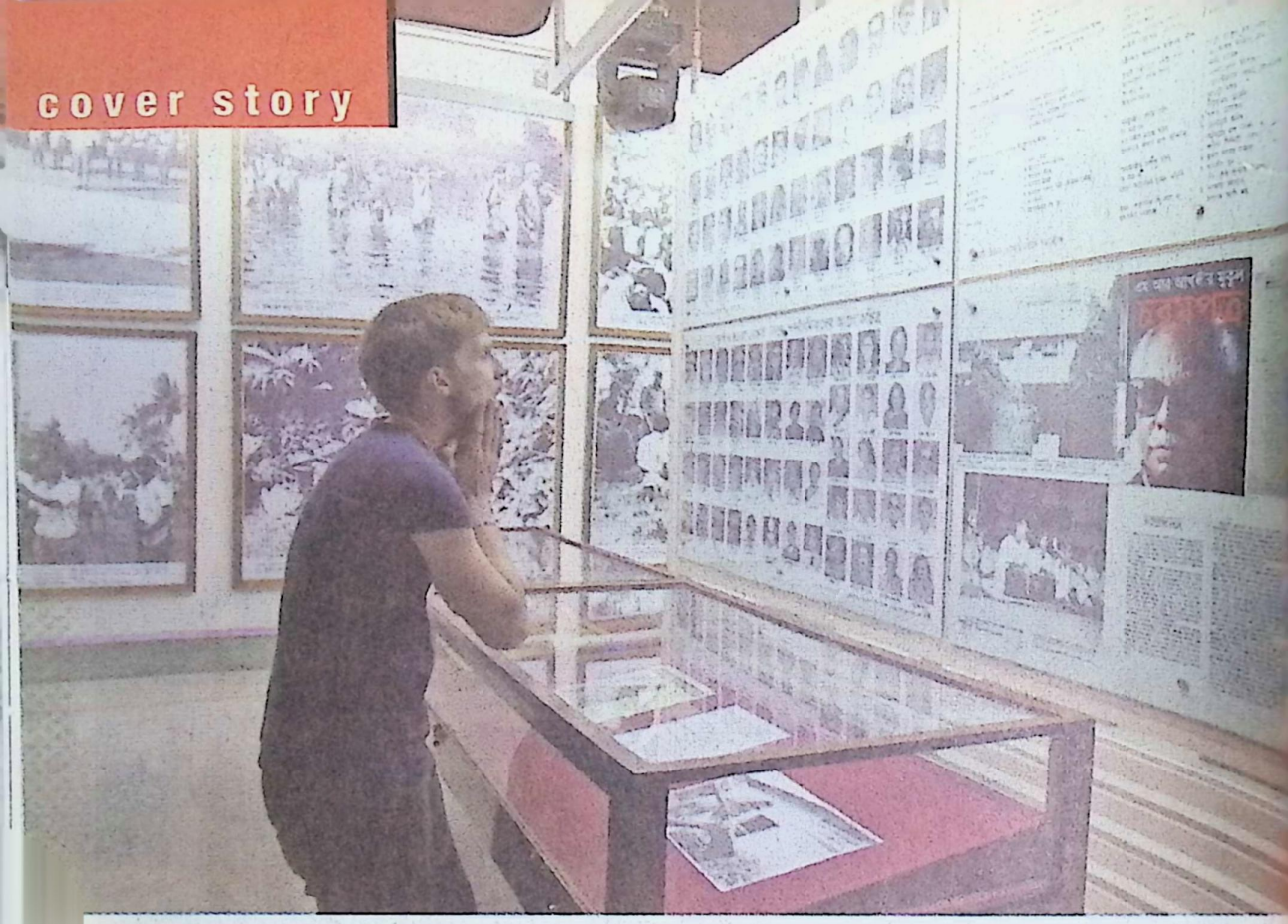


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

WE, THE PEOPLE

The Star looks at the process behind the creation of the Constitution of Bangladesh

AMITAVA KAR

On November 4, 1972, the members of the Constituent Assembly while signing the Constitution of Bangladesh fixed a milestone in the history of Bangladesh towards democracy and rule of law. The struggle that started with the proclamation of Six Points in 1966 came to its fruition. On December 16, 1972, on the first anniversary of Bangladesh's victory over Pakistan in the liberation war, the new Constitution came into effect as citizens of the new-born country looked ahead to a new dawn of hope after years of terror and oppression they had suffered under the military dictatorship of Pakistan.

While the Pakistan Armed Forces cracked down with bestiality in the midnight of March 25, 1971, the elected representatives of the people of Bangladesh crossed the border and on April 10, 1971, they on the mandate given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, proclaimed independence of Bangladesh in which the objectives of equality, human rights and social justice were mentioned.

On July 10, 1972, Bangabandhu returned home as president of Bangladesh. In a meeting next day Provisional Constitutional Order was proclaimed providing for parliamentary system of government. Bangabandhu stepped down as president and assumed the office of Prime Minister.