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Police not equipped to prevent targeted crimes: Saifur

PM ordered police to nab Bangla Bhai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under-equipped law enforcement agencies are incapable of preempting well planned crimes, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday.

Termining the recent bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury at Hazrat Shahjalal shrine in Sylhet as a 'targeted crime', he said law enforcement agencies had no technological ability and know-how to tackle such incidents.

"It is not possible for the law enforcement agencies to check these types of incidents because they are targeted crimes," Saifur told a press briefing organised to highlight the issues discussed at the recent conference on 'Scaling up Poverty Reduction' at Shanghai in China where Saifur chaired a session.

On a question on the arrest of



Bangla Bhai, the dreaded operations commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, Saifur said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia issued directives for his capture in front of him.

Focusing on economic issues, the finance minister said confrontational politics was detrimental to the economy and crucial poverty eradication efforts.

"We are facing a number of difficulties. Harmonisation in politics is absent quite significantly. Development activities will be seriously hampered if there are no peace and security," Saifur told the briefing at the National Economic Council in Dhaka.

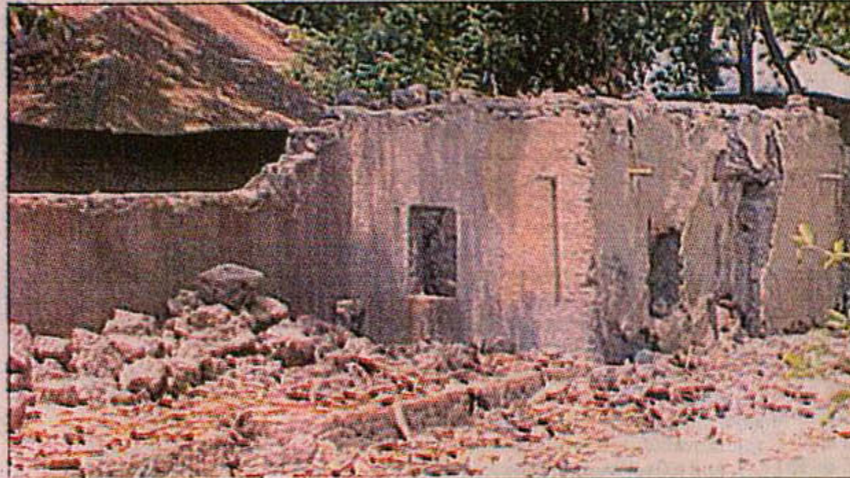
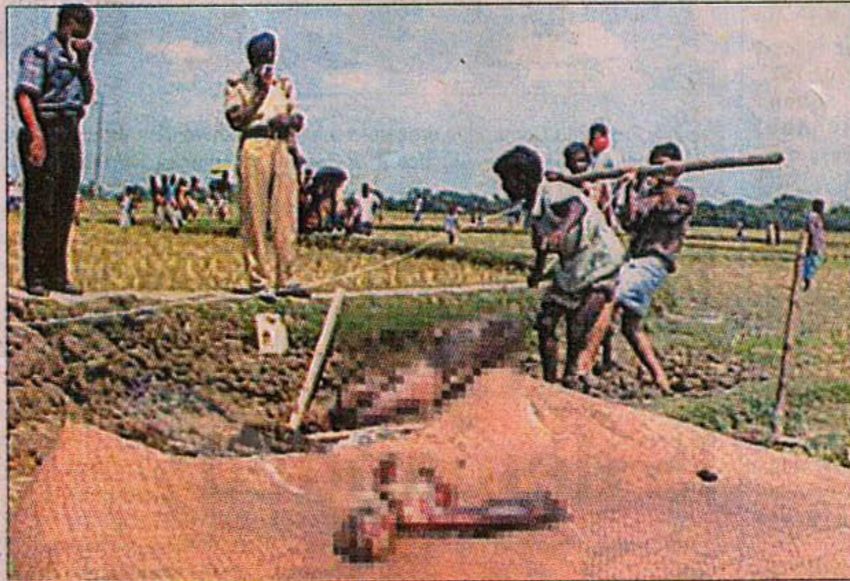
He said Bangladesh could see a better economic growth if there were a harmonised political situation. "We could see better investment if we had an accommodative political approach."

Without good governance it is not possible to achieve the economic goals, he said.

"If we don't have good infrastructures or sustainable macro-economic deficit, nobody will come to invest here."

"Sound macro-economic situation apart, better law and order and a conducive political environment

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The body of a person cut into pieces by Bangla Bhai men is being exhumed from a field near a camp in Raninagar in Noagaon district, top left, relatives wail after the body was dug out, top right, the house, bottom left, of landowner Jagannath in Bogra damaged by Bangla Bhai cadres for not paying tolls and the buyers slice the tree, bottom right, felled and sold out by activists of the Islamist outfit JMJB.

Ahmadiyya mosque besieged in Ctg

Signboard changed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Islamic bigots under the banner of International Khatme Nabuyat Movement (IKNM) yesterday besieged the Ahmadiyya mosque at Chawkbazar in the city after the Juma prayers.

Thousands of firebrand demonstrators wielding bamboo sticks demanded declaration of the Ahmadiyya sect as non-Muslim.

