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Croatia players take in the applause of their fans after sealing a World Cup final berth for the first time following a 2-1 victory over England in the second semifinal at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## QUOTA IN GOVT JOBS Too complex a system

Experts suggest reform or phasing out

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The quota system in Bangladesh civil service is extremely complex and cannot be implemented ensuring proportionate representation of all sections of the society, according to two former top bureaucrats of the country.

The system has become unrealistic and it requires reform based on the current socio-economic and demographic structure of Bangladesh or it should be phased out, they said.

The district quota is not appropriate in this small country and the quota for women is a lot less than that of freedom fighters' and their wards. The five percent quota for the indigenous people has little effect on the communities' representation in the civil service.

Analysing the quota system of Bangladesh civil service and that of India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nigeria, and South Africa, former cabinet secretary Akbar Ali Khan said there were 258 types of quotas in Bangladesh civil service and no other country in the world has such a system.

"It [Bangladesh] has the most complex system among the six countries studied and is undoubtedly one of the most complicated in the world," he wrote in his book "Gresham's Law Syndrome and Beyond: An Analysis of the Bangladesh Bureaucracy."

Termining implementation of the quota system extremely

A MOTHER'S DESPERATION -- PAGE 3

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No scope for changing the 30pc quota

Minister says about freedom fighters' quota, citing a court order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday said there is no scope for bringing changes to the 30 percent freedom fighters' quota in public jobs because of a Supreme Court order.

Referring to the 2015 court order, the minister said there is an obligation to maintain the freedom fighters' quota though scopes are there for recruiting candidates on merit if eligible candidates cannot be found for the vacant posts in the quota.

"If the government wants to modify the freedom fighters' quota, it has to file a review petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. And if the judgment goes in its favour, only then it can make the changes," he said.

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# Nerveless Croatia in maiden final

Oust England to set up Sunday's showdown with France

AL-AMIN from Moscow

Croatia set up a dream final with France as they came from a goal down to beat England 2-1 in a nail-biting semifinal at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday.

Mario Mandzukic struck the winner in the 109th minute after the game headed into extra time following a 1-1 stalemate in regulation 90 minutes. England defender Kieran Trippier gave the Three Lions a fifth-minute lead with a spectacular free-kick before Ivan Perisic levelled the margin in the 68th minute with a first-time flick into the left-hand corner of the net.

And the moment Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir blew the final whistle after four minutes of added time, the Croatian players burst into wild celebration for having made it into the final for the first time in their history, leaving England to eat the humble pie 28 years after that gut-wrenching defeat against Germany in Italia '90.

Despite the defeat, this young England team showed

they can play entertaining, fearless and not conventional football. Raheem Sterling, Dele Alli, Jasse Lingard, John Stones and goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, whose brilliance under the bar ended the Three Lions' shootout jinx in the round of 16 against Colombia, were really pushing a seasoned Croatian side into tight corners.

And England needed only five minutes to take the lead through a magnificent free-kick from Trippier, who whipped the ball over the wall and into the top right-hand corner that Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subasic could only watch. England got the free-kick just outside the box when Luka Modric pulled Alli, who looked ominously poised after being nicely fed by Lingard. It was the Tottenham Hotsspur winger's first goal on England shirt.

The early goal fuelled more energy into the England attack, with Sterling making those sprints down the right flank. They won a corner in the 14th minute and it was time for another defender to bury it for a team that had

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## Apology to beautiful football

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

France won the match, but not the hearts.

The first semifinal between the two best sides of the World Cup failed to live up to its Battle Royale

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# Hall-Mark chair jailed for 3yrs

First verdict in graft case; convicted for failing to submit wealth report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam to three years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed over her failure to submit her wealth statement to the ACC within the given time.

Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of Special Judges Court-5 passed the order in her presence.

With this, Jasmine has been convicted of corruption for the first time, said Mahmud Hossain Jahangir, one of the public prosecutors for the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The anti-graft body had filed the case with Ramna Model Police Station on December 12, 2013. In the case statement, the commission said it had served a notice on Jasmine on November 13 of the same



Jasmine

year, asking her to submit her wealth statement within seven working days.

The deadline was later extended to December 4 on her appeal. But she failed to file the papers within that time, it said.

On October 22 in 2014, the ACC pressed charges against her in the case.

Jasmine, wife of Hall-Mark Group Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud, has been charge-sheeted in the 11 cases lodged by the ACC on October 4 of 2012 on charges of misappropriating over Tk 1,568 crore.

Trial of all the cases against 18 people, including Jasmine and Tanvir, is now running at the Special Judge Court-1 of Dhaka. Eight to 11 prosecution witnesses, including complainants of the cases, have so far given their statements.

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# 5 more 'drug dealers' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Five alleged drug traders were killed in "gunfights" between law enforcers and criminals in four districts early yesterday.

Two of them were killed in Kushtia and one each in Natore, Dhaka and Lakshmipur.

Meanwhile, another alleged drug peddler, who was injured in a "gunfight" between detectives and criminals in Rajshahi's Charghat upazila six days ago, died of his wounds at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday.

With the six, at least 179 alleged drug peddlers have been killed since the beginning of the countrywide anti-narcotics drive on May 4. Most of the dead were killed in so-called shootout incidents involving the police and Rab.

Many families of the deceased alleged that law enforcers picked up their relatives and later cooked up stories of "shootouts" to cover up the murders.

Yesterday, two people were killed in a "gun battle" between Rab and criminals in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila. The dead -- Abdul Mannaf Fotu, 35, and Rassel Ahmed, 30, -- were from the same upazila.

Mohaiminul Islam, company commander of Rab-12, SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Rickshaws are tipped over and kept on the side of Mirpur Road near the Gono Bhavan yesterday afternoon. Police officers said they would impound the rickshaws as the pullers attempted to use the road prohibited to non-motorised vehicles.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Never said outsiders are barred

Claim DU authorities, blame media for 'creating confusion'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday claimed they never said "outsiders were prohibited on campus".

"Some mass media outlets and social media users have partially presented the decisions of Dhaka University's Provost Committee, creating confusion among public. No restriction was imposed on anybody to enter or roam around the campus," said a statement released by the DU. The authorities also urged all not to encourage "an evil force" by spreading "confusing information" about the university.

The statement comes two days after the university authorities announced that no outsiders would be allowed to roam or stay on the campus or carry out any activities without their permission.

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