

## Metropolitan



Children performing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to mark its founding anniversary. — Star photo

● What's on today .... ●

**Russel Shishu Kishore Parishad:** On the occasion of the 32nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Parishad has organised a day-long programme. Venue: Bangabandhu Smriti Jadughar, Rd no: 32, Dhanmondi.

**Berger Young Painters Award '96:** The awarding ceremony will be held. Venue: Ballroom, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 7 pm.

**Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Prof Ahmedullah Mia, Director, UCEP will speak on 'Impact of UCEP on skilled manpower development'. Venue: Officers Club, Baily Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**CPB condoles Taher's death**

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has condoled the death of Abu Taher, member of central secretariat of Gano-Tantri Party, reports BSS.

Taher, a member of central committee of Chhatra Union and also of DUCSU, worked for a long time in the Dhaka city office of NAP. He died yesterday morning following a stroke. He was 56.

Shahidullah Chowdhury and Moshed Ali, president and acting general secretary of CPB, in a condolence message, expressed their sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

**Betar's hour-long programme from city slums**

Bangladesh Betar is broadcasting an hour-long special programme on population planning directly from city slums from yesterday, reports UNB.

According to a press release, the first live programme from a slum at Lalbagh in the city goes on the air at 4 pm. The programme could be heard on 432.90 meter band of Bangladesh Betar.

**Association formed**

An association named 'Information Assistant Welfare Association' has been formed under the Directorate of Information yesterday, says a press release.

A 9-member Executive Committee was formed with Md Saliquil Islam as its President.

**Notice**

Our feature item *Dhaka Day by Day* could not be carried today due to space constraint. The inconvenience to the readers is regretted.

**JP units urged to collect booklet**

Jatiya Party yesterday urged all its units to collect a booklet containing the address of the party Chairman H M Ershad in Parliament on August 27 last from the central office of the party House No 108, Road no 8, Banani, reports BSS.

The units have been asked to contact Joint Office Secretary of the party Azad Sultan in this regard, a JP press release said.

**Coordination meet on facilities at ZIA held**

The 6th meeting of the Zia International Airport Coordination Committee was held on October 12 in the head office conference room. Air Commodore M Erfan Uddin, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh presided over the meeting, says a press release.

The committee discussed various issues relating to passenger handling facilities and their safety and security aspect. The meeting was attended by concerned members of the Committee.

