



Wahiduzzaman Selim, sentenced to death in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, is being taken to jail after he surrendered before a Narayanganj court yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

N'GANJ 7-MURDER Sentenced to death, man surrenders

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

One of the nine fugitives, who were sentenced to death in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, was sent to jail on surrender yesterday. Wahiduzzaman Selim, a close aide of prime accused of the case Nur Hossain, surrendered before a Narayanganj court. Selim is from Kuripara Gokul Daserbagh area in the district's Bandar upazila. Nur was also awarded death penalty in the case. Selim surrendered before the District and Sessions Judge's Court around 2:00pm yesterday. The court sent him to jail, said Wazed Ali Khokon, public prosecutor of the court.

Of the nine condemned fugitives, Selim and former Rab man Abdul Alim surrendered before the court. Alim surrendered before the court on February 12 and the court sent him to jail. On February 5, police arrested another ex-Rab man Sergeant Enamul Kabir in Magura town. On January 16 this year, Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge's Court found 35 people, including 25 former Rab men, guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence. The court handed down death penalties to 26 people, including 16 former Rab men, and jailed nine others for seven to 17 years. Three of the nine are on the run.

On April 27, 2014, seven people, including then Narayanganj City Corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were abducted from Dhaka-Narayanganj link road. Later, their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river. Selim went into hiding after the seven-murder incident. On June 14, 2015, he was arrested along with Nur in Kolkata, India. On December 3 that year, he was granted bail from a Kolkata court.

Dubai

World Government Summit is not just a model," authority head Mattar al-Tayer said on Monday. "We have already experimented (with) the vehicle in a flight in (the) Dubai sky," he said in English. The authority was "making every effort to start the operation of the autonomous aerial vehicle in July 2017" to help reduce traffic congestion, Tayer said. The quadcopter is powered by eight propellers, the authority said. It has highly accurate sensors and can resist extreme temperatures, it said. The emirate is known for its scorching summers. In November, Dubai agreed a deal with US startup Hyperloop One to study the construction of a near-supersonic transport link to the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi. Home to Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, Dubai is a leading tourist destination in the Gulf, attracting a record 14.9 million visitors in 2016.

Ex-JMB boss

The other two accused are JMB ehsar (full-time) members Abdullah Hel Kafi and his wife Ayesha Akhter. Saidur Rahman, now in jail custody, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against him. Kafi and Ayesha went into hiding after obtaining bail from the High Court. Charges were framed against the couple in absentia. The court fixed March 15 for starting trial of the case. Earlier on May 25, 2010, police arrested Saidur and two others at a house adjacent to Nur Mosque in the city's East Dania area. During the raid, police recovered a huge cache of bomb-making materials, firearms and ammunition and jihadi books. A case was later filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act against Saidur and two others with Kadamtoli police. According to the prosecution, it was alleged that Saidur and others had planned to create anarchy by committing subversive activities across the country. After an investigation into the allegation, police pressed charges against Saidur Rahman and two others on October 23 the same year. The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court later transferred the case to the Special Judge's Court-6 for its disposal and it started the trial. But it was learned that the investigation officer did not get any approval for taking cognisance from the home ministry which was mandatory. The case was later sent back to its previous court for the next course of action. The sessions court then sent a letter to the home ministry for its approval on September 8, 2015. The ministry on August 26 last year gave its approval for taking cognisance.

Kim Jong-Un's half-brother

FROM PAGE 16 trying to strengthen his grip on power in the face of growing international pressure over North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes. The latest missile launch on Sunday brought UN Security Council condemnation. South Korea's national news agency Yonhap quoted a Seoul government source as saying Kim Jong-Nam was killed on Monday. The source gave no further details.



