(What's on today •)

DRU meeting: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will hold a general meeting of crime reporters working in different dailies, newsagencies and bureaus. Venue: DRU office at Segunbaghicha. Time: 10:30 am.

Painting competition: Purbita, a female artists organisation will hold a painting exhibition for children to mark its eighth founding anniversary. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts premises, Time: 3:00 pm.

DAB discussion meeting: Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will hold an open discussion on 'Proposed Health Policy and its probable harmful impact on public health'. Venue: DAB office at 2 New Eskaton, Moghbazar. Time: 3:00 pm.

Conference: The 6th annual conference of Bangladesh Jubo Union, Dhaka unit will be held. It will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: TSC road island on DU campus. Time: 4:30 pm.

Founding anniversary: The 10th founding anniversary of Kalalantha Shishu Kishore Sangathan will be observed by holding a discussion meeting. This will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.

Art exhibition: The 12th art solo exhibition of Mansur-ul-Karim will begin. Venue: Divine Art Gallery. Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:00 pm.

.... and tomorrow

Roundtable: Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association will hold a roundtable on " Photojournalism in Bangladesh: Bottlenecks and Challenges in the New Millennium". Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:00 am

NSU seminar: The Department of Computer Science North South University (NSU) will hold a seminar on WWWbased Software Systems. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 3:00 pm.

Open discussion: Health For All will hold an open discussion on 'Acid throwing: the current situation in Bangladesh'. Venue: Gonoshasthyo Nagar Bhaban (5th floor), House No 14/E, Road no 6, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

NFOWD AGM: The annual general meeting of National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) will be held. Venue: LGED Bhaban seminar room (4th floor).

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Due to active monsoon moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty win is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm yesterday. reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period. Met Office said. Rainfall may decrease gradually in the subsequent two days, of added.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 31.0 degree Celsius at Teknaf and the lowest 22.4 degrees at Rangamati, while the highest rainfall 72mm at Comilla. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.54 pm and rises to-

morrow at 5.48 am.

City /Town		erature	ınd towns y Humi	dity in	Rain
3	in Čelsius		percentage		Fall
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	24 hrs
Dhaka	27.2	24.9	92	95	39
Chittagong	28.2	24.4	97	92	60
Rajshahi	28.0	26.0	98	95	17
Khulna	28.0	24.8	100	91	30
Barisal .	26.0	24.4	98.	97	20
Sylhet	28.5	24.7	92	86	01
Cost's Bazar	28.6	24.0	98	92	23

Intra-party Agrabad Commerce College

From page 12

leged toll collection and other criminal acts.

Police arrested some of them but they were released on bail. The insiders said most of the BCL leaders and activists are locked in intra-party rivalry to establish supremacy in their respective areas and circles.

Mentionably, Chittagong city unit of BCL has been running without any committee for the last five years.

They often fight over share of

toll money.

Even president of the previous committee of Chittagong city unit of BCL, Mofizur Rahman, reportedly became almost inactive after being assaulted by some rival activists while general secretary of that committee, Md Rahim, went abroad, sources said.

Now, one faction of BCL is led by a young AL leader, AZM Nasir, who was arrested and freed recently.

Its rival faction based in MES College is controlled by a Juba League leader, Mamunur Rashid Mamun, who was also arrested during the recent police crackdown on terrorists. He was later released on bail. sources said.

In Agrabad Commerce College area, one faction of BCL is led by one Abdul Kader who deserted Nasir due to rivalry, sources said.

Kader group and Nasir group were locked in a series of gunfights in the past three days in

area, police said. Clashes between Kader group and Nasir group take place every month, prompting deployment of police often in the area.

In Nasirabad industrial area around the Polytecnic institute. two BCL factions, one led by Sira Akbar and the other by Abu Taher, clash off and on for domination in the industrial area. Sira Akbar and Abu taher were arrested recently.

Sira Akbar and Kader were involved in the incident at the UCBL head office in Dhaka which was led Akteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, sources said.

At Fatikchhari, 25 miles off the city here, Tipu group and Tayab group were locked in gunfights frequently. Tipu was killed on Saturday night allegedly by Tayab group which is backed by AL MP Rafigul Anwar alias Sona Rafiq.

