells in the affected areas. The department has also taken measures to supply arsenic-free water in the affected areas and is gathering samples of polluted water for testing.

The health minister also said that Atomic Energy Commission, Water Development Board and Geological Survey of Bangladesh are working in their respective fields to detect the causes of arsenic contamination.

He said NIPSOM, together with the Atomic Energy Commission, is working to make arsenic decontaminating chemical packets, provided by WHO, more effective.

Govt giving pension to 641 artistes, cultural activists

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that there is a provision to give pension to the artistes and cultural activists for their special contribution in the cultural field, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Treasury bench member Syed Ashraf Islam (Kishoreganj), he said the government has been giving pension to 641 artistes and cultural activists.

Replying to a supplementary from Shamim Osman (AL-Narayanganj), he said the government would seriously consider providing pension to the artistes of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

The state minister told AL member A S M Firoz (Patuakhali) that a committee of the cultural ministry selects the artistes and cultural activists for pension considering their contribution and financial condition.

Replying to a supplementary from Jatiya Party member Advocate Fazle Rabbi (Rangpur), he said with availability of fund the government would provide pension to all the distressed folk artistes of the country.

President hosts tea party for diplomats

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a tea party for diplomats at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Among others, dean of the diplomatic corps Mohammad Shahata Zarab and Dhaka-based representatives of UN agencies and international organisations attended the tea party.

Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Hug, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Military Secretary to the President Major General A M Siraj were present.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin welcomed the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them.

BCL threatens agitation against Jagannath Hall provost

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jagannath Hall unit, Dhaka University, has threatened an agitation against the provost of the hall protesting some of his measures which, they term, are against the interest of the hall residents.

At an activists' meeting, BCL leaders of the hall unit decided to place their demands before the provost with an ultimatum, sources said. If the demands are not met, BCL will launch an agitation programme against the provost, the meeting decided.

But according to hall sources, the BCL leaders are threatening the agitation as the provost is not allowing outsiders associated with the Awami League-backed student body into the hall. He started a move against the outsiders who were still staying in the hall, they added.

BCL activists also attacked a procession brought out by Chhatra Union a few days back demanding opening of the north gate of the hall. The gate was closed as per a decision taken at a meeting of the Dhaka University Paribesh Parishad. When asked, the residents of the hall said that the north gate should be opened.

The provost of the hall Dr Durga Das Bhattacharya could not be reached yesterday for comment.

JP (Z-M) presidium meets tomorrow

A meeting of Jatiya Party (Zafar Moazzem) presidium will be held at Beijing Duck and Sea Food Restaurant at Gulshan tomorrow at 9 am, reports UNB.

It will be followed by another meeting of the party's central working committee at 12 noon.


JP (Z-M) secretary general Shamim Al Mamun called upon all the presidium and working committee members to attend the meetings.

Turkish envoy meets Faezul

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Kemal Ozcan Davaz called on State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faezul Huq at the latter's office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest particularly the development in jute sector.

The ambassador also discussed the proposed visit of the state minister in Turkey to promote the jute trading between the two brotherly countries.



