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126 UZ chairmen may lose AL posts

They contested polls as rebel candidates; decision on their backers to be taken later

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Scores of Awami League leaders, who ran for upazila parishad chairman's office as rebel candidates and won, are likely to lose their posts in the ruling party.

Many of the 126 AL rebel candidates who are now upazila chairmen hold the posts of president, general secretary and organising secretary at upazila- and district-level AL units, party sources said.

The AL has decided that they would not be eligible to run for any posts in the upcoming grassroots councils, the sources added.

Besides, around 30 AL MPs, three to four ministers, and some central and grassroots

leaders would be served show-cause notices for supporting and patronising rebel candidates during the upazila polls held earlier this year.

The AL would serve the rebels with the notices and give them three weeks to respond, party insiders said.

The decision was made at a meeting of AL's joint general secretaries and organising secretaries with General Secretary Obaidul Quader in the chair at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday morning.

Briefing newsmen afterwards, Quader said, "Even the party's central leaders, ministers or MPs, who were involved in the violation of party decisions during the last

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Feuding JP factions 'patch things up'

Quader chairman, Raushan opposition leader, insiders say

RASHIDUL HASAN

The two feuding factions of Jatiya Party reportedly patched things up last night and decided that party Chairman GM Quader would remain in his post and Raushan Ershad would become the Leader of the Opposition in parliament.

They also agreed to nominate Saad Ershad, son of HM Ershad, in the by-election to Rangpur-3 constituency, which fell vacant after Ershad passed away on July 14, party insiders said.

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STATE-TO-STATE ARMS SMUGGLING IN INDIA Syndicates using Bangladesh soil

Police find; gunrunners also sell some of the firearms to local criminals

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Transnational syndicates are smuggling firearms from one Indian state into another through Bangladesh territory, with a border haat in Sylhet being used as a key transit route, police said.

They are using the Gowainghat point as a new route to smuggle the arms, some of which are sold to criminal gangs in Bangladesh.

For the first time in Bangladesh, investigators found sophisticated arms like 12-chamber revolvers smuggled into the country, according to sources in the Illegal Arms Recovery Team of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC)

unit.

The CITC unit got the sensational information following the arrest of three alleged smugglers on Thursday night from the capital's Sayedabad.

The unit also recovered a 0.22 bore 12-chamber revolver and two 0.32 bore six-chamber revolvers loaded with bullets, said Jahangir Alam, additional deputy commissioner (Illegal Arms Recovery Team) of the unit.

The arrestees are Abdus Sahid, 40, his friend Ansar Miah, 40, and their carrier Dolon Miah, 38. Police are now interrogating them.

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Tigers staring at defeat

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

It would require a miracle or some intervention from nature for Bangladesh to even have a chance of saving the one-off Test match against new Test-playing nation Afghanistan, who have already laid the platform from which to post a huge target. The hosts may be lucky however, as forecasts suggest high chances of rain in Chattogram over the next two days.

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Sand lifters gorge on the Meghna at Ekhlashpur union of Chandpur's Matlab upazila. They bring in large dredgers and fill bulk carriers to the brim, inset. This illegal activity, blamed for river erosion at places, goes on despite protests from locals.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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