SEVEN

M RAHMAN

Life here apparently has no value. Often no one is held accountable for killings in road accidents, in political clashes or during campus violence. Authorities concerned are reluctant about carrying out prompt probes to find out the facts especially in case of road accidents. It is only when a road accident becomes a news headline and has caused enough public outrage that the high-ups then form probe bodies, visit spots and victims' families.

The death of seven school children in the March 16 Comilla road crash could not move political or government high-ups. The district administration and law enforcers have not yet formed any committee to probe the accident. They have decided to carry out a regular case investigation by police into the incident. They did not bother engaging any safety engineer to ascertain whether the accident happened due to truck driver's fault or any mechanical fault in the vehicle or faulty design of the road. The highway police is investigating the case but even 10 days after the accident, they have not been able to arrest the owner of the killer truck or its driver.

Generally, after such a fatal road accident government forms a high powered probe body involving safety engineers or other experts to find out why and how the accident occurred.

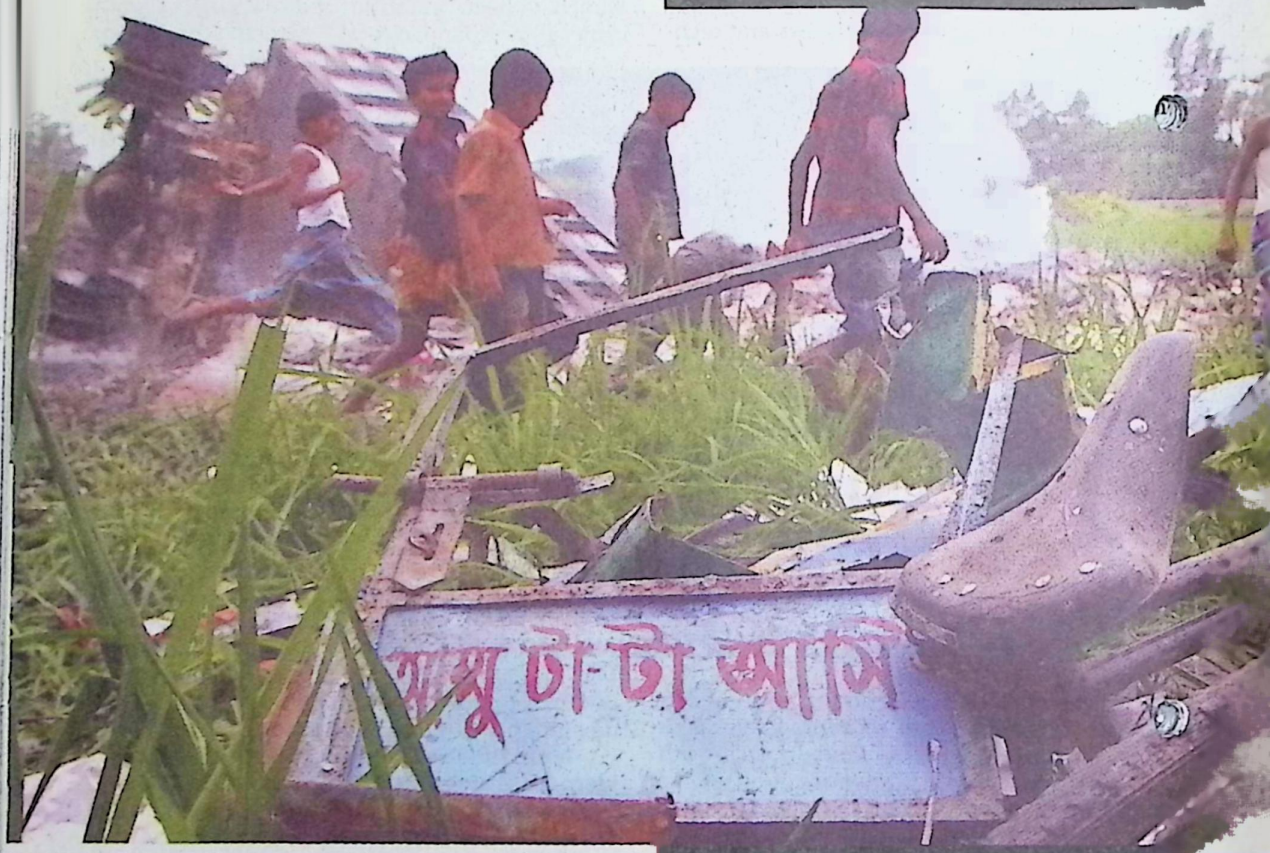


PHOTO: PALASH KHA

The truck, running on the wrong side of Kasba-Noakhali highway at Hatimara in Monoharganj of Comilla hit the rickshaw-van on the road around 1:30pm, leaving seven children dead and three others injured. The schoolchildren, aged between seven and 10, were students of Natherpatua Modern Academy in the area.

Former chief of Accident Research Institute [ARI] at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology [Buet] Prof Shamsul Hoque says it would be difficult to find the reasons behind the accident if a probe body including a safety engineer was not formed immediately and a prompt