

## Indian Navy chief in Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Karambir Singh arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day visit to improve bilateral maritime relations between Bangladesh and India.

During his visit, the Indian CNS will hold bilateral talks with Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, Bangladesh CNS; service chiefs and other senior government officials, according to Press Information Bureau (PIB), India.

He will also visit Khulna Shipyard Ltd, naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna, and also address cadets at Bangladesh Naval Academy.

Besides, the Indian CNS will participate in the first anniversary celebration of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development.

Bangladesh Navy is an active member of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and all three of its working groups: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, and Information Sharing and Interoperability.

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## PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



**It's almost impossible to distract Rabbi these days. Ever since his father, a day labourer, got him enrolled in a free school, the eight-year-old spends most of his day studying. Be it the footpath opposite Bangladesh Shishu Academy -- which he and his family calls home -- or the streets of Dhaka University, an adamant Rabbi persists on towards his goal of becoming a law enforcer. The photo was taken recently.**

## Govt plans to give Shahbagh-DMCH a new look: PM

*Nat'l museum, public library, TSC to be built anew*

BSS, Dhaka

The entire area from the capital's Shahbagh to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) is going to get an aesthetic look, as the government plans to construct major buildings and structures there in eye-catching designs.

"The four large structures -- the National Museum, Public Library, Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital -- will be constructed anew soon to give the area a different look," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Thursday night.

The premier disclosed the government's decision when a delegation of Bangladesh Chhatra League called on her at her official Gono Bhavan residence, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Jahid Tusher said.

About development of TSC, the prime minister said there were only 4,000-5,000 students at the university when the TSC was constructed in the 1960s. But the number of students and teachers is now over 40,000,

which requires a larger space and facilities.

Besides, she said, the TSC auditorium and cafeteria are decades-old establishments. Sheikh Hasina said the government will reconstruct it so that the TSC complex can accommodate huge number of teachers and students, and offices of various cultural and socio-political bodies.

"An international-standard auditorium will also be built in the TSC", she said, adding that a plan has already been prepared to develop the TSC complex.

About the National Public Library, Hasina said the library will be made very eye-catching one, maintaining international standard in the construction of its structure.

"The public library will be doubled in size to accommodate the large number of readers and researchers. Those who will go there can also enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the library complex," she said.

Centering the pond, she added, the area will be turn into a beautiful place for the readers to pass their leisure time.

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## DISCIPLINE ON ROADS

## Extortionists' syndicate biggest barrier: activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A syndicate of extortionists, which has been "born and raised under political patron over the years", is the major barrier to establishing discipline in the country's transport sector, road safety campaigners said yesterday.

They demanded that the government take tough measures against the syndicate and start immediate implementation of the recently-passed "Road Transport Act 2018" to bring the road transport sector under discipline.

They placed the demands at a press conference, organised by Road Safety Foundation, a non-government organisation, at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

Saidur Rahman, executive director of the organisation, said road accidents and harassment of passengers are increasing gradually at an alarming rate, due to severe mismanagement and indiscipline in the transport sector.

"The syndicate does not want discipline in this sector. If discipline is established, their extortion and corruption will be stopped. The more indiscipline exists, the higher is the illegal income -- it is their motto," he said.

Authorities concerned on several occasions gave assurance and commitment to ensure road safety, but those never bore fruit, said Saidur in a written statement.

When any grievous road crash takes place, the

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## Gender equality key to SDGs

*Speakers tell roundtable*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the country being committed to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is shortage of information as well as obstacle in identifying appropriate indicators in this regard, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

They stressed the importance of cooperation between public and private sectors for ensuring gender equality and justice for all to achieve SDGs within 2030.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the workshop on "Linking SDGs 5 and 16: next steps in research and practice" at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Presenting a keynote, Professor Fiona de Londras of Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham, said as an alternate to government reports, NGOs can also prepare documents in line with the demands of SDGs, to supplement those.

"The government should take proper initiative to implement laws, policies, rights and programmes," she said. She also stressed on partnership between the government and civil society in this regard.

Professor Kate Bedford of Birmingham Law School expressed her concerns over lack of socio-legal data, partnership and knowledge sharing on the extent to which data are being utilised.

BLAST researcher Taqbir Huda said justice is not being ensured as incidents of violence towards women are not being reported in many instances. Citing a 2015 BLAST survey, he said, 72.7 percent, women who experienced violence by their partners, never reported the incidents.

BLAST Executive Director Sara Hossain said the government should take initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women to achieve SDGs. Strong policies and enforceable legislation are needed for gender equality and women's empowerment, she said.