visit Disneyland. He has since lived in virtual exile, mainly in the Chinese territory of Macau. Jong-Nam's half-brother Jong-Un took over as North Korean leader when their father died in December 2011. Jong-Nam, known as an advocate of reform in the North, once told a Japanese newspaper that he opposed his country's dynastic power transfers. He was reportedly close to his uncle Jang Song-Thaek, once the North's unofficial number two and political mentor of the current leader. Jong-Nam has been targeted in the past. In October 2012 South Korean prosecutors said a North Korean detained as a spy had admitted involvement in a plot to stage a hit-and-run car accident in China in 2010 targeting Kim Jong-Nam. In 2014 Jong-Nam was reported to be in Indonesia - sighted at an Italian restaurant run by a Japanese businessman in Jakarta - and was said to be shuttling back and forth between Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and France. In 2012 a Moscow newspaper reported that Jong-Nam was having financial problems after being cut off by the Stalinist state for doubting its succession policy. The Argumenty i Fakty weekly said he was kicked out of a luxury hotel in Macau over a \$15,000 debt. Jong-Nam was born from his father's extra-marital relationship with Sung Hae-rim, a South Korean-born actress who died in Moscow.

Pakistan mourns Lahore victims of Taliban attack

AFP, Lahore

Pakistanis yesterday mourned the victims of a Taliban-claimed suicide bomb in Lahore, as the death toll rose to 15 and the city's residents railed at the government for failing to protect them. The chief minister of Punjab province Shahbaz Sharif declared a day of mourning after Monday's blast, believed to be targeting police managing a busy protest at rush hour on Mall Road, one of Lahore's main arteries. At least 15 people were killed, emergency official Ahmad Raza told AFP, including six police officers, while up to 87 were injured. Official funerals were held yesterday for some of the victims. The toll could have been much higher, Raza said, but for two vehicles - a TV news van and a minivan belonging to the protesters - which absorbed much of the impact of the blast.

The Pakistani Taliban faction Jamaat-ul-Ahrar claimed responsibility for the assault, which came three days after it announced it would carry out a series of attacks on government installations around the country. The attack underscored the challenges faced by Pakistan in its push to stamp out militancy, even though security dramatically improved in 2015 and 2016. Homegrown groups like the umbrella Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) retain the ability to carry out spectacular attacks, despite a military-led crackdown on extremism. Lahore residents vented their fury at the militants and the government at the blast site early yesterday. "They (the militants) have no link with Islam nor do they believe in any religion, the only thing they know is killing people, this is utterly an act of terrorism," Tariq Saleem told AFP. Nadeem Akhter called on the government to do more to bring the situation under control. "Our children and people are being killed in

Six held

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Later, they added clients to the groups to distribute the "fake questions" among them via messenger services using fake IDs or on the messaging site "Whatsapp". They gave the question papers only to those who paid them through the bKash account, said the DB official. Police seized two laptops, three CPUs, three routers, 12 mobile phone sets and 12 SIM cards from their possession. "We are now checking whether these group members have any connection with education board officials," said the joint commissioner, adding that they were monitoring activities of some suspects in the social media. Besides, police were sending SMS to examinees seeking information from them about anybody approaching them for sale of exam questions. Baten also sought assistance from the education ministry, education boards and all other stakeholders to trace all the gang members. A case was lodged against the six arrestees with Kalabagan Police Station. Abdur Rahman, inspector of DB and also the investigation officer of the case, produced the arrestees before a Dhaka court, seeking seven-day remand for each of them. The court placed them on bail for four days each. There had been allegations of question leakages in SSC, HSC and JSC exams in the past several years. In most of the cases, questions were leaked allegedly via Facebook and SMS. In 2014, a government enquiry committee found that questions of English second paper, and mathematics second paper of the HSC exams under the Dhaka education board were leaked.

US senators launch query on Trump's smartphone security

AFP, Washington

Two US senators have requested details on President Donald Trump's smartphone security, saying he could jeopardize national secrets if he is still using his old handset, as some reports say. "Did Trump receive a secured, encrypted smartphone for his personal use on or before Jan. 20? If so, is he using it?" said a tweet yesterday by Senator Tom Carper, who along with fellow Democrat Claire McCaskill released a letter to the administration requesting information on the president's device. "Trump should be well aware by now of the appropriate and necessary protocol to safeguard our nation's secrets."

The letter from the two lawmakers, dated February 9, was sent to Defense Secretary James Mattis along with Homeland Security chief John Kelly and the National Security Agency director Michael Rogers. The senators released the letter late Monday. The lawmakers said they were concerned by reports that Trump was still using an Android device that may be several years old for his frequent personal Twitter messages. "While it is important for the president to have the ability to communicate electronically, it is equally important that he does so in a manner that is secure and that ensures the preservation of presidential records," the letter said. "The national security risks of compromising a smartphone used by a senior government official, such as the president of the United States, are considerable."

