BID TO FORCE BREXIT DELAY

Legal action if PM defies MPs

Says British opposition leader

REUTERS, London

British lawmakers are preparing legal action in case Prime Minister Boris Johnson tries to defy legislation compelling him to seek a further delay to Brexit, opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said yesterday.

An opposition bill which would force Johnson to ask the European Union for an extension to Britain's departure to avoid an Oct 31 exit without a transition deal was approved by parliament's appointed upper chamber, the House

of Lords, on Friday. Queen Elizabeth is

expected to sign it into law tomorrow. The BBC reported earlier

that lawmakers, including moderate Conservatives expelled this week from Jeremy Corbyn their party for backing the bill, have lined up a legal team and are

legislation if necessary. Corbyn said Labour was not as a party taking legal action but was aware of lawmakers' manoeuvres on

the matter. The government had no immediate comment.

Johnson, a leader of the campaign to leave the EU during the 2016 Brexit referendum, took office in July after Conservative party predecessor Theresa May quit following three failed attempts to get a deal with Brussels through parliament.

Johnson has vowed to take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal with the bloc.

He has said he has no intention of seeking an extension and would rather "die in a ditch" than delay Brexit.

Telegraph Saturday's Daily newspaper reported that the prime minister is prepared to defy parliament's instruction to request an extension to the Brexit process if he fails to agree a new deal.

The newspaper quoted Johnson as saying he was only bound "in theory" by the new

legislation. "We're quite territory extraordinary when the prime minister

says he is above the law," Corbyn told Sky News. Dominic Grieve, a former

attorney general and one of 21 Conservative lawmakers ousted from the party this week, said

willing to go to court to enforce the Johnson was unfit for office. "This is ridiculous, it's shaming, it's like a four-year old having a tantrum," he told Sky News.

A former UK director of public prosecutions (DPP) said Johnson could face prison if he refuses to delay Brexit in the face of court action.

"In conventional cases...individuals who are in contempt of court and fail to purge their contempt are liable to be committed to prison," Ken MacDonald, who served as DPP from 2003 to 2008 and now sits in the Lords, told Sky News. PHOTO ON PAGE 10

Feuding JP factions patch things up

Representatives of the two factions met at a club in Bashundhara Residential Area last night to reach an understanding.

JP presidium members SM Faisal Chisty, Mujibul Haque Chunnu, Fakhrul Imam, and Salim Osman led Raushan's faction while JP presidium members Kazi Feroz Rashid, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, Masud Uddin Chowdhury, and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu represented GM Quader.

The JP leaders would hold a press conference in a day or two to tell the media about the developments, said JP leaders.

"We have come to an understanding that GM Quader will remain as the party chairman while madam [Raushan Ershad] will become the Leader of the Opposition," SM Faisal Chisty of Raushan's faction told The Daily Star after the two-hour-long meeting.

Kazi Feroz Rashid of GM Quader's faction echoed Faisal.

The post of Leader of the Opposition

in parliament was the reason for the rift in post-Ershad JP.

Earlier yesterday, Raushan, the widow of Ershad, scheduled a meeting the Leader of the Opposition. In a press release, she had said the meeting would be held at her parliament office at 1:00pm.

Quader, chairman of JP, had sent a letter to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on September 3, requesting her to make him the Leader of the Opposition.

He claimed that 15 JP lawmakers backed him for the post. The JP has 25 lawmakers.

The following day, Raushan, also deputy leader of the opposition, sent another letter to the Speaker, urging her not to accept Quader's request.

Quader yesterday declared that the party would hold its council on November 30 to elect the next leadership, including the chairman.

"The council will elect the party's future leaders. I will accept the decision of the party leaders and activists," he told a programme at the JP chairman's heard about arms smuggling through Banani office in the city.

The event was organised to mark the joining of AR Ahmed Selim, presidium member of JP (Kazi Jafar), to Jatiya Quader said, "I don't do politics for

Our politics is for the country, its people and for the party." He said eight organisational teams

securing any post, position, or wealth.

were formed to strengthen the JP across the country. The JP is being run as per its charter

and instructions of its late founding chairman HM Ershad, he added. THE RIFT The rift over becoming the Leader of

the Opposition had apparently split the JP into two as a group of party leaders on Thursday declared Raushan the chairman. Presidium Member Anisul Islam

Mahmud, also a lawmaker, made an announcement in this regard at a press conference at Raushan's Gulshan home. He also said a chairman would be

of JP parliamentary party today to select appointed through holding of a council within the next six months.

A few hours later, Quader at another press conference said action would be taken against those who declared Raushan the JP chief.

PRESS BRIEFING POSTPONED

The Jatiya Party Parliamentary Board, led by Raushan, was supposed to hold a press conference yesterday after picking the party candidate for the October 5 by-election to Rangpur-3.

