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THE DOUBLE STANDARDS

World powers shouldn't forget that Gaza people deserve to live as the Yazidis do

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THE POET OF JOURNALISM

Pictorial biography captures the life and times of Santosh Gupta

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THE ROLL CALL OF DEATH

The silence of moderates helps fanaticism thrive: Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka

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Retiring judge forgot oath

Chief justice asks govt to take action over his case disposal spree

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The chief justice has decided to take action against a recently retired Dhaka court judge, Faruk Ahmed, for hastily acquitting dozens of accused before going into retirement.

Many of these accused were acquitted in violation of rules, a Supreme Court source said.

Justice SK Sinha, who had been discharging the functions of Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain in the latter's absence, yesterday asked the law ministry to take action against Faruk.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star last night that his office would take action against Faruk today, as per the SC's advice.

"Faruk Ahmed acquitted all the accused of 24 cases in 18 days, which was a farce in the name of trial. Wait and see what action I take against him," he said.

Faruk retired as judge of the Public Safety Disturbance Crime Prevention Tribunal in Dhaka on June 26.

The chief justice, who went to Sri Lanka on an official visit on August 7, returned home yesterday morning and joined office in the afternoon.

According to an August 7 report in the Bangla daily Jugantor, Faruk's court finished recording statements from

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FAKE WAR HEROES

Govt moves to act against errant staff

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The liberation war affairs ministry yesterday revoked freedom fighter certificates of another 31 public servants for obtaining those through forgery, raising the number of cancelled certificates to 182.

The government, however, is yet to decide on what action it will take against them, according to sources at the public administration ministry.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told The Daily Star that his ministry would write to the public administration secretary in a day or two for taking departmental action against the public servants who obtained the certificates through forgery.

"We will also ask him to discontinue all government facilities that they [the public servants] are enjoying," he said.

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He says sorry after PM's rebuke

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reprimanded Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali for making derogatory remarks against journalists, forcing him to regret his words.

She warned Mohsin against making such "reckless remarks" and advised him to talk as less as possible and concentrate on his work, government sources said.

"Upon receiving the instruction [of the prime minister], Mohsin Ali said

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Show him the door

Journos react to Mohsin remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday lambasted Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali for his abusive remarks on newsmen, and demanded his removal from the cabinet.

Terming the minister "mentally unbalanced", they also demanded that Mohsin Ali withdraw the comments he made on Saturday and apologise.

"The minister will have to be fired from the cabinet and arrested within 48 hours. Otherwise, we will continue our movement," said Ruhul Amin Gazi, leader of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), at a demonstration in

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Reflections of a khobish

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

I am scum. I am, in the words of Minister Syed Mohsin Ali, khobish. I have loose morals, charitraheen in the view of the honourable minister. In all the three decades that I have pursued the profession of journalism, I remained blissfully unaware of the fact that I was actually scum, khobish, a danger to society. Perhaps the minister has done some positive good to me and to all the other denizens of the khobish world.

Where a ruling party lawmaker recently, and proudly, tried to draw an analogy between Alsatian dogs and journalists, the minister for social welfare has certainly raised newsmen to a slightly higher perch. So what if their character is loose? So what if they write for newspapers? They are scum. And they are because they do not have any background of academic

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Ten pieces of a woman's body found

Head still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered 10 pieces of a woman's body from the capital's Uttara yesterday.

Uttara Paschim police found eight pieces of the woman's hands and legs at sector 5 and Turag police found two pieces of her body about a kilometre away in Chandalbhog area.

Police are trying to recover the head.

They have yet to identify the victim, presumably aged about 35, but said all the body parts belonged to the same woman. Law enforcers are working to find out the culprit(s) and the motive behind the killing.

Mamunoor Rahman, sub-inspector of Uttara Paschim Police Station, said the woman's severed hands and legs wrapped with a scarf were lying beside a

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Ebola alert at airports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday declared a 90-day surveillance period to prevent the deadly Ebola virus from entering the country.

The virus recently spread in some West African

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NOTICE

The Star Book Review section could not be published today for unavoidable reasons. However, it will be there tomorrow.

We apologise to our readers for the inconvenience.



Tired of waiting and the lack of success of the government initiative to locate sunken Pinak-6, locals of Mawa hire trawlers and try to find it themselves in the Padma at Mawa yesterday. The government has scaled down its rescue operation there.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Hope now in local effort

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

While the government scaled down the hunt for Pinak-6, a group of locals yesterday began searching the doomed launch in the mighty Padma and claimed to have "detected an object" around a kilometre off the capsized site.

They started on two boats from the accident spot around 11:00pm yesterday and moved downstream, said Mohammad Hasan, who coordinates the operation.

The object was detected around 4:00pm during a second search.

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