The New York Times reported last month that while Trump had received a new, secure device after his inauguration, he still relied on his older device despite protests from aides.

'Neo JMB' man

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officer-in-charge of Kahaloo Police Station, said some criminals suddenly opened fire targeting their van when they reached Patonja village around 2:45am yesterday. He along with his team was returning to the police station after a patrol. Police then returned fire, triggering a "gunfight". After the "gun battle", they found the body of Musa lying on the spot. The others fled, the police official said. Law enforcers also claimed to have recovered a pistol, three bullets and several sharp weapons from the spot. Two cases were filed with Kahaloo Police Station in connection with attack on police, said Sonaton Chakrabarty, additional superintendent of police (A circle) in Bogra. In another incident, an alleged robber was killed in what police claimed to be a gunfight in Shankhari Bazar of old Dhaka. The dead, Sagor alias Dakat Sagor, stood accused in at least five cases. He died during a raid in Radhika Mohan Boshak Lane around 2:45am, Shahen Shah Mamun, assistant commissioner (Kotwali zone) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star. A police team went to the spot, acting on a tip-off that some robbers were preparing to commit a robbery at a jewellery shop in Shankhari Bazar, he said. Around 2:30am, the police team challenged six to seven youths, finding their movement suspicious. They then hurled a crude bomb at the law enforcers. At one stage, the robbers opened fire, prompting them to retaliate that triggered a "gunfight", said the police official. All of the robbers except Sagor managed to flee. He was found lying on the street and taken to Mitford Hospital

That report prompted a flurry of comments from security experts who argued that the president would be inviting danger by using his old personal phone. Trump's smartphone "would probably be the most widely prized device on the internet for hackers - and top of the target list for intelligence agencies around the world," said independent security researcher Graham Cluley in a blog post yesterday.

Rivalry led

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stomach allegedly by one Masud Rana Ashique of the upazila. The incident happened at the office in Purana Paltan, the ADC said earlier. Mosharraf was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Ashique, who remains absconding, was arrested along with arms in January, 2015. "He also faces charges of extortion, land grabbing and clashes over establishing supremacy in Rugganj," Shiblee said. Police were trying to arrest him, the DMP official said yesterday. Ruhul Amin, brother-in-law of Mosharraf, filed a case with Paltan Police Station against Ashique and some others on Monday night. Mosharraf went to the lawmaker's office to settle his personal enmity with another person, said the ADC, adding that the man was also accused in the case. On Monday evening, this correspondent saw bloodstains on the carpet of the office on the first floor of the 18-storey building. A security guard at the building said a group of five to six men went inside the office about an hour before the incident. MP Dastagir was outside the office, said several security guards and office staff.

where doctors declared him dead, the police official said.

Police also claimed to have recovered a pistol and two bullets from the spot. In Cox's Bazar, an alleged criminal was killed in a "shootout" with police in Kerontoli area of Moheshkhali upazila, reports our correspondent there. Deceased Abdus Sattar alias Sabbir, 52, was from Majher Para village of the upazila. Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Moheshkhali Police Station, said police as part of their regular patrol went to the spot around 4:00am. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, some criminals opened fire. Police then fired back, triggering the "gunfight". Sattar was hit by bullets during the "gun battle". Doctors of Moheshkhali Upazila Health Complex declared him dead when he was taken there, the police official said. Sattar was an arms trader and listed criminal, the OC said, adding that he stood accused in two cases. Five policemen were injured in the incident. They were admitted to Moheshkhali Upazila Health Complex, he added. Six firearms and 15 bullets were also recovered from the spot, police claimed. Two suspected criminals were wounded in another "gunfight" with police in Matarbari area of the upazila around 5:00am yesterday. They are Wazuddin, 33, and Nasiruddin, 29, of Maizpara village. AKM Iqbal Hossain, superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, said police also recovered eight firearms, 30 bullets and two sharp weapons from the spot. The injured were admitted to Moheshkhali Upazila Health Complex, the SP said.

