

Death for 15, life term for 11

HC revises lower court verdict in sensational 7-murder case, upholds death penalty for 15 including expelled Narayanganj AL leader Nur Hossain, 3 ex-Rab officers



Nur Hossain Tareque Sayeed Arif Hossain Masud Rana

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY
The High Court yesterday upheld the death penalty of 15, including three ex-Rab officials and expelled Awami League leader Nur Hossain, for their involvement in conspiracy, abduction and killing of seven Narayanganj men in 2014.
The court, however, commuted the capital punishment of 11 others to life imprisonment. It fined them Tk 20,000 each, in default of which they have to spend two more years in prison.

The HC bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam also upheld the jail terms of nine others for various terms ranging from seven to 17 years.
Earlier in January, a Narayanganj Court sentenced 26 persons to death and nine others to imprisonment in the sensational murder case.
The HC verdict comes more than three years after the horrific murders, which shook the nation to its core and gave the elite crime buster Rab a bad name for the involvement of its members in such a grievous offence.



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Man who shot DB officer killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A man, allegedly involved in a shooting incident on August 12 which left a detective injured, was killed during a "gunfight" in capital's Jurain early yesterday.
The deceased was identified as Mamun, 30.
Police claimed he was a local criminal involved in arms trading.
During primary investigation it was learnt that Mamun shot Rahul Patwari, senior assistant commissioner of detective branch (west division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police during a raid to recover arms on that day.
Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Patwari was wounded in his abdomen.

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How cruel can man be

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Termining the Narayanganj seven-murder a glaring example of cruelty to its highest degree, the High Court yesterday observed that the accused Rab men were unkind even to the bodies of the victims.
"To what extent man can be cruel, unkind and heartless, the condemned prisoners demonstrated it and the alleged

occurrence is the glaring example of cruelty to its highest degree," said the court while delivering the verdict over the abduction and killing of seven in 2014.
The accused strangled the victims using polythene and rope and tied up the bodies with two plastic sacks containing 10 bricks each to facilitate their drowning, said the HC bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad

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Families of victims not fully satisfied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam described yesterday's High Court verdict in the Narayanganj seven-murder cases as satisfactory while the victims' families said they would have been fully satisfied had the punishment handed down on all

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LOWER COURT	CONVICTED	HIGH COURT
35 (25 Rab members, 10 civilians)	35	35 (25 Rab members, 10 civilians)
26 (16 Rab members, 10 civilians)	DEATH PENALTY	15 (14 Rab members, 1 civilians)
0	LIFE TERM JAIL	11 (2 Rab members, 9 civilians)
9 (All are Rab members)	JAIL UPTO 17YRS	9 (All are Rab members)
IN JAIL 30		ON THE RUN 5

SUPPORT STAFF SHORTAGE AT GOVT HOSPITALS

Toiling without pay, they live on tips

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

The hospital is her home. She toils away serving patients and sometimes nurses and doctors on request, eats the leftovers of patients and sleeps wherever she finds space to lie down inside the hospital.
Still, the woman, who identifies herself only as Aleya, is nobody in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The authority does not recognise her as an employee even though she has been working there for nearly 20 years.
Aleya, who seems to be in her late 40's, is one among hundreds who have become part of the hospital manage-

ment system over the years. The hospital needs them as much as they need the shelter and protection they get from the hospital.
The backdrop to the situation at the DMCH is an acute shortage of manpower, especially third and fourth-grade employees.
The hospital has not been able to hire since 2013. Recruitment for the posts had been done under a policy formulated in 1985 by the regime of Lt Gen Hussain Muhammad Ershad.
But things became complex as the Supreme Court

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Two men stretcher a patient into the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. With the country's largest medical centre heavily understaffed for many years, non-staffers lend a hand to patients in exchange for tips. A large number of positions of third- and fourth-grade support staff have been falling vacant at public hospitals as hiring has remained stalled since 2013. The photos were taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AL leaders now calling for CJ to step down

PARIHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Seemingly emboldened by prime minister's remarks about Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha on Monday, ruling Awami League leaders are now demanding the CJ's resignation.

Ever since the Supreme Court released its full verdict on the 16th amendment early this month, party leaders have been demanding that the CJ expunge some of his observations. And the party's position was to file a review petition to this effect.

But after AL President Sheikh Hasina said the chief justice should have resigned before making any comment on the election process of the women lawmakers or after delivering the verdict, her party colleagues are now following suit.
Yesterday, AL leaders Hasan Mahmud, ABM Reazul Kabir Kawsar and Barrister Sheikh Fazole Noor Taposh said that Sinha must go.

Passed in 2014, the 16th amendment to the constitution had restored parliament's powers to remove

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100km rail lines damaged by flood

Railway requires Tk 20cr and 15 days to repair those, restore links with North



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Western Railway Zone needs over Tk 20 crore to repair around 100km of rail lines damaged by the recent flood in Dinajpur, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Thakurgaon, said Bangladesh Railway officials on Monday.
They said sleepers at many points were displaced, trackbeds with stone were washed away, and rail bridges and culverts were damaged.
Services of 11 trains, two of which were intercity, remained suspended since August 13.
The officials said they required 15 more days to restore the rail communications in the affected districts.

According to the office of Western Railway Zone in Lalmonirhat, around 120-foot rail tracks were washed away in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha, two rail bridges were damaged in Kurigram and sleepers were displaced at 20 points of 30km of rail tracks in Kaunia of Rangpur. Besides, sleepers and trackbeds of 22km of rail lines between Dinajpur Sadar and Parbatipur upazilas were either damaged or washed away, and sleepers of 4km of rail tracks between Kanchan and Baznahar in Dinajpur's Biral were damaged.
The 100km trackbeds need soil before repairs to the lines can be made, said the officials.

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