

## THE BCS QUOTA

How relevant is the existing system, questions writer

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## 'PEACE' AT BSA

Shahabuddin's exhibition, featuring 30 recent artworks, opens today

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## ABE IN TROUBLE?

Poll shows the Japanese prime minister's support is sliding

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Order on  
Khaleda's  
bail today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court delivers an order today on four petitions filed in connection with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case in which she was jailed for five years.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday fixed the date for passing the order after hearing arguments on the petitions.

The government and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on March 15 filed two leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC challenging a High Court order that granted bail to Khaleda.

The petitions also sought extension of the SC order that stayed the bail order until yesterday.

Khaleda on March 14 also filed two petitions with the SC seeking the apex court's order to vacate its stay.

Earlier, the SC stayed the bail order the same day following two separate petitions filed by the ACC and the government. The apex court also asked the

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Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan tries to wipe the anguish off his face after watching Soumya Sarkar's last delivery of the innings disappear over extra-cover boundary as India clinched the Nidahas Trophy with a four-wicket win in the final at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO:  
AFP

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## Another heart-break

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo

It was another heartbreaking defeat, and there were tearful faces once again as Soumya Sarkar knelt, broken and face down on the R Premadasa Stadium turf after Dinesh Karthik bludgeoned a flat six that just made it over the extra cover rope when five runs were needed off the last ball to win the T20I tri-series Nidahas Trophy final last night in Colombo.

Soumya went into the dressing room and cried his heart out yet again. Because yet again Bangladesh were so close yet so far from breaking the jinx of losing in multi-national tournament finals. It was their fifth such defeat.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan brought in his best bowler Rubel Hossain -- who not only conceded just 13 runs in his first three overs for two wickets but had been Bangladesh's best throughout the tournament -- to bowl when India needed 34 from the last 12 balls.

But it wasn't to be as Karthik, after a superb Mustafizur Rahman 17th over that contained four dot balls, allowed India just one run and cost them the wicket of Manish Pandey. Wicketkeeper-batsman Karthik put on a magnificent display of precision power hitting as he took Rubel for 22 runs in the 19th over with two sixes and two fours bringing down the equation to 12 runs from the last over.

Part-time seamer Soumya managed to hold his nerve and bowled well to bring the equation down to nine off the last three deliveries. A struggling Vijay Shankar first struck a four, but Soumya came back strong and bowled a fullish delivery that Shankar

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## Putin set for 4th term

AFP, Moscow

Vladimir Putin won Russia's presidential election yesterday with almost 74 percent of the vote, according to an official exit poll, with the opposition reporting ballot stuffing and other cases of alleged fraud.

Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, stood against seven other candidates, but his most vocal critic Alexei Navalny was barred from the ballot for legal reasons and the final outcome was never in doubt.

The Kremlin was hoping

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PHOTO ON PAGE 10

## Pilots open up in private

"This accident was just waiting to happen. The safety culture or ... the lack of it in private sector is simply outrageous!"

SAYS A PILOT

STAR REPORT

The recent US-Bangla plane crash has suddenly brought out some bone-chilling allegations from a number of pilots of compromising flight safety by private airlines.

These pilots have been sending messages to The Daily Star, uploading posts in the social media, exchanging notes among them and discussing in private about how the airlines in their bid to maximise profit allegedly overwork their pilots, send off flights even when the rules don't permit, or even sometimes hide defects because logging them would mean grounding of aircraft at a huge loss.

The March 12 tragedy, in which at least 51 people, including 28 Bangladeshis, were killed as the US-Bangla Airlines aircraft crashed and burst into flames while landing at the Kathmandu airport in Nepal, appeared to have deeply rattled the conscience of a rather small circle of pilots.

Some of them are urging others to stand up and start to say no to the compromises they routinely make under pressure from management.

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## Captain's wife suffers stroke

Bodies of 23 Bangladeshi victims to be brought back home today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A week after US-Bangla Airlines pilot Captain Abid Sultan lost his life in the plane crash at Nepal airport, his wife suffered a stroke yesterday morning.

Afsana Khanam suffered the stroke at her Uttara residence at around 4:00am, according to her relatives.

She was admitted to the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital at Agargaon in Dhaka where doctors operated on her at 7:00am, relatives said.

Pilot Abid Sultan and all four cabin crew members of the ill-fated US-Bangla flight died in the crash at Tribhuvan International Airport on March 12. The crash claimed the lives of 51 people, including 26 Bangladeshis.

Meanwhile, bodies of 23 Bangladeshi crash victims will be brought back home



Afsana

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## ABDUCTED BUSINESSMAN Freed after eight days in captivity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight days after being abducted from the capital's Basundhara Residential Area, businessman Sazal Chowdhury was freed in Daudkandi area of Comilla early yesterday.

"I was blindfolded and taken on a car last night [Saturday]. After roaming around different places, they [abductors] left me beside Al-Amin Mosque in Daudkandi's Gouripur at daybreak," he said.

"While dropping me there, they gave me Tk 2,000 and warned me not to tell anything to anyone."

Offering prayer at the mosque, he with the help of locals rented a taxi and returned home around 10:00am.

Sazal, 46, who is involved in ship-breaking business, was dragged out of his flat on the first floor of a building at Block-G on March 11 by some people who identified themselves as detectives.

Recalling the incident, he said a group of 10-12 people entered his flat, beat him up and forced him into a microbus.

They also beat the security guard of the house and took away CCTV footage. The kidnappers tied his mother Diluara Begum to a door handle before leaving the flat with Sazal.

His son Shihab Chowdhury could not hear anything as

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