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Another round of Dhaka-Yangon talks today

Move to curb NGO activities in refugee camps

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Bangladesh authorities have decided to clamp down on the activities of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) working in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

From now on, all activities of these organisations, engaged in relief activities, will be monitored and the movement of their staff and workers between camps restricted, an authoritative source said yesterday.

"No organisation will be allowed to cross the limits of its mandate," the source who refused to be identified said.

The measures come following allegations that some of these NGOs are engaged in activities that have made things difficult for a voluntary repatriation of some 270,000 refugees from Myanmar.

Despite both countries' readiness to start the process, Dhaka officials say, these NGOs' motivational work among the Rohingyas has led to the delay and deadlock in the repatriation bid.

"Their activities have gone beyond the scope of humanitarian work and have become highly political in nature," the source said.

In the backdrop of a law and order situation, the Home Minister last month visited the area and the monitoring has virtually begun since then, the source added.

The refugees have been agitating since the final stages of physical preparations for their repatriation started and their refusal to return has made the April 28 agreement that enshrined voluntariness inoperative.

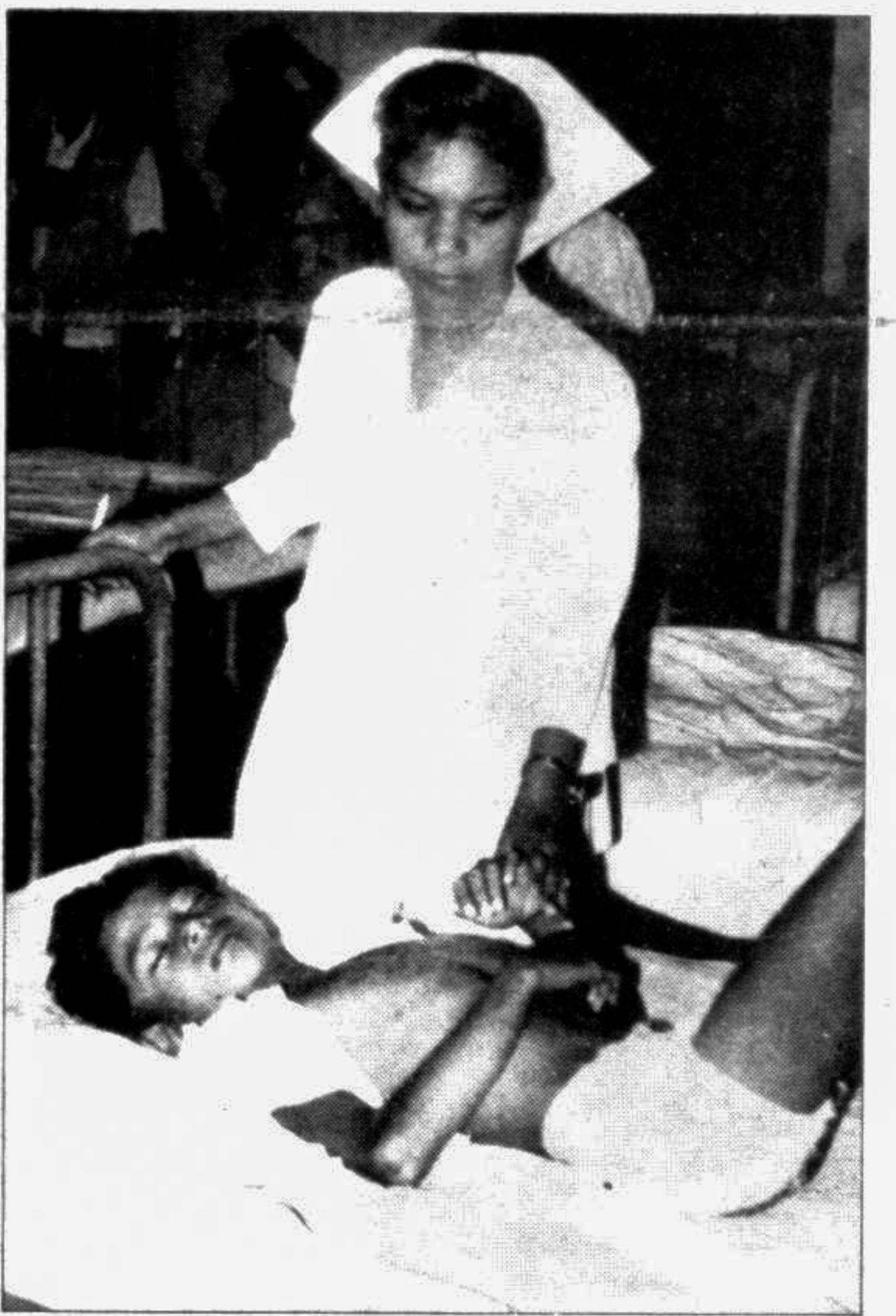
They demand that the UNHCR be given the job of supervising and monitoring the whole process — upto their resettlement back home. Myanmar refuses to entertain the plea.

