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# The Daily Star

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## Election to Jessore-3 JS seat Tribunal dismisses Tariqul's appeal

**From Lutfar Rahman Belayet in Jessore**

JESSORE, Oct 22: The district election tribunal today dismissed Post and Telecommunication Minister Tariqul Islam's appeal seeking cancellation of the results of the election to the Jatiya Sangsad Jessore 3 seat held in February 1991.

In a packed courtroom District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Rezwana All, the tribunal judge, pronounced his verdict dismissing the appeal filed by Tariqul Islam on April 14, 1991 challenging the declaration of Awami League candidate Advocate Rowshan All elected from that seat. Tariqul had alleged rigging during the counting of votes.

Rowshan All, who has since died, passing away on August 19 last, had obtained a High Court order restraining the Election Commission from recounting the votes.

But following Rowshan All's demise, Tariqul won an order from the High Court earlier this month for a recount of the votes which took place from October 15 to 17. The fresh tabulation showed Tariqul had in fact secured 277 more votes than his Awami League rival.

Duly, the district election tribunal took up the appeal for hearing today and after examining the statements of 81 witnesses dismissed Tariqul's petition.

Meanwhile, as per the schedule announced by the Election Commission for by-elections to the seat following the death of the incumbent MP, Tariqul Islam filed a nomination paper within today's deadline.

With the mainstream Opposition parties boycotting all by-elections under the present government since the Magura by-polls of last March, Tariqul was the only nomination filed today. According to EC sources, should the papers be found in order Tariqul would be declared elected unopposed, rendering the scheduled November 15 by-polls unnecessary.

EC sources here said that although five nomination papers were collected from the office, three prospective independents and a Khelafat Andolan candidate did not submit their papers in the end.

Meanwhile, a hartal called in Jessore town and adjoining areas by the Awami League protesting alleged tampering with the ballot boxes during the recent recount, was generally observed today.

Shops remained shut and vehicles off the roads with rickshaws returning in the afternoon. But attendance in government offices was reported normal.

In isolated incidents, however, local Jubo Dal worker Alam and pro-Awami League BCL district office secretary Munirul Islam Chowdhury were beaten up by rival workers in the town this morning. As many as 17 vehicles were damaged and a confectionery attacked by the supporters of the hartal.

## Second round of dialogue held

**By Staff Correspondent**

The second round of the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue to end the present political impasse was held yesterday at the Cabinet Room of the Sangsad Bhaban.

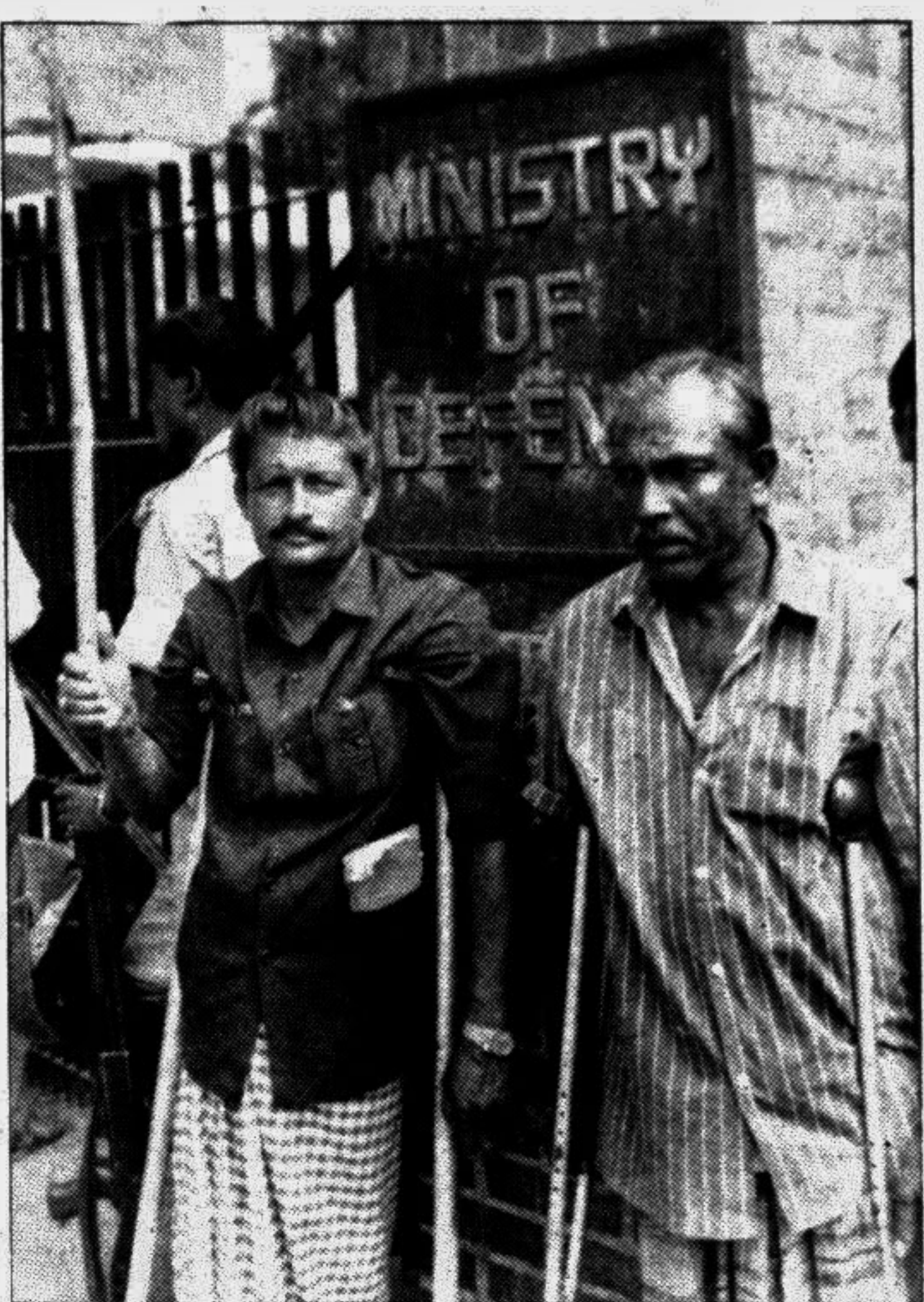
The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader and Chief Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Awami League (AL) leader and Chief Whip of the Opposition in the House Mohammad Nasim, after a four-hour closed door meeting, told reporters at 11:20 pm that the discussions were held in an 'open atmosphere'. The talks were adjourned till 6:30 this evening.