The briefing was scheduled to be held at Raushan's Gulshan home at 4:00pm but was postponed hours before.

The fourth session of the 11th parliament begins today after a 59-day

brief session.

According to sources at the Parliament Secretariat, this will be a

Tigers staring at defeat

The home side's bowlers again disappointed with their performances and by the end of the third day, Afghanistan had reached 237 for eight, riding on Ibrahim Zadran's patient 87. The visitors are eying a historic Test win and are leading by 374 runs, courtesy of their vital first innings lead of 137 runs.

It will certainly require something special from the Tigers, who have never won a Test match chasing more than 215 in the second innings. To make matters grimmer, no team has won a match chasing more 317 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury

Stadium. The Afghans appear to be aware of that and the visiting team management have reportedly asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board for a weather forecast from the local met office.

Bangladesh started on a positive note as skipper Shakib Al Hasan removed opener Ihsanullah for four before getting rid of first innings centurion Rahmat Shah for a golden

duck in the very first over. Youngster Nayeem Hasan removed Hashmatullah Shahidi in the 15th over to leave the visitors struggling on 28 for 3 and it looked like the Tigers might be able to make turn the game

around. But Ibrahim and Asghar Afghan's 120-run fourth-wicket stand snatched the impetus from the hosts.

The Afghan batters once again displayed better application and more patience when compared to the hosts, as both Ibrahim and Asghar took their time and charged the Tigers bowlers only when a loose ball was offered.

The body language of the Bangladeshi cricketers also looked poor and he bowlers kept throwing down loose deliveries, which is something new head coach Russell

Domingo will want to rectify. 17-year-old Ibrahim, who was eying a Test hundred on his Test debut, was dismissed by Nayeem for a 208-ball 87 which featured six fours and four sixes while Afghan added a valuable fifty on the back of his 92-

run knock in the first innings. Earlier, things went awry for Bangladesh at the start of the day as they could add just 11 runs to their overnight total of 194 for 8 before being bundled out.

Taijul Islam was dismissed after scoring 14 while Nayeem added seven runs before being removed by Rashid Khan, who completed a second five-wicket haul in Tests. Mosaddek Hossain remained unbeaten on 48 as the visitors started to sense something remarkable in the works in just their

third Test match. As the umpires were forced to call off play due to bad light, the fourth days' play will begin 20 minutes early,

expelling rebels in national polls. At its at 9:40am instead of 10:00am.

In recent years, rebel candidates in national and local body elections were a big headache for the AL high command. In its charter adopted in July 2009, the party included a provision for

following a probe.

decided to expel rebel candidates and serve show-cause notices on leaders, MPs, and ministers who backed them. According to the AL constitution, Karim Russel. rebel candidates and their patrons Liberation War Affairs Minister within the party are to be expelled

from the party or its front organisations supported Sikder.

president. backed the rebel candidate.

last council in 2016, the AL adopted the Shamsul Alam said, "I will accept whatever decision the party makes. same measure for rebels in local body had earlier accepted them, and will

But the provisions did little to deter the rebels. In the last national election in 2018, the party saw rebel candidates in almost

all constituencies. This prompted its President Sheikh Hasina to declare on October 26 last year, "Once a rebel, a rebel forever, and rebels will be expelled from the party

for life." Elections in 480 upazilas out of 492 were held in five phases between March and June this year.

For the first time, political parties nominated candidates for the posts of chairman, vice-chairman, and female vice-chairman.

Data from the EC shows that AL chairman candidates won in 321 upazilas and independent candidates in 150 upazilas. Most of the independents are actually AL rebels.

For instance, in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur, former upazila AL president and incumbent executive member Kamal Uddin Sikder defeated ALnominated candidate and district committee executive member Rezaul

and local MP AKM Mozammel Huq

activities related to the radical Al-In Sreepur upazila of the district, upazila AL president Shamsul Alam defeated AL-sponsored candidate Abdul Jalil who is also the upazila unit vice-

Local MP Iqbal Hossain Sabuj

A top police official said they came to know that the Indian syndicate members sometimes enter Bangladesh to take care of the shipments.

