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Display of military hardware at the National Museum on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo



Sequence of a drama staged by 'Samoy' at the Central Shaheed Minar (L) and puppet show at the Muktiyoddah Museum (R) yesterday in observance of Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo

Arrested students freed Suu Kyi barred from leaving home

YANGON, Dec 3: Myanmar Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi and more than 20 associates were prevented from leaving her home by security forces today, sources close to the pro-democracy activist said, reports AFP.

Security forces put up checkpoints early this morning barring access to the section of university avenue where her compound is located and turned back reporters who tried to enter for a scheduled news conference.

Reached by telephone at Aung San Suu Kyi's home, the sources said there were 25 people inside the compound and all were unable to leave.

Aung San Suu Kyi was the only senior member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) inside, the sources said.

The sources said they could give no reason for the measures and those inside had received no indication of when they would be allowed to leave.

The checkpoints were put in place shortly after security forces rounded up some 300 students who had held an all-night demonstration.

Reuters adds: Myanmar's military government said today that most of the students held after night-long street protests in capital Yangon had been released after their identities were checked.

Witnesses had earlier told Reuters up to 300 students were taken away just before sunrise in police trucks after they had refused to disperse following a march through central Yangon in early hours of the morning.

They were not detained or faced any charges. They were simply held briefly to sort out whether they were real students or infiltrators, said a spokesman for the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

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Zobaida Rashid

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vanity bag before she left the jail and recovered the cassette. It was later handed over to the Home Ministry.

On the cassette, Mehna Rashid is heard telling her mother: 'Say, your confessional statement under Section 164 was taken forcibly.'

Zobaida Rashid replies: 'Police took the statement perpetrating repression on me. I want to retract it.'

When contacted, jail officials said they are in the prison under jail code which is applicable only for prisoners. Mehna was not a prisoner and in white eyes all responsibilities go to her (Mehna), they added.

In this context, the jail officials handed over the cassette to Home Ministry to take legal action as per law for committing such an 'adventurist' act.

Home Ministry officials said they were now examining the rules so that action could be taken against Mehna.

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The President assured them that their genuine grievances would be looked into on priority basis.

The members of the delegation requested the President to lay the foundation stone of 'Shapath Stambha' at Baheratali in Sakhipur of Tangail district where 800 members of Kader Bahini took oath on May 9, 1971 for starting Liberation War to resist Pakistan Army.

President Shahabuddin gave his consent.

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