The siege programme, however, ended peacefully with the

intervention of police. The IKNM members left the mosque after erecting a signboard that reads: "Place of worship for the Ahmadiyyas. Muslims are advised not to take it as a mosque to be deceived".

The IKNM leaders threatened to besiege other installations of the Ahmadiyyas by phases.

Over a dozen platoons of police, mostly in riot gear, cordoned off the mosque from yesterday morning to

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'Criminal' held with M-16 in Fatikchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a notorious criminal with one sophisticated M-16 rifle and ammunition after a gunfight in Fatikchhari upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestee, Md Yeakub, 28, is a cadre of Juba League, youth front of mainstream opposition Awami League, and the second-in-command of infamous Nazim Bahini.

Sources said, Fatikchhari police, acting on a tip off, raided the house of Md Harun, father-in-law of Yeakub, at Gopalghata village of

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Bangla Bhai's men kill another 'outlaw'

Operatives fan out across Bagerhat, Khulna

STAR REPORT

Another act of cruelty of the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) came to light yesterday as the body of a suspected outlaw was dug out of a grave near the Islamist outfit's main camp in Naogaon.

Shocked locals lifted the sliced body of Khejur Ali, hands and legs tied, in the presence of a magistrate at 11:00am, as an overpowering

stench filled the morning air.

His sister Sultana Selima Akhter identified the body that bore multiple marks of torture in captivity.

Yesterday's find a few yards off the vigilante camp in Raninagar in the northwestern district is the latest among 25 people the JMJB abducted from Naogaon, Rajshahi and Bogra in its so-called anti-outlaw operation since April 1. The operatives allegedly killed them and

secreted their bodies underground.

A source close to the group said at least seven of the 25 people with suspected ties to the banned Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were buried near a JMJB camp at Hamir Kutsa in Rajshahi.

On the killing of Khejur, Deputy Inspector General Noor Muhammad said a case was filed against unnamed JMJB operatives.

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Tales of horror

Cops help Bangla Bhai flee from Naogaon

ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi

With the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) cadres pulling out from the northwest, villagers in the region are coming out with frightening tales of their plight under the Islamic fanatics, against whom police continue to make but mere feints.

According to police and villagers, no effective action has so far been taken to arrest Bangla Bhai, the dreaded operations commander of the JMJB.

Top policemen have even blamed field level law enforcers of tipping off Bangla Bhai about a raid and helping him to flee.

Sources claimed two police officers went to the house in Raninagar, Naogaon where the JMJB commander was staying, and shortly afterwards a number-plateless microbus took him away, minutes before a contingent led by Rajshahi deputy inspector general (DIG) of police raided the house.

Meanwhile, none of the police

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Abducted boy killed, another kidnapped in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Outlaws abducted a government employee here on Thursday night and demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh while a boy kidnapped on Wednesday in Bheramara upazila has been killed.

Police said a gang of outlaws kidnapped Abdus Salam Khan, 47, a veterinary field assistant of livestock department, from Kushtia and took him to Pabna.

Gang leader Beltu of Mirpur upazila first took Salam to Jugia Char in the Padma on the plea of treatment of sick cattle. The armed

gang then forced him to board an engine-boat with them, took his motorcycle and left for Pabna across the river, said the officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Local people, who witnessed the incident, said Salam cried for help but they could not rescue him fearing attacks by the armed gang.

They identified four of the abductors as Halim, Mahatab, Rabi and Tarek Mollah.

A case was filed with Sadar police and Beltu's father was picked up for quizzing.

Moreover, Bheramara police

yesterday recovered the body of abducted boy Rony, 13, son of Shajahan Ali of Madhabpur village, from a sugarcane field in the area.

Family members said the abductors did not make any contact with them.

The motive behind the abduction and killing was yet to be known.

Seventy-three people including 18 school students were abducted in the district since January. Eight of them including three schoolboys were killed and others freed on payment of ransom.

Bashar repairs damage

RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

Skipper Habibur Bashar cracked a typically effortless unbeaten half-century to wither the first ball loss of opener Hannan Sarker and an unprovoked confrontation with fast bowler Tino Best to put Bangladesh on top at lunch on the opening day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Beausejour Stadium here on Friday.

The teams went in with Bangladesh on 101-1. Bashar was on 65 while opener Javed Omar was batting on 27. Both batsmen had played 81 balls. This was Bashar's first Test fifty against the West Indies and his 17th overall.

The match started under bright sunshine after Bashar had won the toss and opted to bat on a wicket that is getting better by the minute for batsmen.

Hannan went off the first ball from left-arm pacesman Pedro Collins who opened the bowling. The ball pitched middle and leg and straightened and Sarker made the fatal error of leaving it on the back foot.

Bashar was his fluent self from the word go. He got off the mark with a three through mid-wicket. He pulled Collins for the first four of the innings in the fifth over and Javed also edged the ball past third man for a boundary in the same over.

Javed got a reprieve when Dwayne Smith failed to hold on to a firm push at forward short-leg off Fidel Edwards with the score on 29-1. Javed was just seven at the time.

Bashar was severe on anything short and brought up his fifty with a delicate pull off Edwards which he waited before caressing past square leg. It took 69 balls and had four hits to the fence.

Jermaine Lawson failed to find his rhythm and so did Tino Best whose frustration got the better of

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