Dolon got Tk 2,000 each for

border. Officials are yet to get details

40,000-50,000 each and then sell

them to local criminals or the Indian

Amin used to buy those for Tk

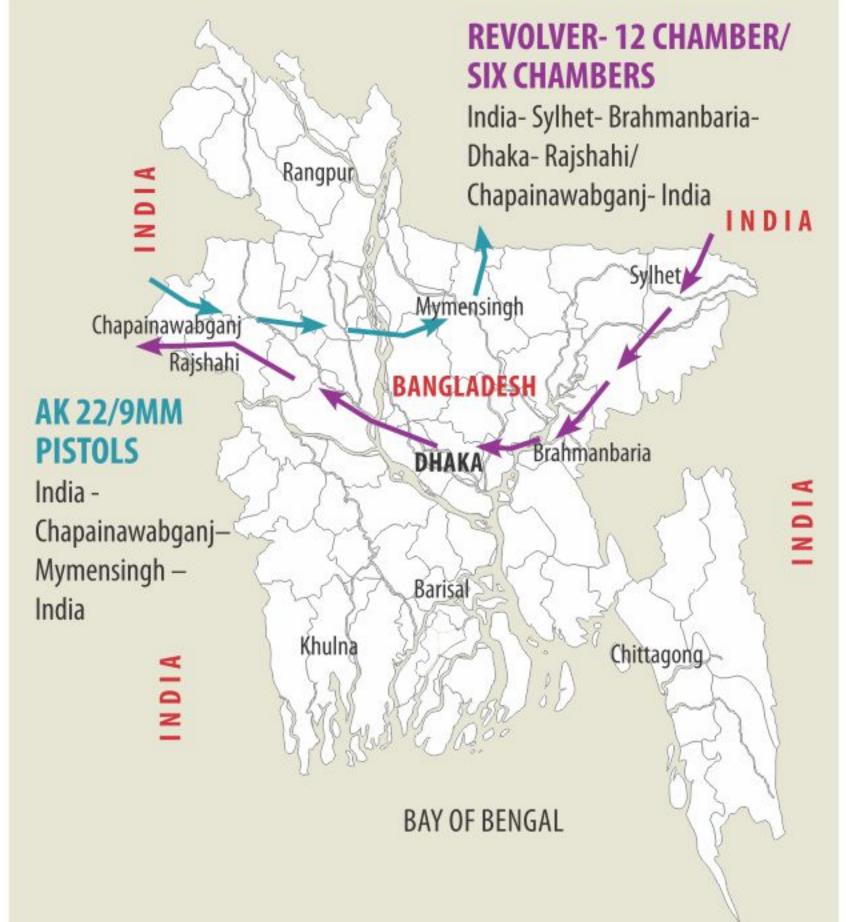
about the man.

carrying these arms.

According to CTTC officials, Shahid is smugglers for Tk 70,000 each, officials

THE TECHNIQUES The arrestees used innovative techniques to smuggle the arms from

one place to another.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a joint meeting of the Bangladesh Awami League Parliamentary Board and the

Syndicates using Bangladesh soil

Police are now working to gather

the president of Jogonnathpur thana said.

details about the new routes and the

unit of Swechchhasebak Dal and his

friend Ansar is the joint convener of

Jubo Dal of the same unit in Sylhet.

They got involved in smuggling two

business in Bisnakandi in Sylhet's

Gowainghat, met a person named

Arab Ali, 40, two years ago. Arab asked

him to start arms smuggling to make

Shahid, who was involved in stone

Local Government Nomination Board at her official residence the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Chapainawabganj.

SYNDICATE MEMBERS

syndicates.

years ago.

"The local smugglers in guise of traders

go to the Gowainghat border haat

with some goods to dodge the law

enforcers and received the arms from

the Indian suppliers waiting inside

the haat," Jahangir said, quoting the

haat hiding those among various

arrested two arms smugglers --

Kamal Hosen, 35, and Saidul Islam

Majumder alias Rubel, 30 -- from the

capital's Sayedabad area and recovered

Bangladesh from India, and law

enforcers are investigating where it

Brig Gen AFM Jahangir Alam,

"We have strong vigilance in border

points such as Chapainawabganj and

Rajshahi, which are known as arms

smuggling routes. We often recover

illegal arms from these points," he said.

routes to smuggle arms due to strong

vigilance at other points. We will

definitely look into the matter and

In the past, smugglers mainly used

Chapainawabganj, Beanpole and

some other border points to smuggle

illegal arms into Bangladesh, said a

9mm pistols through these points,

and a big portion of the smuggled

arms used to be sent to India again

through Mymensingh border," the

official added, asking not to be named.

around Tk 80,000 for a 9mm pistol

and Tk 1.8 lakh for an AK 22, which

is made in Munger in Bihar State, said

Sylhet, the gang members first receive

the arms from Indian suppliers in the

border haat. The local smugglers then

hand those over to their accomplices

in Dhaka and Brahmanbaria, said

of these arms to local criminals and

send the rest to smugglers of different

Indian states again," said Jahangir,

"Later, the second group sell some

Sources said these arms are sent

to India through the border in

upazila elections, are on the list [of

However, the AL Parliamentary Party

at a meeting at the Gono Bhaban late

last night decided that the rebels would

be served show-cause notices, not their

Hasina, the meeting decided the leaders

who backed the rebels would be dealt

League. Hasina expressed discontent

over the way the organisation is

being run by its president and general

Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif

told The Daily Star, "They [the rebel

candidates contested upazila elections

against the party-nominated candidates

and it is a clear violation of party

discipline. We will take the final decision

The AL Central Working Committee,

the highest decision-making body

of the party, at a meeting on July 12

about them after getting their replies."

