



Sumi Khan freed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Female journalist Sumi Khan who was picked up by police here Thursday afternoon was released after 10 hours of detention.

The Chittagong correspondent of Dhaka-based weekly Shaptahik 2000 was released from the Kotwali Police Station at around 2:00 am yesterday.

Sumi Khan was taken to the police station from her office-cum-residence at Patharghata at around 4:00 pm on Thursday. She was interrogated twice by senior officials of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Sumi said, "This was simply to harass me and members of my family unnecessarily to serve the

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Crime gangs in Ctg bought 100 AK-47s from Arakan rebels

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Around 100 AK-47 rifles reached different gangs of criminals in the port city and its surrounding areas from the insurgents of Arakan state of Myanmar staying in deep forests across the Bangladesh border, sources in intelligence agencies said.

Arakan insurgents sold the rifles and some other sophisticated weapons to these gangs through a clandestine channel of local kingpins of arms dealers and smugglers on various occasions in the past few years.

Intelligence sources and many others believe that some AK-47 rifles were also supplied to gangs operating in the capital and other parts of the country.

With the launching of the countrywide anti-crime drive by the joint forces, most of the kingpins of arms dealers and smugglers have gone into hiding and others have fled to Singapore, Hong Kong, India and some other countries.

During the on going drive, six AK-47 rifles and other sophisticated weapons have been recovered from different hideouts in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

Some notorious criminals in the port city and nearby Fatikchhari and Raozan areas reportedly procured AK-47 rifles to show their strength to their rivals and dominate them, police and other sources said.

Despite knowing this, police hardly raided their

hideouts.

Besides, smuggled arms find their way into Chittagong and Cox's Bazar through sea route. Those arms are mostly offloaded from cargo ships at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and mechanised boats carry those to the shore in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, sources said.

Three security guards at the port arrested during the on going drive gave important information about arms smuggling and the kingpins involved in it. Those are not being disclosed now in the interest of further investigation, officials said.

A leader of dock workers, Jahangir Alam alias dock Jahangir, was arrested as per confessional statement of the arrested security guards during interrogation. Two of his (Jahangir) brothers went into hiding to escape arrest.

Meanwhile, mystery still shrouds the dropping of 250 boxes of 'smuggled goods' (suspected as arms) into the sea from a mechanised boat at the outer anchorage towards the end of 2000.

Intelligence sources said a kingpin of a smuggling racket, who hails from southern part of Chittagong, owns industries, a palatial hotel in the port city's Agrabad area and became director of a private bank, was involved in that case of smuggling.

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PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of devotees offer prayers on Jumatul Wida, the last Juma prayers of Ramadan, at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday. The day was observed countrywide, seeking peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

2 accomplices of Liaquat arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army arrested 128 people including 26 "listed criminals" from different parts of the country during the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

They include most wanted criminal Liaquat Hossain's close accomplices Abdus Salam and Zakir of Dhaka and "top criminal" Benazir of Rajshahi, wanted in 13 criminal cases.

Salam and Zakir were arrested in a raid in New Eskaton area in the city yesterday morning.

The army also seized seven pistols, five revolvers, five shotguns, three pipe-guns and 391 bullets during the period.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that Benazir, 35, was arrested in a raid in Hossenganj area in the city. The six others arrested in separate raids include Jubo Dal leader Shaheen Iqbal of Shaphura, Dinar of Rajarhata, and Jalal of Shiroil area in the city.

Police said Benazir, a former cadre of Jubo League, Awami League's youth front, joined BNP after change of government last year. Local people got a sigh of relief with his arrest as he had unleashed a reign of terror. His criminal activities included toll collection and snatching of tender documents, p o l i c e

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Maria's killers yet to be arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to arrest the killers of Maria, the two-and-a-half-year old girl who was killed during a bomb attack in the city's Sutrapur area Wednesday evening.

Despite several drives at different points in the city over the last two days, police failed to find any of the six people accused of killing the child, Sutrapur thana police told The Daily Star last night.

Minutes before iftar on Wednesday, a gang of criminals chased Maria's father Faruk, a police informer, and hurled several bombs at him. One of the bombs hit Maria in the head, killing her instantly and injuring her father. Faruk had

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'Anti-Bangladesh' campaign AL brushes aside FM's allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday brushed aside the government allegations that AL President Sheikh Hasina was sponsoring an 'anti-Bangladesh' campaign and her current visit to India was linked with the Indian allegation of al-Qaida presence in Bangladesh.

Speaking at an iftar party in the city yesterday, the AL acting president, Abdus Samad Azad, reacted sharply to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan's statements on Thursday.

