Extra-judicial killings must stop: Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All forms of extra-judicial killings and disappearances must be stopped to establish the rule of law and human rights in the country, said Suranjit Sengupta, a minister without portfolio, yesterday.

"For establishing a democratic and civilised society, disappearances, extra-judicial killings, encounters etc must be stopped," he told a roundtable at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. South Asian Lawyers' Forum, Bangladesh, an international

human rights body, organised the roundtable on "Law and Human Rights".

Addressing as chief guest Suranjit also said the law is still easy for those people who have a lot of money. So, the court should have to be decentralised to ensure fair justice in the society, as around 85 percent people do not have the access to the judicial system, he further said.

About the Hall-Mark scam, Suranjit said the government must file criminal case against the alleged culprits and realise the money, as it is the demand of mass people.

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the misappropriation of money from Sonali Bank allegedly committed by the Hall-Mark Group is a violation of people's

Presided over by the forum President Advocate Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed, the programme was addressed, among others, by former election commissioner Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, former president of Supreme Court Bar Association Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder, and (Story on Page 20)



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets Hajj pilgrims in the capital's Ashkona Hajj Camp, set up by the religious affairs ministry, yesterday.

CASE AGAINST COPS Zainul challenges court order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

on admissibility of the appeal.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

office at Nayapaltan.

countrywide agitation.

The main opposition BNP yesterday said the

prime minister reshuffled the cabinet only to

hide the ruling party's corruption but the move

"Cabinet reshuffle will not do any good for

the government as it is sinking due to corrup-

tion and failure to run the country," said senior

BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

while addressing a rally in front of the party's

The 18-party alliance organised the rally in

protest of price hike of essential commodities,

diesel, gas, water and electricity as part of their

committee, said the government is conspiring

to hold parliamentary elections without the

opposition parties. But the people will oppose

Mosharraf, a member of BNP standing

will not help to keep afloat her sinking boat.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque yesterday challenged a lower court order that had dismissed an attempted murder case against 25 policemen, including a former additional deputy commissioner and assistant commissioner of Mohammadpurin the capital.

BNP lawmaker ABM Ashraf Uddin Nizan on July 10 last year filed the case in connection with assaulting the chief whip on July 6 of that year, the first day of the opposition-sponsored 8hour hartal.

On September 3, a magistrate court dismissed the case, as according to a probe report submitted by Detective Branch of Police the incident occurred after Zainul had behaved arrogantly with policemen and his accomplices provoked the law enforcers.

Zainul's counsel Sanaullah Mia filed an appeal with a Dhaka court challenging the order.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque fixed September 27 for the hearing

to hide graft: BNP

Govt reshuffles cabinet

VITORGARH

Archaeological heritage destruction continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ignoring a High Court ruling, several organisations and local people of Panchagarh are continuing to destroy country's archaeological heritage, experts said at a press conference yesterday.

Though the court ordered local administration to stop all illegal constructions within 25 square kilometres around Vitorgarh in Panchagarh, this is still ongoing, said Prof Shahnaz Husne Jahan.

"Vitorgarh, a treasure trove of antique structures, has not been declared as an archaeological site by the state. Thanks to the government's unawareness, some organisations are destroying the site," she said.

She was addressing the press conference held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

The conference was jointly organised by National Archaeological Treasures Protection

this and the next election will be held under a

run the country, he said the government is

creating problems that are making people

among others, addressed the rally.

Criticising the government for failing to

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mujibur Rahman,

Earlier in a meeting, Khandaker Mosharraf

"Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir has generated

said the prime minister ridiculed the people by

appointing a 'controversial' person as the

controversy for destroying the public adminis-

tration and his parliamentary membership

was once cancelled by the Supreme Court," he

organisation, organised the programme at

Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal, a pro-BNP

neutral administration.

home minister.

Jatiya Press Club.

Council, Paribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) and University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB).

Dr MA Kamal Uri, convener of National Archaeological Treasures Protection Council, said, "I am doubtful about how effective the Antiquities Act introduced in 1976 is in today's context." "The only difference the act made from the

earlier 1968 Antiquities Act was the name change of East Pakistan to Bangladesh," he "In 2007, the then caretaker government

ventured to send 289 artifacts to France in the name of displaying masterpieces over there. Had it not been stalled, it would have been a permanent loss to the country," he said.

"The present government probed a case filed during the last caretaker government tenure in this regard but did not disclose the probe report," he added.

Make TB clinics more functional Ruhal directs health officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhal Haque yesterday directed the ministry officials to make tuberculosis clinics more functional to control the spread of the disease.

"During my field visits, it seemed to me that the TB clinics (tuberculosis clinics) are the most neglected. I requested the health DG (director general) and officials concerned to look into this matter," he said. Ruhal was addressing a roundtable, "National Tuberculosis

Control Programme: Achievement and Responsibilities" organised by Directorate General of Health Services, The Daily Ittefaq and Brac in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Emphasising on multi-sectoral plans to prevent the disease Brac Director (health) Kaosar Afsana said controlling tuberculosis required poverty alleviation as the disease mainly affected the poor.