Both the rival factions clashed with firearms even in presence Civil Aviation Minister Mosharraf Hossain at Fatikchhari about two months ago, sources said.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Mukhlesur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Uttara Group of Companies and Industries, will be held at his residence at House-11, Road-8, Gulshan-1, after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

SAARC summit

From page 1

benefit of all the members. It was also learnt that intracountry trade, which was above five per cent before launching the SAARC, has come down to around three per cent now.

The Summit is expected to further intensify efforts for economic liberalization by taking some "definite measures" for promoting regional trade. joint ventures, and creating investment facilities for development of tourism.

The Kathmandu Summit is expected to review the SAARC standpoint on issues related to WTO and the progress made in this regard.

Creation of institutional arrangements and effective linkages for poverty alleviation will also be discussed.

One of the major thrust areas has been to increase peopleto-people contact among the SAARC states. Many government and private organisations feel that the forthcoming summit should also address the problems in implementing a more liberal visa regime to allow increasing movement of people for business, study and travel. Till now, only a limited category of people are allowed!

easy movement while students and businessmen including chamber leaders have to face immense difficulties.

The issue of sub-regional cooperation, particularly creation of a South Asian Growth Quadrangle, progress in which has slowed down, is likely to be raised by some members at the forthcoming meet.

Strengthening of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu and establishment of greater linkages with other international and regional organisations are also likely to be discussed.

Founded at the initiative of Bangladesh in 1985, the SAARC in its 14 years of existence has been dubbed "A poor man's club" and "A talk shop".

The organisation has failed in many ways. In some areas, it has succeeded by keeping its politically disparate members together on one platform. Despite cynicism and occasional criticism, the fact that leaders at the highest level keep on meeting and are constantly charting things for future progress and development of the region speak of some measure of success for the SAARC, diplomatic sources said.

Int'l standard hospital to be built in city

A 500-bed multi-disciplinary hospital will be set up in the city to provide world class medical services and to check outflow of Bangladeshi patients who spend nearly 200 million dollar a year for treatment abroad, reports UNB.

The Tk 1800 million private sector Continental Hospital Limited (CHL) project is likely to start commissioning in 2001 in Gulshan area.

British healthcare company International Hospitals Group (IHG) yesterday signed a con-tract with CHL of Bangladesh for establishing the country's first private tertiary hospital.

The contract includes the project management, equipping, commissioning, and 10 years' operation and management of the hospital by the re-

puted British company.
Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf and State Minister for Health Dr M Amanullah witnessed the signing of the contract at Sonargaon Hotel.

CHL chairman Prof Dr M M Hossain and Director Tapan Chowdhury, and IHG vice president Ben King and director of projects Brian McGibbon signed the contract on behalf of their respective sides.

Hasina

From page 1

debt management efforts of Bangladesh should be included in the good debt-management record.

Prime Minister Hasina expressed gratitude to Chirac for his country's help and assistance to Bangladesh and requested an increase in financial protocol.

The French President assured that help would be continued to Bangladesh through the EU. He said the issue of increasing debt-relief to the LDCs, particularly to Bangladesh, would be discussed thoroughly at G-8 meeting in Washington next Sunday.

About the French assistance for Bangladesh J. Chirac pointed out that a large amount of project aid, some 285 million frank, remained unused in water-treatment project.

The Prime Minister said special efforts would be taken to utilise that money and expressed gratitude to France for sending help during the devastating floods last year.

President Chirac offered his government's help in excavation at the archaeological site Mohastangarh in northern Bogra district and for the lightand-sound project at Lalbagh Fort in capital Dhaka.

DSE

From page 1

preliminary report on about 3.35,000 fake share allotment letters of Sino Bangla. "Of the allotment letters, a

total of 2,02,000 were delivered by T Mashfu & Co. of which the firm had already replaced 1.98.000," according to the re-Sino Bangla was listed with

the DSE on March 6, 1999. On June 24, the company informed the DSE that it was receiving a large number of fake share allotment letters, saying that it was ready to replace the allotment letters with share certifi-

The company also asked the DSE not to allow trading of al lotment letters from July 8

The DSE acted accordingly and did not allow trading of Sino Bangla allotment letters from July 8. But on September 19 and 20, the DSE clearing house received two scrips identified as fake by company officials present at the clearing

house. The DSE surveillance team later found the brokerage firm -- Moitree Biswas -- responsible for delivering the fake shares to the clearing house.