Meanwhile, officials of the

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3 school children hurt in blast on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent



Tapash, a victim of yesterday's bomb explosion on Dhaka University campus undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Three school children were injured, one of them seriously, in bomb blasts on the Dhaka University campus Sunday morning.

Witnesses said Ahsan Kabir of class three of Udayan School, Tapash Roy a student of class three of Nilkhet primary school and Johnny Paul of class four in the same school were injured when two bombs exploded near the Udayan School at about 10-35 Sunday morning.

The injured were admitted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors operated on Tapash Roy, they said.

Giving details of the incident, the witnesses said that it occurred at about 10-35 am Sunday and the Dhaka University campus was comparatively calm. The bells of the Udayan School at Tuller Road, had already announced end of its morning shift. Uniformed junior boys and girls were playing in a tiny field beside the school premises. The guardians were gathered at the school gate to collect them.

Suddenly two explosions followed by gunshots were heard. The laughter of the kids was replaced by their screams and those of their guardians. Three boys near the gate fell on the ground. People began running in all directions. Teachers inside the school asked all to lie on the ground for safety. One of the three injured stood up and limped to a

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Jubilant Abahani fans lift their two-goal hero Mamun Joardar after yesterday's title deciding match at Mirpur Stadium.

1 killed, 50 hurt as BDR men fire on mob in Jessore

Jessore, June 7: A young man was killed and 50 others were injured, three critically, when BDR opened a barrage of fire on a mob at a 'Korban hat' in Chowgachha upazila today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Anwarul Islam (18), who came to buy a cow for sacrifice, died on the spot.

Sources said most of the injured suffered bullet wounds as the border guards fired more than 100 shots when the people turned violent and allegedly attacked them after seizure of contraband cows at Purnapara Bazar.

An anti-smuggling squad raided the bazar at 3:15 this afternoon and seized two truckloads of Indian cows being sold there. Angry people resisted.

They engaged in a scuffle with the BDR men and began pelting stones.

To quell the public wrath, BDR first fired in the air, but later resorted to indiscriminate firing as the situation went out of control, the sources said.

The three seriously injured—Ainal (28), Soleman (32) and Rashid (23) of village Purnapara—were rushed to the sadar hospital with bullet wounds.

Three BDR men sustained minor injuries during the violence.

The body has been sent to sadar hospital for post-mortem.

Curtain comes down on Football League Abahani remain champions

Sports Reporter

The soccer syndrome that had gripped the country's football-lovers for the last few days finally passed off with the peaceful holding of the crucial last match of the First Division league between traditional rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium. Reigning champions Abahani came back from behind to force a 2-1 victory against their arch-rivals who had to be contented with another second-best showing.

The much-awaited clash of the two local giants drew a huge crowd, arguably the biggest of this year's league. Apart from the standings of the two teams in the league table going into the game, Abahani leading with 35 points to Mohammedans' 33, from 18 matches each, yesterday's derby held an extra interest for the soccer-enthusiasts — the presence of quality footballers from the now-defunct Soviet Union. Mohammedans fielded their Russian trio of striker Abdou Rahimov, midfielders Boris Kuznetsov and Sergei Nabikov while Abahani played Sergei Zhukov and Alexander Polynkov with another, Alexey Arifiev, being ruled out of contention for having received a red card in an earlier match against Brothers.

Mohammedans needed a victory to push the championship issue to a play-off while Abahani needed only a draw to retain the title for the second year in a row.

After a barren and anti-climactic first-half marked by the tense and taut attitude of players from the both sides Mohammedan shot into the lead with a fine snap goal from their aged Russian mid-fielder Boris Kuznetsov in the 14th minute of the second.

Stung by this set-back Abahani came back strongly with their defender Masud Rana and midfielder Rumi playing superb football to wrest the initiative from their opponents. The show was, however, stolen by Abahani's substitute outside-right Mamun Joardar, who had earlier played for Mohammedans. Joardar restored parity 24 minutes into the second half with a powerful, packed grounder from the top of the box. He scored the match winner seven minutes from the time with another full-blooded shot, that beat the Mohammedan custodian Kanan for sheer pace (2-1).

It was Abahani's eighth league championship, having won it in 1974, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1989 and in the much-delayed and deferred league of 1990 held this year.

Detailed match report and more pictures on Page 10.

Stranded Pakistanis

Khaleda to press for repatriation time frame

By Farid Hossain

Bangladesh and Pakistan are likely to work out a timeframe for repatriation of stranded Pakistanis during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's planned visit to Islamabad next month, diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

Pakistan has agreed to start the repatriation within this year with nine districts in Punjab already selected for rehabilitation of the returnees, the sources said.

In preparation for the repatriation Rabita Trust, working on behalf of Pakistan, has completed a preliminary headcount of the stranded people, better known as Biharis.

The survey that began in last March estimated the number of stranded Pakistanis at about 2 lakh 38 thousand. The figure is now being computerised.

The sources at Pakistan High Commission, who spoke

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Security Printing Press starts operation after Eid

By Sohel Manzur

Bangladesh Security Printing Press (BSPP) will begin its operation as an autonomous company immediately after the Eid-ul-Azha, official sources said.

The operation of some of its sections may, however, begin before the Eid, the source mentioned.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the BSPP Sunday at the Bangladesh Bank.

The Board of Directors in its meeting reviewed the overall situation of the press, which was laid off on May 27 following some untoward incidents and suggested the government for setting up a body to probe into the incidents.

The BSPP, which was earlier a project under the

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Earth Summit Dhaka signs convention of Biological diversity

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 7: Abdullah Al-Noman, Minister for Environment and Forests signed the convention on biological diversity on behalf of the government of Bangladesh at Rio Centre on Friday, reports BSS.

The signing ceremony was chaired by President Fernando Collor of Brazil.

The convention was opened for signature at the Rio Centre, the venue of the United

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NEWS BRIEFS

IMF official calls on Khaleda

Executive Director of IMF G K Arora Sunday made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office. The IMF Director spent sometime with the Prime Minister. He expressed satisfaction on macro-level management of economy in Bangladesh. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Hasan Ahmed was present, reports BSS.

Sarbahara Party men kill two

JHENIDAH, June 7: Activists of Sarbahara Party slaughtered two people in Bonika village under Sadar upazila early this morning, police said. The victims, identified as Mohidul Islam (27) alias Molika and Asghar Ali (30), were members of outlawed Bangladesh Biplobi Communist Party (Hug group).

The miscreants attacked the house of Jhorur, a neighbour of the victims of the same village and murdered both of them while they were in their sleep at around 4 am today, reports UNB.

Reception for artistes

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged a reception for the distinguished artistes at its auditorium on Tuesday. Four renowned artistes-composer and singer Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, folk singer Haralal Roy, composer and singer from Khulna Shadan Sarker and famous violinist from Rajshahi Raghunath Das will be accorded reception at the function, reports UNB.

No plan to axe Rlymen: Oli

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister Colonel (retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday categorically denied that the government was planning to retrench excess employees of the Bangladesh Railway (BR).

Addressing a press conference at the ministry, he, however, admitted, while referring to an earlier Asian Development Bank (ADB) survey, that presently there were 13,000 excess employees in the railway sector.