ICDDR, B Nutrition Programme Director Tahmeed Ahmed said lack of diagnosis causes improper projection of the actual child tuberculosis patient numbers and urged to make the diagnosis available in every upazila health centre.

Bangla chairman Journo leaders ask

Arrest ATN

govt; demand justice in Sagar-Runi murder STAFF CORRESPONDENT

demanded the arrest of ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman at a sit-in before the ATN Bangla office for his alleged links to the murder of journalist couple Sagar-

Journalist leaders yesterday

The demand came following a press briefing in London on May 30 where Mahfuzur claimed to have video footage relating to their killing. But later he denied the claim.

The sit-in was staged around 11:15am in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

Sagar Sarowar was a news editor of private TV station Maasranga and his wife Meherun Runi a senior reporter at ATN Bangla. They were murdered at their rented flat in the capital's West Rajabazar on February 11.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) joined the sit-in.

"We do not know who killed them, but we can assume the killers are from Karwan Bazar," said DUJ leader Shawkat Mahmud.

DRU president Shakhawat Hossain Badsha said the journalists could not imagine Mahfuzur was linked to the murder but "his actions have made him a

suspect". "If not, then why did you [Mahfuzur] make objectionable comments on the victims' personal lives, rather than trying to trace their killers? Why did you deny your claim?" he

added. Earlier this month, Mahfuzur filed a case along with a petition against journalist leaders who

planned the sit-in. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, chief executive officer and editor-in-chief of Boishakhi TV, said the journalist leaders cannot be separated by filing cases. "We will not return home until the case is withdrawn and the killers of Sagar-Runi are brought to trial."

On September 10, a Dhaka court dismissed the petition to ban journalist leaders from staging demonstrations. But the following day, the High Court imposed a four-month injunction against making defamatory or prejudicial remarks against Mahfuzur.

Income Tax Fair 2nd Day



Journalists stage a sit-in before the ATN Bangla office in the capital yesterday demanding arrest of killers of journalist couple Sagar-Runi and also arrest of ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman. (Story on Page 19)

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Bay of Bengal Says US navy commander

No naval base in

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United States is interested in enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh Army and Navy to protect its maritime resources from pirates and terrorists, and to help during natural disasters, said a top US Navy commander yesterday.

Brushing aside much speculation about setting up of US naval base in the Bay of Bengal or Bangladesh, the visiting US 7th Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Scott H Swift said, "I am not interested in establishing any permanent or temporary bases. We want to develop an understanding how to work together. It is all about our partnership."

He was briefing a selected group of journalists in the capital's Hotel Radisson ahead of a joint exercise titled "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)" of the US Navy and Bangladesh Navy. The exercise will begin in Chittagong today.

When asked who could be the maritime threat of Bangladesh apart from pirates and terrorists, the admiral said it cannot be predicted. But the Bangladesh Navy must be strong, able and always prepared to safeguard its maritime boundary.

Replying to another query, if the 7th fleet will be able to help Bangladesh if its maritime boundary is breached, the US admiral said the chief of Bangladesh Navy could inform him through the US Ambassador and there could be a discussion about what the Bangladesh Navy needed.

"The 7th fleet has the great capability and capacity to respond to any threat to any ally of the United States," he added.

Dr. George C. Joseph **Eminent Urologist is now in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka**

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Dr. George C. Joseph did his MBBS from Kottayam Medical College in 1989 and took his post graduate degree in General Surgery from Calicut Medical College in 1995. After his MS he joined Kasturba Medical College Manipal as a faculty in General Surgery. After 2 years in Kasturba Medical College he went for his specialty training in Urology & took M. Ch. (Urology) in 2000 and Diplomate National Board (Urology) in 2001. After the training in Urology he worked for 7 years in Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences Calicut, a prestigious tertiary care center and the first NABH accredited hospital in India. While working in Calicut he underwent training in Uro-laparoscopy under Prof. Eigi Higashihara Department of Urology Kyorin University, Tokyo, Japan. He was an active member of renal transplantation programme in MIMS and was the first to perform laparoscopic donor nephrectomy in North Kerala. He is interested in Urology sub specialties like Uro-laparoscopy, Endourology, Uro-oncology, Renal Transplantation and Female Urology. He popularized the Mesh technique of repair for pelvic organ prolapse in women and conducted surgeries in different hospitals in Kerala. He has attended many workshops and presented papers in various urology conferences. He was selected as a faculty from India for female urology workshop in Bangkok, 2011.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Dr. George C. Joseph was working in PVS Hospital Calicut, Kerala, India as a Senior Consultant of Urology.



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