Among others, Center for Policy Dialogue's (CPD) distinguished fellow Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya; National Legal Aid Services Organization Director Aminul Islam; UN Women Country Representative in Bangladesh Shoko Ishikawa, and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Deputy Secretary SM Shakil Akhter also spoke.



**Hundreds of admission seekers to Dhaka University look for a transport after their exam, as a gridlock on Mirpur road intensifies their misery in sweltering heat. The photo was taken near Dhaka College around 1pm yesterday.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## DEATH OF PARVEZ ROB

## Conductor was at the wheel of the bus: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not the driver, but the conductor of a Victor Classic Paribahan bus was at the wheel when the vehicle ran over and killed singer and music composer Parvez Rob on September 5, detectives said yesterday.

Driver Md Sumon had asked conductor Md Aktar to drive the vehicle while he was sitting beside around 10am on that day when the accident occurred, said Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (North Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

DB police revealed the information yesterday, following the arrest of the driver and conductor on Friday.

Sumon was arrested in a drive in Narayanganj's Masdair Bazar area under Fatullah Police Station yesterday, while Aktar was held from Shariatpur's Dinara area under Naria Police Station, Mashiur said.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed the duo on two-day remand, after police produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahmuda Akter passed the order.

The recklessly-driven Victor Classic Paribahan bus ran over and killed Parvez Rob, when he was trying to board another bus in the capital's Turag. Later, the victim's wife filed a case with Turag Police Station in this connection.

Two days later, his son Yamin Alvi and some of his friends spotted another bus of the same company in Uttara. When they tried to stop it, the vehicle hit them, badly injuring Alvi and killing one of his friends instantly, police and family members said.

Another case was filed with Uttara West Police Station in connection with the incident.

## AGRO DEVELOPMENT

## Shykh Seraj receives lifetime achievement award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shykh Seraj, media personality and agriculture development activist, has received the "Standard Chartered-Channel i Agrow Lifetime Achievement Award" for his contributions to the country's agricultural development.

He received the award from Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque during a gala ceremony at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on Friday, says a press release.

Standard Chartered Bangladesh CEO Naser Ezaz Bijoy and Impress Group Chairman Abdur Rashid Majumdar, among others, were present at the ceremony.

Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar delivered the welcome speech.

At the ceremony, three more persons and four institutions received awards for their contributions to the sector.

The persons are Matiur Rahman of Chapainawabganj (best farmer, male), Razia Sultana of Savar (best farmer, female), and Prof Gautam Buddha Das, vice chancellor of Chattogram Veterinary

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## DRILLING AT OFFSHORE BLOCKS

## Scrap PSC provision that allows gas export: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning politicians, economists and energy experts yesterday demanded omission of a provision from a government production sharing contract, that allows drilling companies to export gas extracted from offshore blocks in the Bay of Bengal.

Once implemented, the provision of the Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC)-2019 will act against national interest, they said at a dialogue organised by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports at the capital's Mukti Bhavan.

The government has reintroduced the provision in the offshore model PSC, which was approved by the cabinet committee on economic affairs recently.

The government has a separate model PSC for onshore blocks, which still bars gas export. It had earlier included the export provision in the PSC in 2008, but it was discarded in the 2012 version, amid criticism.

Bangladesh has 26 blocks in the Bay. Contracts for 22 of them have not been awarded yet.

At the event, dialogue, economist Prof Anu Muhammad said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on different occasions had said the country will not export gas unless it has gas reserves for the next 50 years.

There is no official record that the country has reached to a 50-year gas stock now. Rather, the widely-publicised version is that the government is importing

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## DHAKA TODAY

### LECTURE

Bio Chemistry in Life Science  
Organiser: Committee of Action for Research, Extension and Sciences  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 5pm

### CAMPAIGN

Ride Bicycle, Save Environment  
Organiser: Cyclers of Bangladesh and Female Cyclers of Bangladesh  
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh  
Time: 8am

### SEMINAR

Writing Scientific Research Paper  
Organiser: IEEE Computer Society

Student Branch, DU  
Venue: Department of CSE, Dhaka University  
Time: 3:30pm

### WORKSHOP

Roof Top Gardening  
Organiser: Green Studio  
Venue: Krishibid Institution  
Bangladesh, Farmgate  
Time: 4pm

### ACADEMIC SESSION

English Practice  
Organiser: U.S. Embassy  
Venue: American Center, Baridhara  
Time: 2pm



**With the words "People of Bangladesh want a solution to Kashmir crisis" painted on his body, a resolute Tutul stands in front of Jatiya Press Club. An artist by profession, the Jatrabari resident stayed there, holding the country's flag high, for around two hours yesterday.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN