



Sabina flown to Singapore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ailing singer Sabina Yasmin was flown to Singapore last night for better treatment.

She flew by Singapore Airlines at 11:15pm and was released from hospital at around 8:30pm. She will undergo treatment at National Cancer Centre there, relatives said.

Cancer and Medicine Specialist Lt Col (retd) Mofazzel Hossain, under whom Sabina was being treated at Labaid Specialised Hospital in the capital, said that the singer was able to walk yesterday after a month.

"Her overall condition is far better now. She has no breathing problems or fever. Her liver function has also improved," he told The Daily Star.

Adviser for Health and Family

Four London bomb plotters jailed for life

AFP, London

A British court jailed four Islamists for life yesterday over failed attacks on London's public transport system in July 2005, two weeks after suicide bombings which killed 52 innocent people.

The presiding judge, ordering them to serve at least 40 years behind bars, said he believed that both attacks -- on July 7 and July 21 -- were inspired by the al-Qaeda terror network.

The four -- ringleader Muktar Said Ibrahim, as well as Yassin Omar, Ramzi Mohammed, and Hussain Osman -- were found guilty of a failed bid to set off four bombs on underground trains and a bus -- the same scenario as on July 7.

"I have no doubt that they were both part of an al-Qaeda-inspired and controlled sequence of attacks," said Judge Adrian Fulford at Woolwich Crown Court in London.

"This was a viable, indeed a very nearly successful, attempt at mass murder. It was long in the planning and came soon after July 7. It was designed for maximum impact."

He noted that prosecutors had not attempted to demonstrate a "direct link" with the July 7 attacks,

in which suicide bombers killed themselves and 52 innocent people on the underground network and a bus.

But he said the July 21 failed attacks were "nearly a carbon copy of that event exactly two weeks later," adding that "what happened on July 7 2005 is of considerable relevance."

"It demonstrates the lethal effect of this plan had it succeeded."

"It is clear that at least 50 people would have died, hundreds of people would have been wounded, thousands would have had their lives permanently damaged, disfigured or otherwise, whether they were Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, agnostic or atheist."

The sentencing came shortly after prosecutors confirmed that two other defendants in the case will face a re-trial, after jurors failed to agree a verdict on Tuesday.

Ibrahim, 29, admitted in court that he was the ringleader but said he used a harmless device intended only to protest against Muslim suffering, especially in Iraq. The other convicts also claimed the devices were harmless.

Peter Clarke, head of the Metropolitan Police's counter-

Hasina, Khaleda no threat to country

Says Gen Matin

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin yesterday said Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia do not need to be confined as they are not threat to the country.

"I don't know whether the two leaders are kept in confinement. But I don't think it's necessary to keep them confined. They aren't threat to the country," the adviser said.

Matin, also the chairman of National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes, made the remarks when reporters asked whether Hasina and Khaleda are kept in confinement.

Asked if Khaleda and Hasina will be brought to justice like other politicians on charges of corruption, the adviser said if any corruption occurs in his ministry, he will be responsible for that.

"They (Khaleda and Hasina)



A mobile court tests milk at Rathkhola in Old Dhaka yesterday on allegation that formalin is mixed with it. The court held 34 persons for the offence.

Rights activists for treatment of ailing under trial persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of human rights activists yesterday appealed to the chief adviser to provide the ailing under-trial persons, especially the women, with treatment on humanitarian grounds.

Referring to the recent hospitalisation of some under-trial prisoners in case of specific ailments, the activists in a letter said that the government should make such arrangements for others who are

ACC chief unveils plan to combat graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday unveiled a 'battle plan' to combat corruption emphasising tough action against the corrupt and paying reasonable remuneration to public servants.

"Corruption took deep roots because of slack rules and regulations as well as crippled anti-corruption agencies," he said adding corruption is still a 'low risk-high reward' proposition in Bangladesh.

"Make corruption a 'high risk-low reward' phenomenon by ensuring 'swift and sure' action against the corrupt elements," the ACC chief said while presenting the plan at a workshop on curbing corruption in South Asia.

The Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Bangladesh (NDI) jointly organised the workshop in the capital.

"Send 'shock waves' from time to time by revealing the misdeeds

Court orders attachment of properties of Falu's wife

Naser Rahman remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered to attach properties of Mahbuba Sultana, wife of detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu, in connection with a tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Detained former BNP lawmaker M Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, and ex-BRTC chairman Toymur



Cars are often parked on the footpaths recently freed of hawkers, causing obstacle to pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday at Dhanmondi Road-4.

108 lost life in building collapse in 4 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With two ill-fated workers who died in yesterday's building collapse, the death toll in similar incidents rose to at least 108 while more than 200 were injured in last four years.

No government body is yet to take any effective steps to ensure workers' safety and prevent the tragic incidents while none of the building owners concerned or building code violators has been punished. The moneyed building owners have escaped punishment just paying some tiny compensation to the victims' families.

50 Bangladeshi workers stuck at KL airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 Bangladeshi workers who arrived in Malaysia on July 6 are stuck at Kuala Lumpur Airport, as the immigration authorities barred their entry on grounds of fingerprint mismatches in the biometric system.

A Bangladeshi national, who stayed for 10 hours in Kuala Lumpur Airport on July 10 on his way to Dhaka from the United States, discovered the workers roaming around scattered and scared in the airport.

"I was going to the smoking room of a hotel in the airport and saw three men wearing caps. I suspected them to be

2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

A robber and an underground operative were killed in encounters with the law enforcers in Gaibandha and Jhenidah districts early yesterday.

