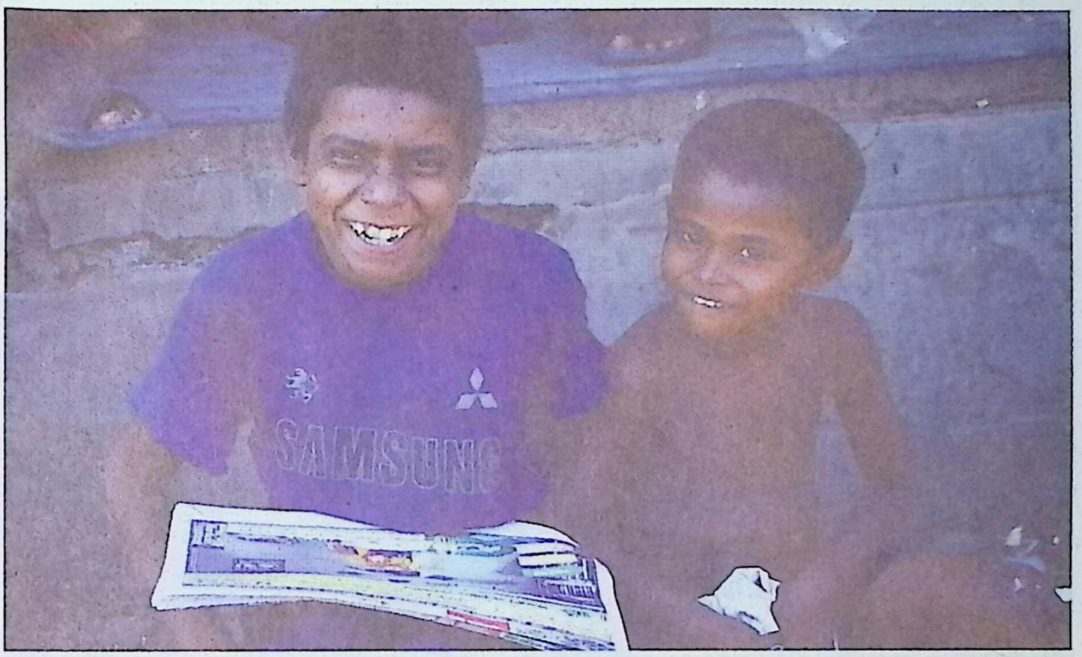
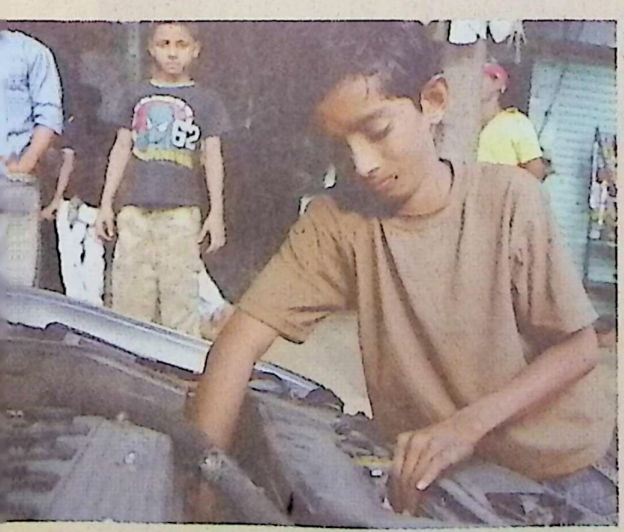


For these children, Universal Children's Day has very little meaning

conversation that Ismail had with one of his customers at the traffic signal in Gulshan last week, while trying to sell her a flower. He along with his friends would rush to the cars and auto rickshaws stopping at the red light and beg for money or try to sell them their items. "I earned 70 takas yesterday," says Ismail proudly. "Last week, an *aapa* gave me and my friends clothes!" beams Ismail showing off the tee shirt he is wearing.

There is no proper survey to be found online or in any of the libraries which could let one know the approximate number of children like Ismail living on the streets trying to survive the harsh life. However, it is clear that thousands of such



Even though a commendable act on the government's part, it is still not going to solve the problem. There are several loopholes in the system, which could probably increase the poor person's dilemma instead of solving it. According to the National Child Labour Policy 2007, some of the major reasons behind children working in dangerous and hazardous work places are poverty and lack of education. Poverty is increasing day by day in our country and education comes way down in the list of priorities, especially to those who do not get enough to eat. If Child Labour is finally made illegal in Bangladesh, what are the alternatives that the government plans to provide to the thousands of families who depend on the earnings of their young children?