The first round of discussion was held Thursday night.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star late last night that the ruling party representatives at the dialogue argued against the Opposition concept of a caretaker government citing constitutional provisions.

Barrister Ziaur Rahman of the 15-member ruling party delegation, who made the opening statement yesterday, is learnt to have argued that the idea of holding general elections under a caretaker administration was an 'alien concept, especially in the context of the Bangladesh Constitution.

He criticised the Opposition. See Page 12 Col 7



Two crippled freedom fighters were among others of the Central Action Council of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kallyan Trust who staged a gherao of the Defence Ministry at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. — Star photo

## BSRS starts commercial banking in Dec

**By Sohail Manzur**

The Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), one of the six development financing institutions (DFIs) in the country, will start commercial banking in December this year, according to official sources.

The BSRS, which obtained the permission to begin banking transactions early last year under the BSRS (Amendment) Act, is training its staff for commercial banking. It has also requested the Ministry of Finance to appoint, on deputation, senior bank officials in the BSRS.

The BSRS authorities have also rented the ground floor of the Sharif Mansion in Motijheel for starting commencing banking.

The authorised capital of the BSRS is Tk 200 crore, paid up capital Tk 70 crore and the reserve fund is Tk 40 crore. Besides, the Sangstha has Tk 110 crore as cash in hand.

According to sources concerned, the BSRS is going for commercial banking as part of its plan to reactivate the dormant industrial project financing institution which had remained almost idle for about eight years from March, 1985.

During the time, the... See Page 12 Col 2



Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury shaking hands with his Opposition counterpart Abdus Samad Azad before leading their respective sides at the second round of dialogue yesterday evening in the cabinet room of the Sangsad Bhaban. — Star photo

## One with AIDS virus found in Sylhet

**From Staff Correspondent**

SYLHET, Oct 22: A person carrying AIDS virus has been detected in village Tajpur of Purba Muria union under Beanibazar thana.

Abdul Matin, 25, who had been in Dubai, was found HIV positive in a medical test there two and a half months ago. He was immediately sent back to Bangladesh. Professor MA Khalique, ex-principal of the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College, also found him carrying the AIDS virus two weeks ago.

The Thana Health Administrator informed the Civil Surgeon of the matter today. The Civil Surgeon, when contacted, said the affected person would be brought to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for test tomorrow (Sunday).

## BNP hasn't quit the streets, warns PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reminded that the BNP had come to power from the streets and, if necessary, would go back there to stand against any injustice, reports UNB.

"They (particular quarters) should remember that the BNP has not withdrawn itself from the streets; if necessary, though in power, we shall take to the streets again against any injustice," she told textile workers.

Begum Zia alleged that some people and parties wanted to push the country backwards by calling hartals, strikes and creating anarchy.

"In fact," she said, "they are not at all friends of the nation, people or workers and do not want the advancement of the country."

Addressing the conference of the Jatiyatabadi Textile Spinning Mills Sramik Dal, the Prime Minister said foreign investors and shown keen interest to invest in the country because they are attracted by the government's economic and industrial policies. But they feel shy when they see frequent hartals and strikes.