When the firm was contacted by the DSE officials, it said that a representative of one of their clients had sold the shares.

Sources said that the Council could not take action earlier against the offenders as a strong lobby was influencing the DSE Council to refrain from taking any punitive steps.

Dengue

From page 1

According to doctors, there are no preventive or curative drugs available for Dengue. Getting rid of mosquitoes appears to be the only means to remain safe from Dengue infection .

Dr A K Siddique head of Epidemic Control Preparedness Programme of (ICDDR,B) International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh told The Daily Star . "The type of mosquito that causes Dengue - Aedes Eegypti is found aplenty in the urban areas. However, the 'classical' Dengue virus does not cause much of a harm but the more lethal one - Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) can

be lethal He added, "Aedes mosquito can fly a maximum distance of 50 yards. Once it bites human it incubates in blood for about 5-7 days. Typically dengue is charactirised by high fever that persists for a couple of days. The infection, particularly in children causes rash in some parts

of body. Earlier, following the public health concern IEDCR conducted laboratory tests of blood samples in different areas in the city. They found four people to have been infected with 'classical' Dengue virus in the city.

BNP plans more bite Divided teachers From page 1 ment from a planned "Dhaka Siege" programme on Wednesday, reportedly in-November 7. But the decision

structed party leaders and activists at all levels to actively was changed and declaration made one and a half months beparticipate in every programme fore schedule because the political situation is changing "very

fast".

and face the ruling party.
Some top BNP leaders told this correspondent that the party could have taken a decision to participate in the two upcoming local government polls had the government softened its attitude towards the Opposition's four-point demand. But now there is no scope to participate in the polls as the government did not pay any attention to the demands placed on January 6 this year, they ob-

They said the opposition parties had called for boycotting the pourasabha elections held in February. But they are now firm to resist the upazila and city corporation polls at any cost, they said.

Besides, there are a number of important issues including the proposed transit facility to India to carry forward the onepoint movement, they said

A senior BNP leader said the party had earlier decided to launch the one-point move-

waq/ inspector told me that a

ten-inch wall was serving as the

column," the PWD engineer

port was sent to Rajuk even af-

ter one year of the inspection.

When this correspondent in-

quired about the report, it took

the PWD engineers three days to

trace the file, which, according

to sources, was apparently

a hastily scribbled half-page

inspection report, the PWD en-

gineers said they could not say

whether Gausia building was

of building materials were used

and what are the live and dead

loads' on the structure before

saying anything," said a top

PWD engineer, adding, "after all

it is Rajuk's baby and it (Rajuk)

has the capability to carry out

cided that they would write

back to Rajuk to seek help from

the BUET's Bureau of Research

and Testing Consultancy

(BRT)." The officials could not

say why it had taken such a

long time to take a decision.

which, again, begun only after

The Daily Star started to inves-

told this correspondent that

they were aware of the fact that

a controversy existed over the

safety of the building. " We are

sure that the controversy is

nothing but a result of others'

jealousy," said a leader of the

Gausia Shop Owners

between Nur Mansion and

Ibrahim Mansion and Chandni

UCBL

From page 12

mer employee of the bank who

had been at the UCBL entrance

to inform newsmen about the

change of venue was beaten up

was pre-arranged and they

(Zaffar and his men) had a plan

to do the same yesterday if I had

not changed the venue of the

bank and its governor "played a

dirty role" in this matter as

they did not communicate the

bank after Babu replied to

Bangladesh Bank's show cause

Ahmed Chowdhury, Zahangir

Alam and Hashem had secured

several crores worth of ficti-

tious loan from the bank and

that many of the directors were

illegally on the board of UCBL

as they were 'not even qualified

10 UCBL share certificates, each

script of 500 shares, bearing

name of a director Monoara

Begum, Babu said that these five

thousand shares were sold to

one Warisuzzaman Chowdhury.

