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## BEHIND THE MUSIC

The circumstantial factors some finest tunes or lyrics owe to

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## AL NOW, AL THEN

Mujib's crisis was conspiracies, Hasina's is visionless leadership

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## PANETTA IN INDIA

Talks will focus on new US strategy on Asia

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## Speaker's comment amounts to 'sedition'

HC hits back at JS criticism of its SC land recovery directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday said the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad had provoked people against the apex court and the government by

making comments on its directive on Supreme Court land and the act amounted to sedition.

The Speaker is completely

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## Constitution 'violated' by Justice Manik

Lawmakers react angrily at Jatiya Sangsad, demand his removal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling alliance lawmakers said in parliament yesterday that High Court Judge AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik had violated

the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" about the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

They demanded that the

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## TRANSPORT SYSTEM Designed for death?

Star roundtable explores reasons behind unsafe roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no designated government body that can make coordinated efforts to prevent fatalities on roads despite frequent accidents, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

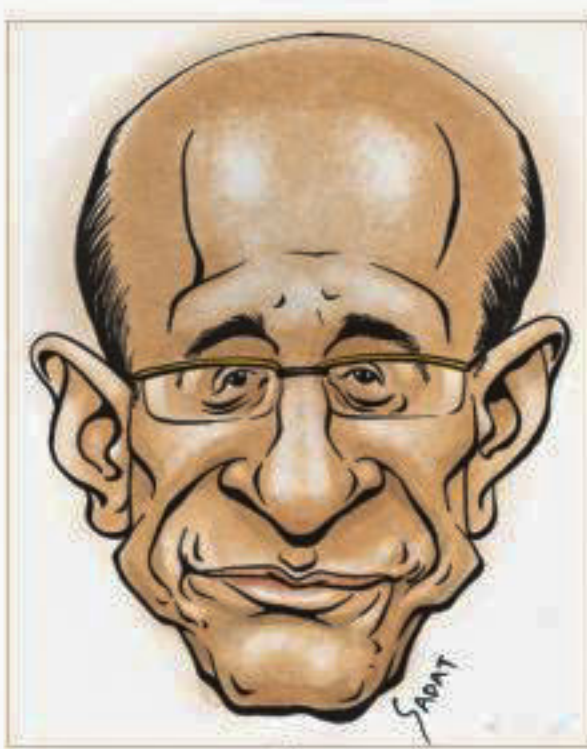
Communications and Railway Minister Obaidul Quader, during the discussion held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, said, "The entire transport system is flawed. The to-do list is extremely long but we don't have enough funds to address all issues immediately. I am prioritising road maintenance for the time being."

Referring to over 200 accident-prone spots, he said, "We have started fixing faults at 30 points." The Accident Research Institute of Buet had identified over 200 accident-prone spots on 10 highways in the country.

Quader emphasised creating mass awareness to reduce road accidents. He said he would accompany different rights activists to the Dhaka-Mawa highway on June 16 to stress this point.

The minister and other rights activists at the roundtable discussion on the theme, "How to stop such murders on the roads", vowed to be more engaged to this end.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 2



## Rental critics anti-state

Declares energy adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister's Energy Adviser, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, yesterday hit out at critics of rental and quick rental power plants and asked them to thank the government for increasing power production.

"Those opposing the quick rental power plants are either ignorant, intellectually corrupt, anti-government or anti-state," Tawfiq told a workshop in the capital's CIRDP auditorium.

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## Zero birth rate by 2030

Pledges Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday made a new demographic vision for the country that would render a negative population growth, a debacle that many of the Scandinavian countries and Japan are grappling with.

She mentioned the plan to attain zero population growth for the country by 2030 in her 16-point vision 2030, which was unveiled during delivery of her "budget thoughts".

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## BNP'S BUDGET THOUGHTS

## No specific proposals, focus on govt failures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the government for all the economic woes facing the country and accused it of preparing the forthcoming budget on political considerations, targeting the general election.

"The ruling party has been demolishing individual freedom and perpetrating a reign of terror in fascist style. As a result, the national economy is in a state of jeopardy. In the absence of transparency and accountability, autocracy is now the only resort of the ruling party," she said while giving out her budget thoughts at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

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## CENSURING PROF SAYEED

## Expunge diatribes

TIB urges Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday demanded that parliament expunge some lawmakers' remarks about noted litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, a member of the TIB trustee board, from its proceedings.

"The parliamentarians' comments are yet to be expunged and we expect that parliament will do that," Sultana Kamal, chairperson of the TIB trustee board, said at a press conference at the BMA auditorium in the capital.

"We are grateful to the deputy speaker for his stance on this issue. But we fear he [the deputy

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Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed

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