Azad said the government should have consulted with the opposition before giving official reactions to the recent statement by Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha alleging Dhaka's link with the al-Qaida network.

On Thursday, the foreign minister described Sinha's allegation as baseless and malicious and linked Hasina's visit to India with Sinha's comment, blaming her for sponsoring 'anti-Bangladesh' campaign at home and abroad.

Talking to journalists at the AL-hosted iftar party in a city hotel,

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Peace sans democracy not attainable

Hasina tells Delhi convention

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for upholding democratic values and norms all over the world to attain peace and development forsaking arms buildup and war.

"Peace is not mere absence of war... Without democracy peace is not attainable... But democracy becomes meaningless if the toiling millions suffer from poverty, disease, hunger and dehumanising conditions," she said.

Delivering a keynote speech on "Non-violence and Peace" at a convention in New Delhi, Hasina said poverty alleviation, eradication of social injustice, economic and

social development and empowerment of women are more important than acquiring sophisticated weapons and preparations for war.

Ela Gandhi, granddaughter-in-law of Mahatma Gandhi, and South African Deputy Defence Minister Nozizwe Mandala-Routiedge were among others who spoke at the four-day convention sponsored by Nonviolence Peaceforce at Hotel Rajhance at Surujkund, about 40 miles off the Indian capital.

Hasina said: "Today we perhaps live in a world more dangerous than at any other point in time in the recorded annals of mankind."

She noted that an unbelievable stockpiling of arms and ammuni

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Judgement in Bappi murder case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the Bappi murder case will be given today.

Sarker Abul Mansur Ahmed, Judge of the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, will pronounce the judgement at 11 am, court sources said.

The prosecution and the defence sides completed hearing arguments in the case on November 20. The court recorded statements of 20 out of 37 prosecution witnesses.

Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, 8, a student of class III of Armanitola

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'Stop filling up canal near Sonargaon Hotel'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BPA) yesterday held a rally demanding an end to filling-up of a water body south of the Sonargaon Hotel.

At the rally near the SAARC fountain, speakers alleged that the water body was being filled up to implement a housing project named "Hatir Jhil".

The filling-up of any water body defies the Wetland Protection Act, 2000.

The speakers sought immediate intervention from the forest and environment and housing and

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| Sehri, Iftar timing | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Ramadan | Nov | Sehri | Iftar |
| 24 | 30 | | 5-14 |
| 25 | Dec 1 | 5-00 | 5-14 |
| 26 | Dec 2 | 5-00 | 5-14 |

| | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Nov 30 | | 5-10 pm |
| Dec 1 | 6-25 am | |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Nov 30 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-49 | 4-59 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 3-45 | 4-00 |
| Maghrib | 5-14 | 5-24 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 7-45 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |

Road accidents kill 7 in four districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven people were killed and 21 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajbari, Chapainawabganj, Bagerhat and Shariatpur yesterday and Thursday night.

Of them, two were killed in Rajbari, Chapainawabganj and Bagerhat districts each while another was killed in Shariatpur district.

BSS from Rajbari reports: Two persons were killed and six others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Faridpur highway at Gualando of the district yesterday.

Police quoted witnesses as saying the accident took place when a Faridpur-bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch, killing two members of a family of Kabirajpur village in

Madaripur on the spot. The victims are Zakia Sultana, 35, and her daughter Shanaz Sultana, 14.

The injured passengers were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Of them four were identified as Kawsar of Faridpur, Afser of Uzirpur, Barisal, Sawkat of Uzirpur, Barisal and Seema of Rajoir, Faridpur.

In Chapainawabganj, two people were killed and another was injured in a road accident at Rasulpur on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid road yesterday afternoon, according to UNB.

Police said the accident took place at about 2 pm when a truck coming from Sonamasjid land port rammed a bicycle, killing one of the bicyclists, Kabir, 22, on the spot and injuring two others.

One of the injured succumbed to

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Tinni murder CID to quiz a number of people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will begin questioning some political leaders, leading drama and film artistes and businessman from today in connection with the murder of actress and model Syeda Tania Mahbub Tinni.

A list of the persons to be interrogated has been prepared, CID sources said.

It has been prepared after questioning Tinni's husband Shafkat Hossain Piyal, his friend Shwpan Gazi, Tinni's housemaids Shefali and Bina, former Jatiya Party lawmaker Ovi's brother-in-law Aminul Islam, drama artiste Tamalika Karmakar. Piyal, Swapan Gazi, Shefali and Bina are now under

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