They are Hira Mia alias Hiru Dakat of Khodabux village under

Prayer Timing		
July 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Pak troops clear Red Mosque of militants

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani troops yesterday cleared the Red Mosque compound in Islamabad of militants after two days of bitter fighting that left more than 60 people dead, the military said.

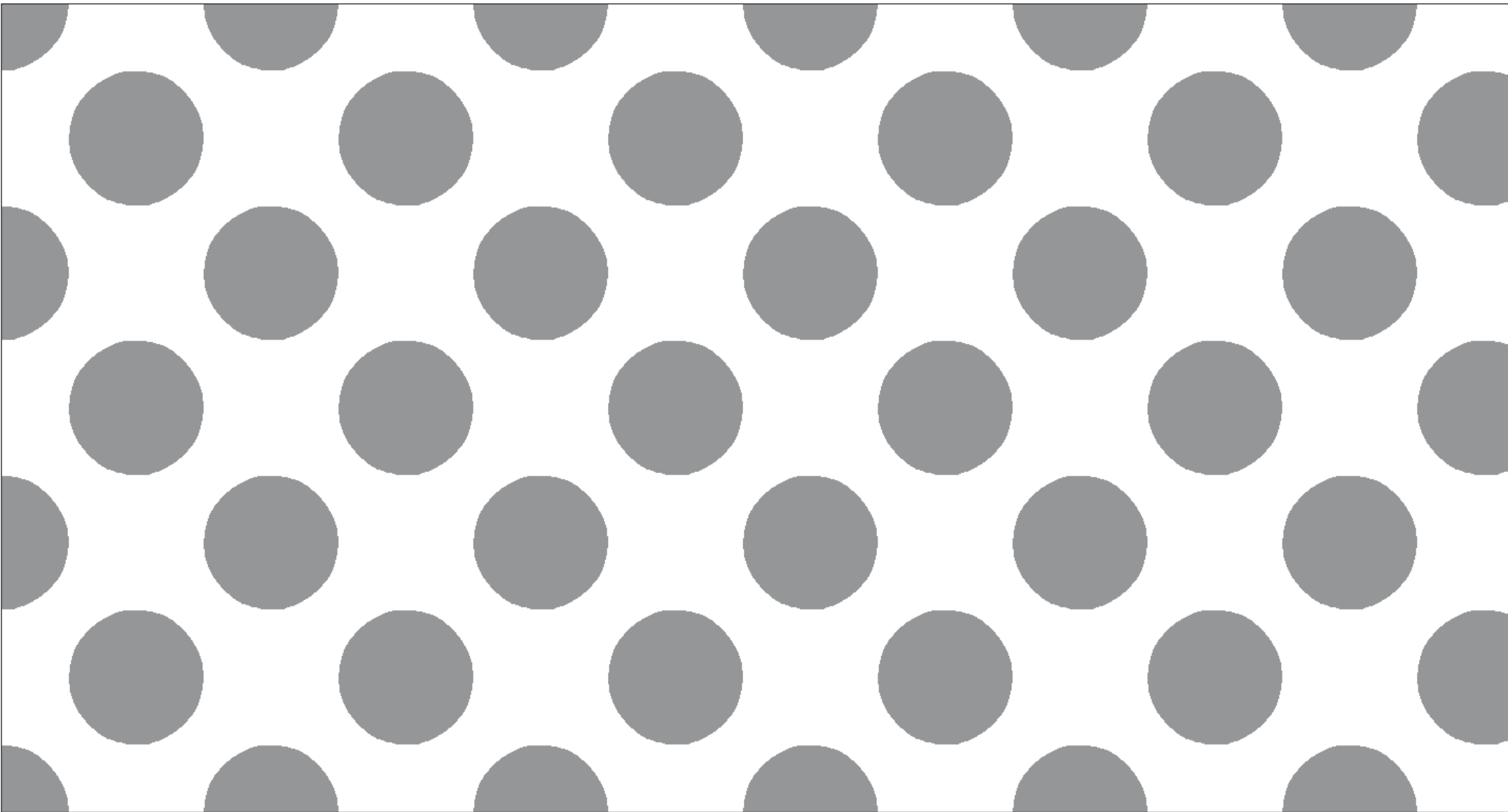
Commandos killed the last handful of rebels who fought to the death in tunnels and bunkers beneath the living quarters of their hardline chief, cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who was shot dead late Tuesday.

As the guns fell silent, troops began combing for booby traps left by the insurgents, some linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, in the sprawling mosque and an adjoining girls' religious school in the heart of the leafy capital.

"The first phase of flushing out and clearing the area of militants is over," chief military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad told AFP.

"The second phase is in progress to comb and sanitise the area of unexploded grenades and booby-traps. Bodies have to be gathered and taken out."

President Pervez Musharraf ordered the assault after talks with Ghazi to free women and children allegedly held during a week-long



siege at the complex -- which itself left 24 people dead -- collapsed.

Musharraf was set to address the nation about the crisis today.

Officials said there appeared to have been fewer children and women inside the compound when it was first raided than initially believed and that almost all had already fled or been rescued.

The militants were holed up in fortified tunnels and trenches dug beneath the building. Three more were killed overnight after mounting "stiff resistance", the army said.

The final death toll would not be available until the complex had been cleared, Arshad said. He added that at least 53 militants were killed while a soldier died overnight from his injuries, taking the army toll to nine.

Newspaper reports quoting officials said the likely total was anywhere between 80 and 200 dead, although there was no official confirmation.

Around 60 women and children have emerged from the complex since the assault was launched at dawn on Tuesday, while officials said on condition of anonymity that a number of them were in hospital.