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26 get death for 7 murders

N'ganj court hands Nur Hossain, 16 former Rab men and nine others highest punishment, considering the gravity of the crime; nine more jailed for various terms



Tareque Sayeed Arif Hossain Masud Rana

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB
They were legally bound to protect the civilians of the country. But instead, a section of Rapid Action Battalion members took the lives of seven people in Narayanganj in exchange for money to serve the interest of a petty ruling party leader. The horrific crime shook the nation to its core and earned the elite crime busters a bad name because of the involvement of so

many members of the disciplined force in such a grievous offence. Justice finally caught up with them as a Narayanganj court yesterday found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled ruling AL man Nur Hossain, guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence in April 2014. Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down death penalty to 26 people and jailed nine other accused for various terms, from seven to 17 years.



Nur Hossain, right, a convict in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, along with another convict inside a prison van before they were taken back to jail yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



CONVICTED 35 (25 Rab members, 10 civilians)	DEATH PENALTY 26 (16 Rab members, 10 civilians)	IMPRISONMENT 9 (All are Rab members)	IN JAIL 23 ON THE RUN 12
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Verdict ends their wait

AKRAM HOSEN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH
Barred by police from entering the Narayanganj court premises, Morsheda Akhter stood outside the entrance, and kept waiting for the judge to deliver the verdict in the seven-murder case.

She wanted to see the murderers of her husband, Jubo League activist Moniruzzaman Swapan, get the maximum punishment. Her hour-long wait ended around 10:00am after the judge pronounced the verdict, sentencing 26 accused to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

<p>SELINA ISLAM WIDOW OF NAZRUL ISLAM "Although they belong to an agency, they couldn't rise above a common man's greed. They're the protector of law and they shouldn't be breaking it. If they do, where will we go when we're in trou-</p>	<p>HANUFA BEGUM WIDOW OF IBRAHIM "I can barely afford to feed my children properly. It gives me some solace that the killers, despite being rich and powerful, have been convicted. I hope the fugitive convicts would be caught and punished</p>	<p>MORSHEDA AKHTER WIDOW OF MONIRUZZAMAN SWAPAN "Life has been a constant nightmare since he was killed when my elder daughter was seven and the younger just a few month's old. This verdict doesn't mean much to me until it's executed."</p>
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A few ruin the good done by many

AL-AMIN from Wellington
Bangladesh turned what could have been a historic Test in New Zealand into a historic nightmare when they crashed to a seven-wicket defeat at the Basin Reserve in Wellington yesterday. For a team that scored 595 for eight declared in their first essay, on a wicket that has historically not been kind to teams batting first, and going into bat for a second time with a first-innings lead of 56 runs deep into the final session of the fourth day, a defeat from that situation can be too tough to digest. It was like a wedding party turned into a funeral. The stands and grass banks of the Basin Reserve were almost empty till the fifth morning, but fans started to flock in after the stunning Bangladesh second-innings collapse that gave the Black Caps a whiff of an unlikely victory. It was almost packed when New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was leading his side to victory with an unbeaten century. Although the audience was surprised with the sudden change in the game's tide and a few have remarked that the Black Caps should not have won, it was however a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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