DHAKA

Indian Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Karambir Singh arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day visit, aiming to improve bilateral maritime relations between the two countries.

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

He will also visit Khulna Shipyard Ltd, naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna, and 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. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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.

# 'A tip of the iceberg'

The Daily Star | 3

TIB terms govt drive against graft, urges that no one be spared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday termed the ongoing action against the allegedly corrupt youth and student leaders "just a tip of the iceberg".

In a statement yesterday, the graft watchdog also called for "robust measures of accountability, sparing no one at any level." Signed by the organisation's Executive Director Dr

Iftekharuzzaman, the statement said the drive being conducted over the last few days are encouraging and will raise public expectation, though its end result in terms of effective control of corruption will depend on the extent to which it is comprehensive and sustained.

"What has been exposed so far out of the actions taken against a few youth and student leaders in last few days are terrifying examples of deep-rooted corruption in the name of politics under political protection,"the statement said.

Commenting that the revelations are shocking, but not surprising at all, Iftekharuzzaman said, "Political linkage and position of power have been viewed as license to selfenrichment at the expense of public interest for too long, irrespective of whichever party has been in power. It is only natural that corruption and abuse of power would deliver such outcomes. Corruption has been institutionalised at nearly every levels and aspects of life through connivance and collusion of business, politics, administration and law enforcement."

He further said it is now important to ensure that the drives are not swept under the rug, short of ensuring accountability of everyone involved at all levels.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "What has so far been exposed in last few days have not taken place in isolation, and is most likely to be just a tip of the iceberg. Similar scenarios are most likely to emerge if the drive is robust enough to uncover the depth and breadth of corruption elsewhere. Corruption and abuse of politically-linked power is no

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## 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 eyecatching 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 Bhaban 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 it will be made very eyecatching 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 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

## 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 in addition to government reports, NGOs can also prepare documents in line with the demands of SDGs, to supplement those.

"The government should take proper initiatives 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.

DEATH OF PARVEZ ROB

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### 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 a 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.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Shykh Seraj receives lifetime achievement award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted media personality and agriculture development activist Shykh Seraj has received the "Standard Chartered-Channel 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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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 in the capital's Mukti Bhaban. 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, 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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SEMINAR

Time: 5pm

CAMPAIGN

LECTURE

Venue: EMK Center

Organiser: Cyclers of Bangladesh and Female Cyclers of Bangladesh Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh Time: 8am

Writing Scientific Research Paper

Organiser: IEEE Computer Society

Ride Bicycle, Save Environment

Bio Chemistry in Life Science

Organiser: Committee of Action for

Research, Extension and Sciences

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

WORKSHOP Roof Top Gardening

**DHAKA TODAY** 

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