nephew, Babu said. The certifi-

cates bore names of Chowdhury

which were transferred to him

directors had sold their shares

to members of his family and

were not eligible to be on the

"abroad" these directors issued

bonus and rights shares in

favour of original directors and

try jumping bail in 1993, Babu

said that he had been made an

accused in the murder case of

Humayun Zahir, the then

chairman of UCBL, and had to

leave the country and that he

was made an accused as a result

forced to resort to seclusion to

At his press conference

Zaffar demanded arrest of

Akteruzzaman Babu who, he

claimed, led gangsters to force

Zaffar and others to resign at

said that he was the legal

chairman of the bank as

recognised by the central bank

if he had continued office of

chairman and director defying

High Court verdict than it

would have been tantamount to

contempt of court and the High

Court would have summoned

gation of beating up one of his

He also denied Babu's alle-

Zaffar Chowdhury said that

letter of September 9, 1999.

Zaffar Ahmed Chowdhury

protect himself from the con-

He also said that he was

Asked why he fled the coun-

illegally got them elected.

Warisuzzaman was his

Babu said that many other

Babu said that while he was

Handing over photocopies of

to be on the board.

on August 2, 1999.

board of the bank.

of 'a conspiracy'

spirators.

gun-point.

them.

men.

Babu also said that Zaffar

notice.

Babu alleged that the central

press conference," Babu said.

"The incident on August 26

severely by Zaffar's men.

Babu also alleged that a for-

The entire L-shaped building

The shop owners at Gausia

The PWD engineers then de-

the necessary tests.

"We need to know what kind

Although the file contained

shelved forever.

safe or not.

tigate.

Association.

Surprisingly enough, no re-

Playing prank Chawk is a tangle of narrow alleyways with mostly sari, fabrics and tailoring shops. The centre is most popular among

womenfolk of the city and dur-

ing eid festivals Gausia gets

He claimed that the one-

point movement was declared

at an appropriate time. "We

have strongly realised that the

Awami League government must be removed through

movement. It is the appropriate

time to launch a vigorous

movement as the government

has started a war against BNP,"

ential person in BNP's policy-

making body, said BNP had no-

plan to dislodge the AL govern-

ment before completion of its

term. The ruling party itself is

responsible for pushing the op-

position towards a one-point

oust-government movement, he

assumption of power, resorted

to all sorts of repression on

BNP with a motive to destroy it,

he alleged. "We can not sit idle

when the government is selling

The AL, from the first day of

The leader, who is an influ-

the leader said.

alleged.

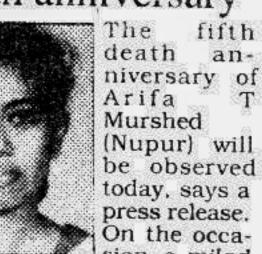
over crowded mostly with women and children in there thousands. Thousands of over-hung electric wires are coiled together to provide electricity to the shops. A DESA source said electric bills paid by the market was not commensurate with the actual power consumption. About a thousand poor shop assistants cook their meals using electric ovens and sleep inside

" The bill is a pre-arranged sum paid to a section of corrupt DESA oficials," the source confided in the Daily Star.

the market

A top Rajuk engineer, requesting anonymity said that the building might not fall apart but may eventually cave in. " It has two major problems. It might cave in or if there is a fire from the electric wires many would die in possible stampedes as there is no emergency fire exit," he said.

Death anniversary fifth death an-



Murshed (Nupur) will be observed today, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad * mahfil will be held at Jurain

Graveyard Mosque after Asr prayers. Arifa was studying at Tri-State University in Indiana,

USA on a scholarship when she drowned in St James Lake in

Obituary

Mohammad Abdul Baten, a Chemical Engineer, died early yesterday morning after a prolonged illness at his Banani residence. He was 57, reports

He is survived by his wife and three sons to mourn his

our national interest to India"

he added. "The government is totally reluctant to resolve the politi cal crisis. Instead, it is instigat ing the opposition to go for confrontation. We are against confrontation, but BNP supporters will resist Awami League if it crosses the limit, said another front ranking BNP leader who wanted not to be

Both the leaders agreed with this correspondent that the situation is drifting towards a state of confrontation and conflict. This is because there is no move from the government to solve the crisis, they said.

About the Dhaka Siege programme, planned for November , another top BNP leader said there is possibility to advance the date if the current trend continues.

He said party chairperson has formed a number groups with BNP leaders, intellectuals, academics, economists and others and given them specific assignments to mobilise support in favour of BNP's movement. Another team is also working to keep contact with foreign missions and donor agencies in Dhaka.

He claimed that the teams were getting positive response from all quarters.

Sex workers

From page 1 Pathan, asked about the dialogue he initiated with the NGOs on August 4, said he would resume the dialogue in a fortnight. The dialogue is aimed to involve the NGOs in the rehabilitation process.

Meanwhile, half of the 267 sex workers had been released from the Gazipur vagrant centres. It is alleged that most of them were handed over to the pimps who pushed them back to sex business.

There are only 133 sex workers awaiting rehabilitation at the vagrant homes. But the rest of the 3,000 either took refuge in other brothels or were continuing the business in differ-

ent places after the eviction. A large number of the floating sex workers at Narayanganj reportedly made two abortive attempts during last one month to return to the Tanbazaar brothel, prompting construction of walls on both the entries by local people under the banner of Touhidi Janata.

Police and a group of local youths are keeping a close eye on the abandoned brothel.

Tangail

From page 12 thinks so, he should refund the allowances he received as MP in the past three years since he has surrendered his parliament

membership." In his long drawn battle with the party hierarchy, Siddiqui was suspended from AL on disciplinary charges late July and was later served with a showcause notice to explain why he would not be expelled for acting against interests of the party and its discipline.

The defiant leader however refused to give reply to the notice served by what he said the illegal leadership of the AL. He went to the extent of threatening to expel prime minister Sheikh Hasina, the AL president, if he could bag support in a requisition meeting of party councillors. But the planned council is unlikely before the by-election.

versity's Academic Council.

From page 1 of the decision and the other

The pro-AL teachers' group is justifying the move to confer the degree on the prime minister saying it was unanimously decided in a meeting of the uni-

But the pro-BNP group of teachers is calling the decision-making process illegal. This group blamed the Vice-chancellor for keeping the council members "in the dark" about the matter till he raised it at the fag end of the Council meeting. They further alleged that the VC also did not allow anybody to discuss the issue that was raised as a supplementary agenda.

The pro- AL teachers, in line with the DU authorities, denied the allegations and said that the decision was taken properly. They argued that any issue could come up for discussion as a supplementary agenda.

They claimed that there should not be any controversy over the issue as Sheikh Hasina already got similar degrees from some of the best universities in the world like Boston University (USA), Yaseda (Japan), Abarte-Dandy (UK), Viswabharati (India) and Luven (Belgium). She also got a peace prize from UNESCO and an international award from UNFPA. The decision to confer hon-

orary doctorate degree on the prime minister was taken at a meeting of the DU Academic Council on September 12 in recognition of her contribution to national, regional and world peace, poverty alleviation, expansion of education, woman empowerment and agricultural development. The degree will be conferred in a special convocation at DU on December 16.

Such a decision was also taken in the last two sessions of DU Senate.

Sources said that out of 533 Council members, 134 were present at the September 12 meeting, held at the Conference Room at the Administrative Building. None of the members opposed the decision.

There were 113 items on the agenda of the meeting and the issue of conferring the degree on, the prime minister was the 106th, the sources said. Usually topics are raised in

the Academic Council meeting in two forms-- "main" agenda and "supplementary" agenda. The VC raises the issues on both the agenda. He had raised the issue of conferring the degree on the prime minister at the end of the "main" agenda, the sources

The Daily Star yesterday contacted a number teachers who were present at the meet-

"None of the 134 members present in the meeting opposed or protested after the VC raised the issue. Rather the decision was taken amid loud claps." said Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof. M Shahadat Ali.