Citing an instance, she said a Malaysian industrialist who had come to invest in Bangladesh returned home after staying two days at the airport where he was held up due to a shutdown.

Begum Zia, however, pointed to a salutary change taking place on the labour front of late.

"Nowadays, despite hartals, production continues in our industry." See Page 12 Col 1

## Conjunctivitis epidemic in city

**Star Report**

A conjunctivitis epidemic is now sweeping the capital and its adjoining areas, according to doctors.

They said conjunctivitis patients are coming to the city hospitals and private clinics in large numbers with the beginning of the late autumn.

For reasons still not known, the disease that causes swelling and inflammation of eyes usually spreads during this period of the year, they said.

The number of patients with conjunctivitis is increasing everyday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Prof Sheikh Nesaruddin Ahmed, Head of Medicine Department.

Even larger number of patients do not go to the hospitals. See Page 12 Col 6

## Isha murder One held for buying loot

**By Staff Correspondent**

Prince — was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after he had made a confessional statement before a magistrate.

Maid Ambia Begum and receptionist Harun Mia of the Elyseum rest house were released on bail. The magistrate granted them bail as the two were found not involved in the murder.

The investigating officer Inspector ABM Sultan of the DB, prayed to the court for 10-day police remand for each of the four accused killers for further interrogation. But the magistrate granted five-day police remand for each.

The four accused are: Habibur Rahman Habib, Amzad Hossain alias Amzad Chowdhury, Zakir Hossain alias Biplob and Shaiful Islam Babu. All the five killers were arrested in a 12-hour drive by DB investigators late Thursday night and Friday morning.

A DB source said only Prince was involved in the recent violence at Shahjahanpur in the city. Police were also looking into the previous police records of all the arrested.

Meanwhile, a senior DB official said Habib and Amzad were given the duty of selling the goods stolen after the murder.

Ishtiaq Ahmed Isha, a student of Class Ten of Motijheel Central Government High School, was murdered at their flat at the Elyseum Bhaban on Wednesday morning when he was alone at home. He was the only child of a government servant, Sheikh Mazhar Ali and a school teacher, Sawlat Begum. See Page 12 Col 8

## LDF stages sit-in near Sectt for caretaker govt

**By Staff Correspondent**

Activists of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) staged a sit-in near the Secretariat yesterday demanding a caretaker government for holding national elections 'free from violence, black money, black laws and religion'.

The three-hour sit-in from 11 am was part of the LDF's agitation to press home a seven-point demand that includes banning of communal politics, trial of 'war criminals' and an end to World Bank-IMF 'interference' in the national economy.

The sit-in programme was also held near the deputy commissioners' offices outside Dhaka, LDF sources said.

The LDF, in a declaration, criticised the Awami League's alliance with the 'autocratic' Jatiya Party and 'anti-liberation' Jamaat-e-Islami in the... See Page 12 Col 8

## Place interim govt Bill in JS, Hasina tells BNP

**PATUAKHALI, Oct 22:** Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today urged the ruling party to introduce a Bill in Parliament providing for a neutral caretaker government to hold general elections, reports UNB.

"Make the dialogue a success... Bring a Bill in Parliament reflecting the people's demand for a non-partisan neutral government," she told a public meeting at the PDS ground here.

The Awami League president blamed the ruling BNP for its indifferent attitude towards resolving the current political crisis, saying that it had earlier rejected an offer for discussion.

"We had invited them to solve the problem through discussion. They didn't agree to sit with us. Now they have agreed to sit for the dialogue under international pressure," she said.

Hasina said rampant corruption, unabated terrorism and failure to fulfil election pledges by the ruling BNP compelled the common people to raise the demand of a caretaker government.

She said people being frustrated by BNP rule had launched movement to oust this government for realising their voting rights and an accountable government.

The Opposition leader expressed concern at the famine-like situation and drought in northern districts and said when people are dying unfed, the ruling party is trying to get consolation by making false claim of development.

Unemployment, illiteracy and poverty have plagued the country but there is no pragmatic plan of the government to solve the basic problems of the commonman. She gave a comparative statistics of landless, unemployment and poverty from 1972 to 1994.

See Page 12 Col 1

## CHT Peace Council protests 3 PMs' statement

Chittagong Hill Tracts National Coordination and Peace Council yesterday protested the joint statement of three PMs from the region demanding suspension of the functions of the three local government councils, reports UNB.

Kalparanjyan Chakma, Dipankar Talukder and Bir Bahadur in a statement on Friday demanded that the activities of the three local government councils of the three hill districts be put off until restructuring of the bodies.

Kalparanjyan Chakma also recently resigned as Chairman of the Chakma Refugee Repatriation and Rehabilitation Committee.