But, he declared: "Not a single (railway department) employee will be retrenched," while denying newspaper reports that 16,000 BR employees would be retrenched.

He said that a voluntary and optional retirement programme with full benefits for those who had already completed over 20 years of service would be initiated to reduce the number of excess employees. He noted that 3,000 employees had already gone on retirement.

According to documents provided at the press conference, the ministry has proposed "to get rid of 10,000 staff on voluntary and optional retirement on payment of severance compensation and about 6,000 staff will be reduced through normal attrition over a period of five years."

An estimated Taka 2800 million would be required for severance payment of the 10,000 staff members, according to the Railway department's formula package submitted to the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and is awaiting approval.

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Viral fever spreading

By Our Medical Reporters

The spread of viral fever has reached high levels in and around the capital in recent days.

Experts largely identify the ongoing humid and hot spell as one of the main reasons for the current outbreak. They also warn that this type of viral fever is highly contagious and, at times, can turn out to be fatal.

Experts say that the symptoms of viral fever can vary from a running nose, burning eyes and a headache to chest

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Women constitute 61.6 pc of labour force

By Staff Correspondent

The number of women and child labourers has increased substantially in the country, according to latest figures released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Of the total labour force in the country, women constitute 61.6 per cent and children of 5-14 years age 12 per cent. By definition, total labour force consists of the civilian labour force and members of armed forces on active duty.

Report on Labour Force Survey of BBS says that for in-

cluding certain agricultural activities like threshing, parboiling, care of poultry, livestock etc, the total labour force in the country increased from 30.9 million in 1985-86 to 50.1 million in 1989 and the participation rate stood at 71.6 per cent in 1989 while it was 44.0 per cent in 1985-86.

The size of the child labour force in the country increased to 6.1 million in 1989 from 2.8 million in 1985-86.

The BBS, for the first time,

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Rabbani orders formation of jt force to end war in Kabul

KABUL, June 7: Top Afghan leader Burhanuddin Rabbani has ordered the raising of a combined Mujahideen force to combat the sectarian fighting in Kabul, reports AFP.

In a statement late Saturday, the high-profile leader, who heads a 10-member Mujahideen council which will take power June 28 from the present caretaker administration, also said he was saddened by the bloody sectarian war that has raged in the city for four days.

Fresh fighting broke out early today in the city's diplomatic district of Wazir Akbar Khan in which tanks fired at least two salvoes, residents said.

Details of the fighting were not known, but a ceasefire enforced by government forces Saturday between Hezb-i-Wahadat Shittes and Ittihad-Islami Sunnis was generally holding firm in battle-weary city.

More than 100 people have died and as many as 3,000 others taken hostage by the rival groups in the factional fighting that flared up Tuesday.

The fighting between the eight-faction Wahadat and the Ittihad headed by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf also left about 400 people injured.

"We regret the events that have taken place in Kabul," Rabbani said on behalf of the leadership council.

The regretful events were not a decision of either leaders or cadres of the two sides...it was a conflict of irresponsible

only Jihadi (Islamic warrior) parties will be asked to join the coalition, he said.

"We express sorrow and we want all parties to observe the ceasefire sincerely," said Rabbani in his statement, which was translated for reporters today.

Rabbani said a combined force of all Mujahideen parties was being formed to enforce the ceasefire.

The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior will raise the joint force to maintain security in the city and

government headed by Sigbatullah Mojaddedi.

The Shittes, coming mainly from the five central Afghan provinces, hold around 140 government buildings including ministries and a seed missile base, and say they can arm up to 250,000 members of their minority sect in Kabul.

Holdout Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami and other Mujahideen factions also occupy several military units and official complexes.

The Wahadat has shown little interest in joining the caretaker administration, saying it wants greater representation in the 51-member interim

The meeting held at the Bangabandhu Dhaban with acting President of the party Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

President of Siraj Sikdar Parishad Sheikh Mohtuddin Ahmed filed the case Thursday against seven people, including three prominent Awami League leaders.

Awami League believes in justice and people's fundamental rights, the resolution said.

The meeting condemned "all evil designs for political gains" and urged the people to remain alert against any such conspiracy.