**Lost**

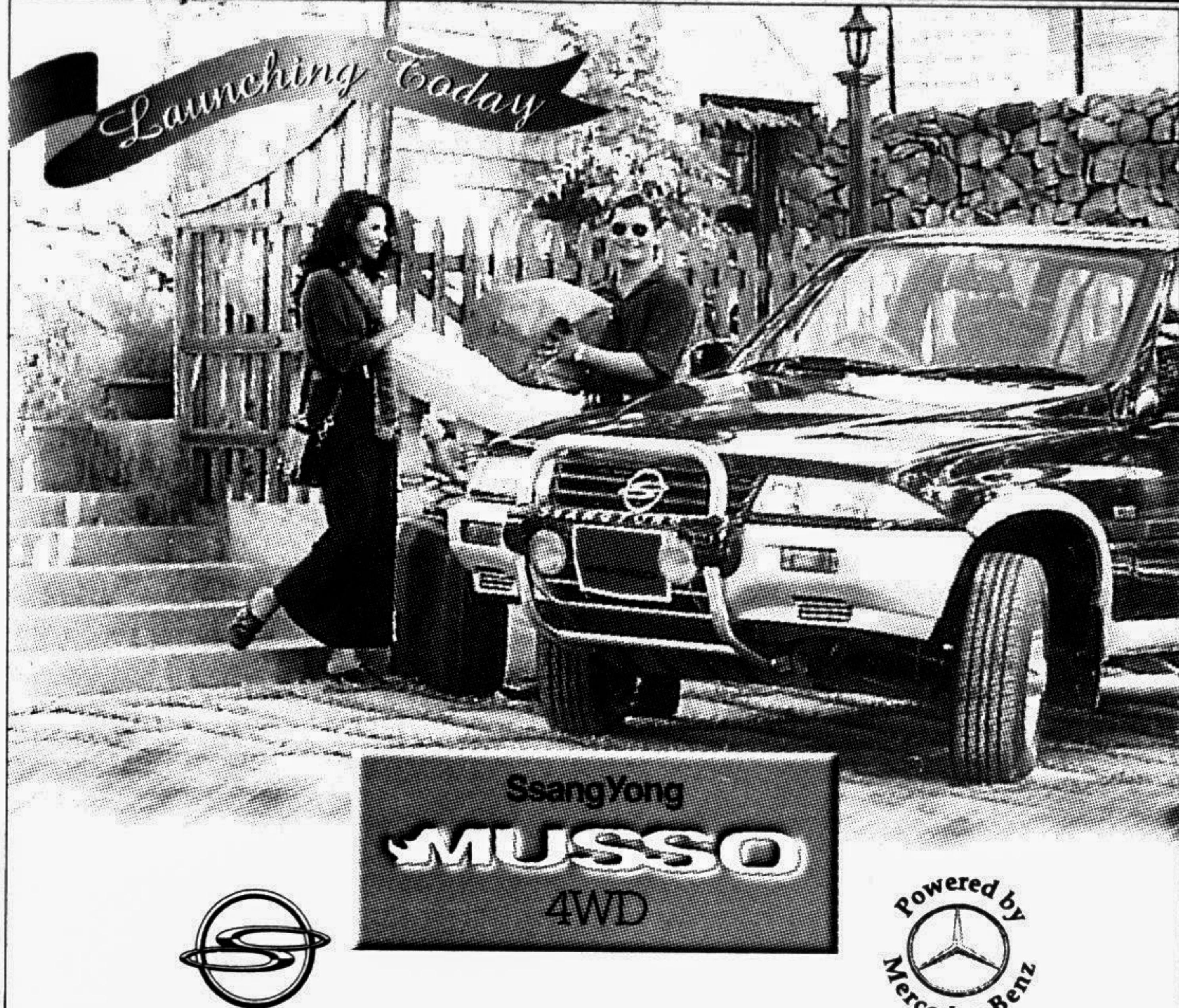
My B A (Pass) certificate, marksheet roll DA-20595, Reg 48680-85/86; Dhaka University. Md Enamul Haque S-591

**Lost**

My B A (Pass) Provisional Certificate, marksheet Roll P-78881, Reg BA 10464-87/88, Dhaka University. Md. Mojibur Rahman S-590

**Lost**

My SSC admit card, Dhaka Board, 1996 Science Group, Roll 123751, Registration 124156 lost. — Abdullah Al Sayem S-592



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Poverty remains a paramount challenge for both national governments and the international development community. As such 1996 has been designated as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations General Assembly. Today, the 17th of October, 1996 marks the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. On this occasion I take great pride in stating that in conformity with policy adopted by the UN the prime objective of my government is eradication of poverty. To this end strong economic and social policies are being formulated by my government in the core sectors of development covering human resources, women, employment, governance and environment.

Bangladesh, being a signatory to the declarations of the UN global conferences in the 1990s, is pledge bound to implement the Plans of Action in accordance to its needs and priorities. Particularly, as a signatory of the Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) Bangladesh has committed itself to take immediate steps to adopt and implement the Programmes of Action through formulating and implementing national poverty eradication plans encompassing projects at the local and national levels. This would seek to ensure: (1) people's rights through a supportive legal framework; implementing the provisions of already ratified conventions and covenants and encouraging ratification of others; (2) expanding education at all levels; (3) building up capacity for monitoring the national and international policies and programmes; (4) extending employment opportunities and income generation; (5) promoting comprehensive rural development; (6) ensuring sustainability of environment; (7) strengthening health services; (8) providing social protection and reduced vulnerability; (9) eliminating gender discrimination in all areas; and (10) developing partnership and cooperation between government and civil society in the process of societal development. All these are in line with the policies and objectives of the my government.

Given the proportion of poor in Bangladesh, one cannot continue to address poverty as a peripheral welfare issue. Rather, poverty alleviation must be the central goal of development, and an integral part of an economic growth strategy which aims at increasing the productivity of the bottom 50 percent of the population. On this day, I extend my whole hearted appreciation to the UN system, particularly the UNDP, for providing support to the government's endeavour towards poverty eradication. We commend their pro poor policy and participatory approach whereby it seeks to empower the poor which will allow them to participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life, enabling them to become genuine partners in development.