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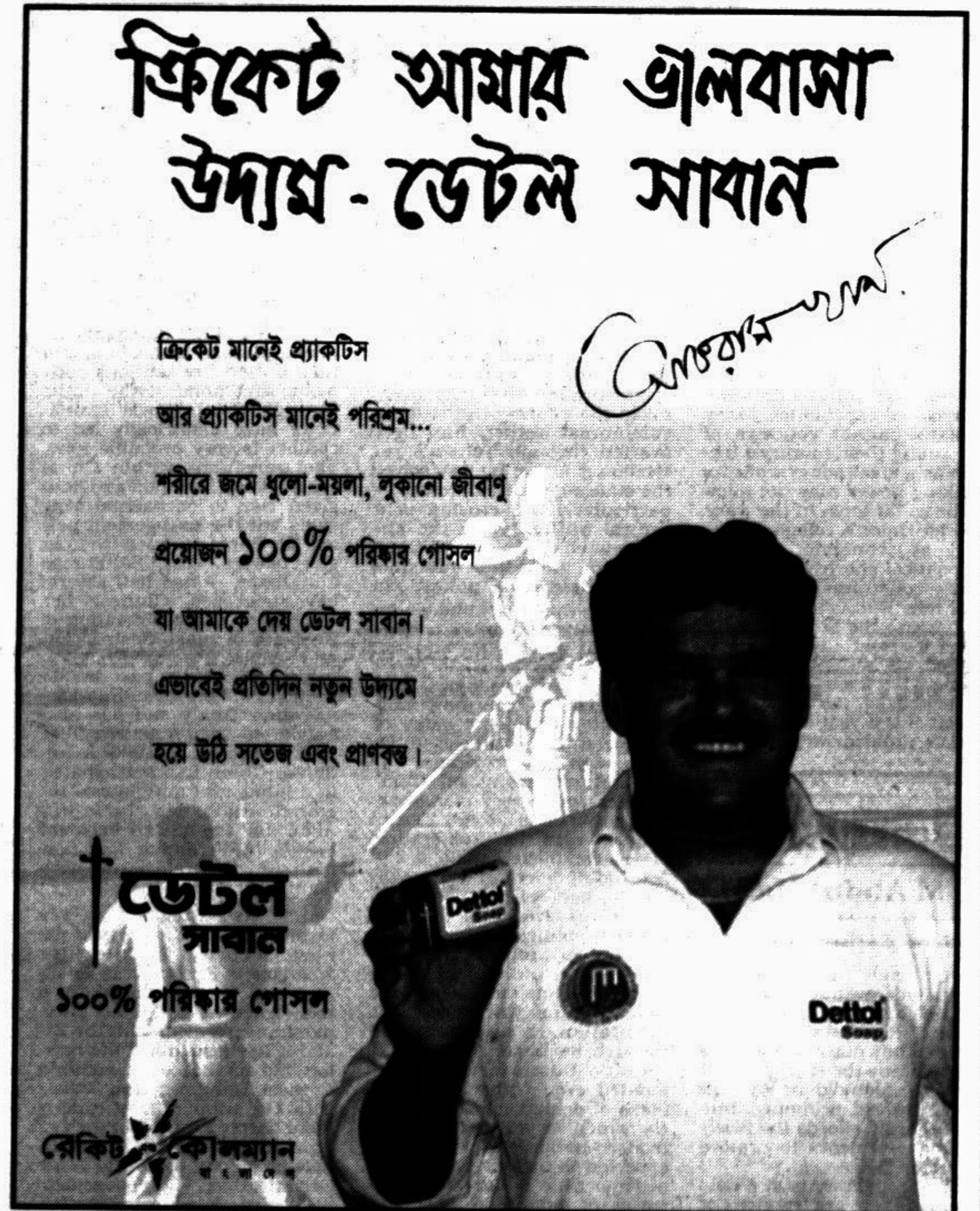
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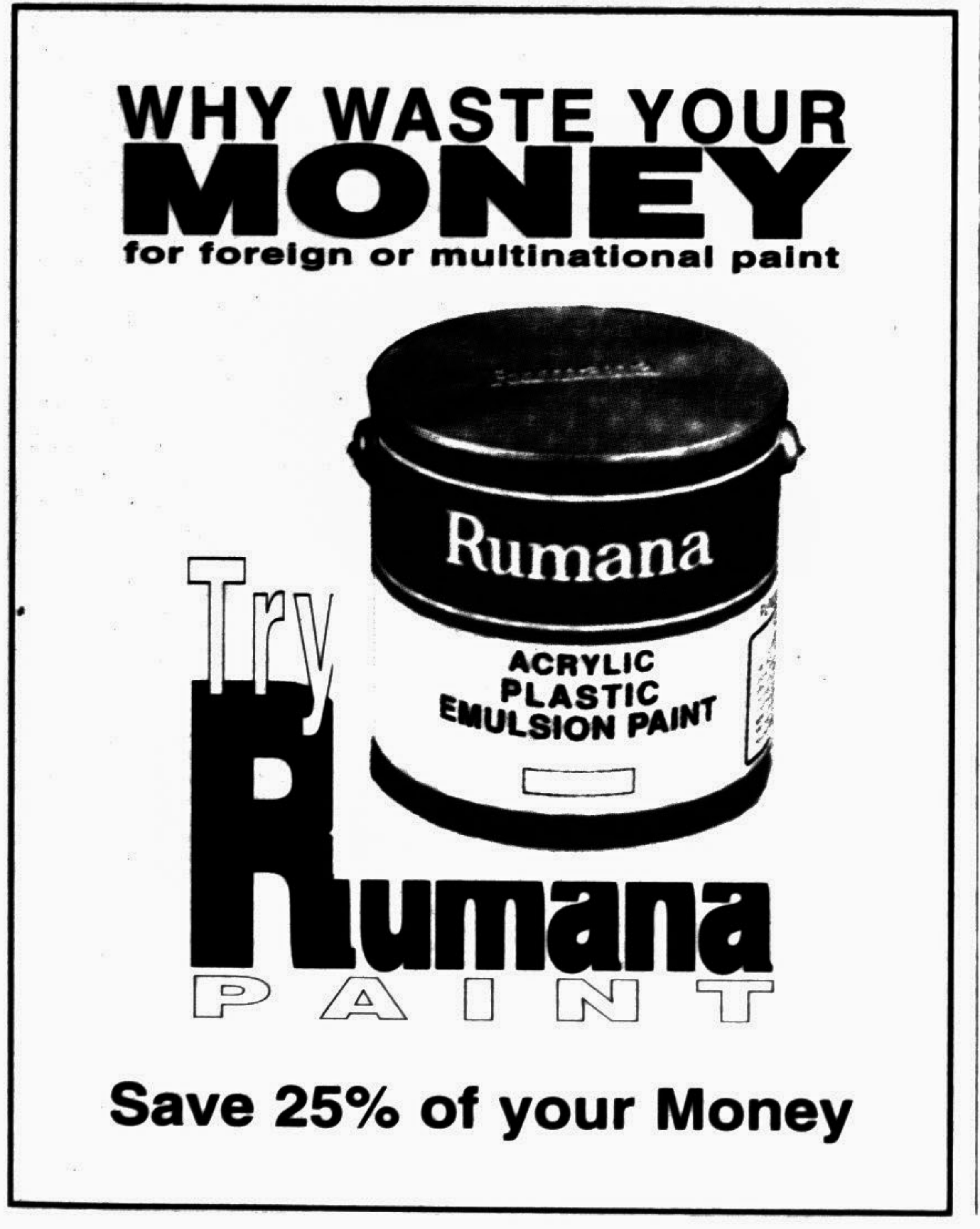


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