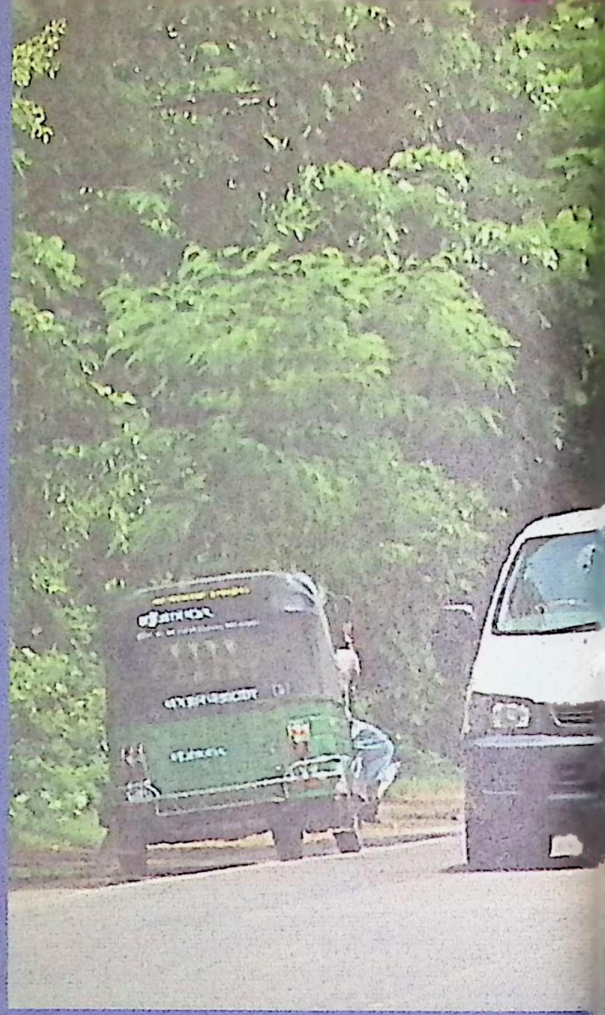
Each year thousands of people get killed or injured in road crashes in Bangladesh. Victims or their families seldom get compensated for their losses. *The Star* finds out why and what legal options they may pursue in this context.

AMITAVA KAR



PUTTING A PRICE



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

On August 13, 2011, Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier, award winning film personalities, were killed instantaneously along with their crew members, when a bus ran into their car on the Dhaka-Aricha highway. Every year thousands of people get killed in road crashes in Bangladesh, usually called 'accidents' here. What often happens after a crash is bizarre: the mob beats the driver if they can catch him. In some cases, the police arrest him. If someone dies or gets severely injured, they may get some kind of immediate payout from the owner of the vehicle or the driver, but nothing close to their loss. Sounds bad? Now get this: no one sues them for damages or loss. Because the idea that victims of a car crash may have the right to claim compensation from the party at fault is mostly unused in Bangladesh, although the law has a provision for it. If they get anything, it is from kind-hearted individuals or organisations.