*Sheikh Hasina*

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Since the creation of the United Nations in 1945, great strides have been made in alleviating poverty. Yet poverty remains significant in different parts of the world. The number of poor people has grown amid plenty. The gap between rich and poor has widened, both within countries and between developed countries and developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs).

In order to promote public awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries, the General Assembly of the United Nations through a resolution 47/196 adopted on 22 December 1992, has designated 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Two years later, in 1994, through another UNGA resolution, 1996 has been proclaimed the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.



**David E. Lockwood**  
UNDP Resident Representative & UN Resident Coordinator



Today marks the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. On this day, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) re-dedicates itself to a decade-long, global effort to replace hunger, helplessness and despair with opportunity, hope and the promise of a better future. Poverty places an intolerable burden on the human spirit. We cannot accept that it will always be with us. The modern world has the resources, the know-how and the expertise to relegate poverty to the pages of history.

That is why UNDP, with the enthusiastic backing of our Executive Board, has made the fight against world poverty its central and overriding priority. UNDP now spends nearly 90 percent of its core resources in countries with 90 per cent of the world's poorest people. We have committed the full force of all our energies to the gravest human challenge of our time—an effort which will also galvanize and energize the various efforts of the United Nations around a great and just cause.

Picture a moment what being poor really means—beyond the vast numbers of nameless, faceless people who many think live only in faraway places. Poverty is a hungry and thirsty child who cannot understand why there is no food and no water. Poverty is an elderly woman with no heat in winter, a woman with a lifetime of hard work behind her and only a damp chill as her reward. Poverty is a fisherman whose waters— and livelihood— have been spoiled by pollution through no fault of his own. But being poor is more than a lack of food, shelter and in-depth. Poverty means marginalization—the exclusion of millions of people of countries, rich and poor, from the benefits of progress. Poverty also means polarization—the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots, both between countries and within countries.

Inequities breed helplessness and hopelessness, anger and despair—and all too often violence and conflict. The world must make a place for everyone to share in its bounty. And the poor need more control over the forces shaping their lives. They need the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty and social exclusion and enter a world of equity and justice.

The income gap between the richest and poorest 20 per cent of the world's people has not been narrowing in the past 30 years. It has, in fact, doubled. Each day, 68,000 people join the ranks of the poor—families living on less than one dollar a day. Let us ask ourselves what the future could possibly hold for the children in these families.

The goal to eradicate extreme poverty is not some lofty idealism when we see how many industrial countries over the course of this century have done just that. In this sense, conquering poverty is not just a moral imperative but a feasible objective.

With the spirit of the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit of Social Development as our guide and inspiration, UNDP is helping to forge a world partnership geared to replacing poverty with equity. We have set our goals to provide sustainable livelihoods, to advance the well-being of women and to regenerate the environment.

UNDP offices throughout the world are sponsoring and organizing events to observe the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The activities, which take place during the week of 17-24 October, are designed to encourage and assist governments and their people to develop national poverty eradication strategies as well as plans of actions which are comprehensive, participatory and realistic.

Within the framework, UNDP is working with governments to help them identify the nature and scope of poverty in their respective countries. We are supporting initiatives that provide equitable access to assets including skills, credit, jobs and sustainable livelihoods, land and environmental resources, linkages to national and international markets and information systems, citizenship rights and legal rights for women and minorities.

The real potential of the next century will not be found in stocks or technology or minerals. The real potential of the future will be found in the three billion people now living in poverty who collectively represent the greatest potential for growth and opportunity the world has ever seen.

Unless we address the problems of poverty now, none of the great goals the international community has set—peace, stability, human rights for all, preservation of the environment—are achievable in a world where one half of the people find themselves shut out of opportunity and the benefits of a global society.

Poverty is the great denier. It denies comfort, dignity, freedom, participation. Today we deny the great denier its handbook. I call upon every individual who cares about justice and human dignity to join the global campaign to eradicate poverty. We have the know-how. We have the resources. Today, we need the commitment.

*James Gustave Speth*  
Administrator  
United Nations Development Programme