"They did not oppose such a decision taken about Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen," he pointed out. "If there is anything wrong in the decisionmaking process, they could have raised it instantly. But they started opposing the move only after being instructed by a certain political party," he

Prof. Ali accused those teachers of trying to make the issue controversial purely on political ground. "But such an issue should be kept above poli-

Jagannath Hall Provost Prof. Durga Das Bhattchariya claimed that the controversy over the issue was triggered by the opposition political parties. "They are conspiring to make it a political issue. They are trying to make it an issue ahead of the Dean election, scheduled for

September 26." When contacted, a number of pro-BNP teachers refused to talk about the matter. Most of them said that they had expressed their views through

press statements. "We are not unanimous about the decision taken by the university authorities and we strongly protest such a misleading news," one of them said

seeking anonymity. The teacher who is a professor at the Arts Faculty said the issue has become controversial due to "unfairness" of the DU authorities. "The VC did not allow the members to discuss the topic and also did not seek their opinion. Instead, he adjourned the meeting in a hurry which

was very embarrassing for us". A senior Faculty member, speaking on condition of anonymity, termed the incident "highly political" on the part of the university. "Such highly political persons are not eligible for such a degree".

Unesco prize prompts CHT protests

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: Parbatya Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad, an all party alliance in the CHT, has decided to put up road barricades in three hill districts - Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari - tomorrow and termed the day (Sept 24) as 'Black Day' for the hill region protesting the Unesco Peace Award to be given to Prime Minister for signing CHT Peace Accord.

The Parishad at a press conference at the local press club here today alleged that the peace accord for which the Prime Minister is going to be awarded had snatched all civic rights of Bangalees living in the region, instead of bringing peace.

Khaleda

From page 1 cost of blood are ready to shed blood again to protect it

The opposition leader asked India to stop its aggression, give compensation to those killed or injured in BSF attacks and withdraw its troops from 'occupied lands' of Bangladesh.

She also urged the government to take initiative to realise those demands.

DCC drive

From page 1

Despite drizzles in the morning. DCC workers used their, At fogger machines to kill mosquitoes in the area. But the DCC drive across the city could not get into full swing due to bad weather.

Only garbage and water hyacinths were removed from some wetlands and ditches. There are some 2100 acres of such mosquito breeding grounds in the city.

Rains prevented use of Malaria- B oil, which destroys larvae. It is expected to be sprayed on Sunday if good weather prevails.

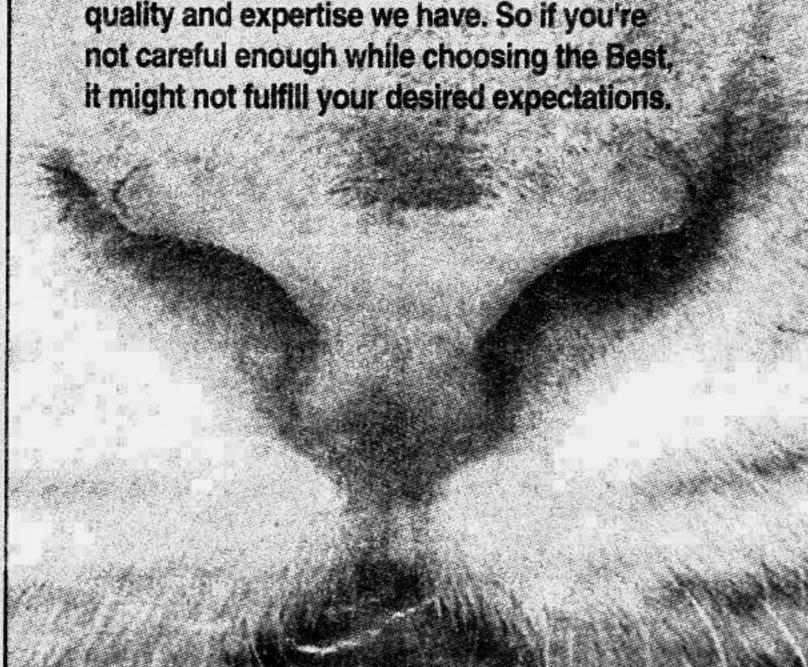
Dr Ashraf said mere cleaning of the wetlands would not help unless citizens too join the drive by cleaning their own household.

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