"Such statement and resignation while government-Shantibahini peace talks are underway and the process of repatriation of Chakma tribal refugees living in India is in progress tantamount to obstructing the activities of restoration." See Page 12 Col 3

## Rise in serious crimes: Reflection of a society in deep crisis

**By Masud Hasan Khan**

Housemaid Romena, after mercilessly slaughtering young medical student Mahjabeen Chowdhury Shoma, waited nearly four hours for her second victim — the girl's college teacher mother Nilufar Chowdhury at Lalmatia earlier this month.

The five teenagers who slit the throat of 15-year-old schoolboy Ishtiaq Ahmed Isha at the city's Elyseum government rest house October 19 had gone to the nine-storey apartment block of their lonely victim to execute their diabolical scheme with the unwavering minds of cool, professional killers, according to investigators.

On Friday, when the boys accused of the Elyseum murder were lined up at the Detective Branch's Minto Road office for police mugshots, they seemed to be completely unaware of the appalling consequences of their crime. The only child of a government servant and his school teacher wife had been murdered for committing a robbery.

One or two of the ruthless five even betrayed their cool composure by smiling at the cameras.

These two gruesome incidents that either involved or affected almost all types of members of a typical urban Dhaka family — have given rise to a question in the minds of the public: In what direction is our society moving?

To explore the answers, The Daily Star talked with a number of social scientists, psychologists and community leaders who spoke of a changing social order, the diminishing role of families, a middle class struggling hard to cope with the fast changes and the logical fall-out of economic deprivation.

"The two incidents, though not quite identical in nature, reveal what a sudden bolt of lightning reveals of deep darkness, a darkness that is our present society," observed Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, a political leader.

He said that a new consumerism was on the rise, particularly among the urban middle class, and the consequent crisis of values has begun to show the side effects.

The situation has been worsened by age-old social injustice and a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, explained the leftist political leader.

Professor Syed Ahmed Khan of the Dhaka University's Sociology Department, however, pointed towards increasing alienation of individuals from the society.

Explaining, he said individual members of the society now do not get what they really want from the society, while the demands of the society itself remain unmet.

This gap in two separate aspirations has its fallout — murders, violence and social strife are only fractions of this phenomenon," he added.

"Our society is now dominated by... See Page 12 Col 4

## Stalled STOL service may take off finally

**By Asiuzzaman**

The long stalled short take off and landing (STOL) air service in the country now seems to be poised for a take-off, sources in the Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh (CAAB) have said.

Borak Air, one of the eight firms which got provisional air transport operation licence (Patol), has informed the CAAB that it is procuring a British-made STOL aircraft from an African country.

In a letter to the CAAB recently, the firm requested it to nominate an aircraft expert to inspect the 19-seat skyvan in that country, the sources said.

Both the firm and the CAAB sources declined to disclose the name of the country on the ground of 'business secrecy'.

The Borak Air has also sought an extension of the one-year validity of the Patol on its expiry on October 31.

A CAAB source said that three other Patol-holders — the Eagle Air, Green Air and Air Parabat — are also trying to procure STOL aircraft as early as possible.

The Cabinet had approved a proposal from the Ministry of Civil Aviation for opening up selected domestic air routes to the private sector early last year and the CAAB then issued eight licences since October last.

The other Patol-holder companies are: Royal Bengal Airlines, Falcon Air, Victory Air and South Asian Airlines.

The authorities have already completed infrastructural development at six destinations — Barisal, Comilla, Shaharernagar, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon and Ishwardi.

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines is not operating in... See Page 12 Col 6

## JCD-Shibir clash at BL College

**From Our Correspondent**

RHULNA, Oct 22: Five activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash with the supporters of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir on the Brajo Lal (BL) College campus this afternoon.

The clash continued for half an hour.

According to the principal, the rival student organisations clashed over the admission of newcomers.

The BL College unit of the pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir for the attack with lethal weapons. Cocktails and crackers were also exploded indiscriminately.

The principal of the college, in consultation with the teachers' council has, however, served show cause notices on the two student organisations as to why disciplinary action should not be taken for their violation of the 15-point code of conduct signed by all the parties concerned last year to ensure peace on the campus.

## Rail, road barricade in Bogra today

**BOGRA, Oct 22:** Bogra Division Implementation Coordination Council will enforce a 48-hour rail-and-road barricade here from tomorrow demanding an administrative division in Bogra. The council brought out processions and held rallies in the town today to drum up support for the programme, reports UNB.

## 3 die in separate road mishaps

**By DMCH Correspondent**

Three persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday. A private car ran over one Md Shahid, 35, near Shantiganagar at 5 pm. He succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A speedy minibus hit Yunus Mia, 27, near Sonargaon Hotel at about 4:30 pm. Yunus died on the spot. Abdur Razzak, 40, was killed when a motor vehicle ran over him at Gulistan at about 12:30 pm.