Huda-led EC

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expected to be held on March 22. Again, the by-elections to Sunamganj-2, the constituency that fell vacant after the death of Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta, and the elections to Comilla City Corporation would take place soon too, EC officials told The Daily Star. Polls pundits and EC officials think the role of the EC in these elections would give people an idea about the competency and credibility of the new CEC and his team. "We saw huge irregularities and violence due to lack of law enforcement during different local government polls under the outgoing commission. We hope that the new commission would take a harder stance," said M Hafiz Uddin Khan, president of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan).

Although the national and the local bodies' elections have some differences in nature, we will get a glimpse of the new commission's mind-set here," Hafiz, also a former advisor to a caretaker government, told The Daily Star. Former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said, "In our country, a culture has been developed that fairness of elections depends on how much interference comes from the ruling party. So, it's a challenge for the new Election Commission to have the laws enforced strictly for holding a fair election." If the commission remains firm, field-level officials will feel that they are empowered to take actions against any irregularities, said several officials of the EC.

President Abdul Hamid on February 6 appointed the new CEC and four other election commissioners for five years. The new EC will oversee the 2019 national elections. The election commissioners are former additional secretary Mahub Talukder, former secretary Md Rafiqul Islam, former district and sessions judge Begum Kabita Khanam and Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury. The Rakibuddin-led EC, which began its journey on February 9, 2012, and completed its tenure on this February 8, drew a lot of flak over the way it conducted polls to various national and local bodies during its tenure. For example, it held the January 5, 2014, parliamentary elections, boycotted by the BNP-led alliance because it was held under the ruling Awami League-led administration. In that election, 153 out of the 300 lawmakers were elected unopposed. Besides, the commission held city corporation, municipality, upazila parishad and union parishad elections. Most of the polls were marred by violence and irregularities. In most cases, the EC neither investigated the incidents nor took any legal action against the offenders.

THE OATH-TAKING CEREMONY Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha will administer the oath of the new CEC and commissioners at the capital's Supreme Court Judges' Lounge around 3:00pm today, Sabbir Foyez, additional registrar (admin) of the High Court Division of the SC, told The Daily Star. After taking oath, the CEC and the commissioners would go to the Election Commission Secretariat. There, the CEC would brief reporters around 5:00pm, said SM Asaduzzaman, director (public relations) of the EC secretariat.

Malaysia sends in relief

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Bangladesh had been hosting them and would continue to host them, he said, adding, "But we will not definitely like it if they create problems within our borders. That is why the government is thinking about transferring them to Thengarchar in near future." Malaysian High Commissioner Nur Ashikin Binti Mohd Taib said several Malaysian NGOs with the full support of the Malaysian prime minister had jointly sent the aid. Malaysia would continue to work together with the international community including Bangladesh to find a solution to this longstanding issue so that the Rohingyas could return to their homes in Myanmar, she added. She expressed her profound appreciation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the cooperation and support in making the passage of the Nautical Aliya to Bangladesh possible. Co-chief of mission Abdul Azeem bin Abdul Rahim, who also found Malaysian NGO Kelab Putera 1 Malaysia, said this was for the first time the Malaysian government and the Malaysian NGOs organised a relief mission bringing 183 volunteers including some foreign volunteers from 19 countries including Bangladeshis who work in Malaysia. Mentioning Bangladesh's lone assistance to more than half a million Rohingya refugees, he said, "Our

arrival here today is to say to the world that Malaysia and its 30 million people are with Bangladesh. You are no longer alone. We will help you. And I believe all the Asian brothers and members will come forward and help you to ease your burden." Mohammad Azmi bin Abdul Hamid, president of Mapim, BMM Mozharul Huq, secretary general of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, and Raid Ramahi, head of resources management of IOM, among others, addressed the programme.

Life term

FROM PAGE 1 Yesterday, a four-member Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Sinha commuted their death sentence to life term, but observed it meant imprisonment until natural death. The apex court's observation would be applicable to all cases from now on, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The Daily Star. Defence lawyer Khandker Mahub Hossain argued before the court that the Penal Code made it clear life term stood for 30 years' jail sentence. The CJ then said the full verdict would offer an explanation to this effect, he told this paper. During his visit to Kashipur Jail in Gazipur in June last year, the chief justice had said life sentence meant imprisonment till death, Mahub added.