Earlier in the day, AL Joint General

with later, sources told The Daily Star.

Chaired by AL President Sheikh

The meeting also discussed Chhatra

people to get the notices]."

ADC Jahangir of the CTTC unit.

quoting the arrestees.

As for the new route through

The smugglers used to charge

"They used to smuggle AK 22 and

take necessary actions," he added.

"The smugglers may try to find new

additional director general of Border

Guard Bangladesh, said they never

was going," said a CTTC official.

the border haat before.

THE ROUTES

the official.

top official yesterday.

"That firearm also entered

an AK-22 rifle from their possession.

They later get the arms out of the

Earlier on July 1, the CTTC unit

arrestees.

goods, he added.

some easy money, they added.

Shahid then brought in Ansar. Together they supplied their arms to one Amin Mia, 42, either in Brahmanbaria or Dhaka. The third arrestee, Dolon, is a CNG-driver who used to transport those arms for Amin.

The arrestees told investigators that they mainly smuggled revolvers after buying them from Arab Ali for Tk 20,000 each. Arab used to receive the arms from an Indian national, who live in Lakat Bazar just across the

126 UZ chairmen may lose AL posts

The smugglers always codewords while talking among themselves -- "Baro er Mal" for 12-chamber revolvers and "Choy er Mal" for six-chamber revolvers, said CTTC unit official. For the bullets, they used terms

"small tree", "seeds", "coin" or sometimes "baby goat".

For carrying, they used biscuit packets, rice or flour sacks, oil containers or even vegetable sacks to avoid being arrested, according to CTTC officials.

Referring to Quader's remarks,

he said the AL general secretary had

announced they would welcome any

dedicated AL leader after the BNP

including Imam,

on terror finance

Italy has issued arrest warrants for 10

people, including an imam, suspected

of financing terrorism, prosecutors

origin and two are Italian. The Imam

is from the city of Teramo in the

central region of Abruzzo.

Eight of the suspects are of Tunisian

Italy seeks 10,

accept them in future."

decided not to run.

charges

said Saturday.

AFP, Rome

BNP to join upazila polls

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Islam Alamgir last night said his party has decided to join the upcoming upazila parishad elections. He said the decision was taken at a

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul

meeting of the BNP standing committee at the party chairperson's Gulshan office. Talking to reporters after the meeting, the BNP leader said elections to eight

upazila parishads would be held on October 14. "We have taken a decision to participate in the polls with our party's electoral symbol. After the December 30 national

election, the party had announced that it would not to take part in any polls under the current government and the Election Commission. About the National Register of

Citizens (NRC) in India's Assam, Fakhrul said the Indian ruling party leaders were trying to brand the leftout people (about 19.07 lakh) as Bangladeshis. "We think they [BJP leaders] are

making such comments with an

ulterior motive. We strongly denounce and protest their assertions. But it is regrettable that the government is silent over the matter." BNP's serious Fakhrul voiced concern over the Indian leaders' remarks and demanded an explanation from the government on the issue. "The

about the matter instead of keeping them in the dark.' Opposing the government's move to bring the surplus money of different autonomous, semi-autonomous and statutory agencies to the national exchequer, he said it would create many

government should let the people know

problems Apart from Fakhrul, BNP standing Khandaker members Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Jamiruddin Sircar, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Nazrul Islam Khan, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku were present at the

Hossaini Dalan area will have foolproof security

Says DMP chief

Bss, Dhaka

meeting.

A stringent security measure will be in place across the Old Dhaka's Hossaini Dalan area on Tuesday for peaceful observance of the holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

"The security arrangement is planned mainly to provide foolproof security to each of the Tajia michhils (processions) to evade untoward incidents," said Dhaka Metropolitan Commissioner (DMP) Asaduzzaman Mia after inspecting the security arrangements at Imambara Hussaini Dalan in old Dhaka.

He said highest security measures had been taken at Boro Katara Imambara, Khoja Shiya Isnusari Imambara and Bibika Rowja areas of the old town.

The DMP commissioner said bags and sharp objects such as knife, sword, and blade, explosives, tea flask, pressure cooker, and flag staff taller than 12 feet will not be allowed in the procession while firecrackers will be

banned during the event. He said no one would be allowed to join a moving procession from outside.

The organisers will deploy sufficient numbers of volunteers, who will wear specified dress and bear identity cards, he added.

been brought under foolproof security with installing closed circuit camera televisions (CCTVs), and archways, and none will be allowed to join the procession without search.

Dog squads of police and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) will sweep each of the venues of the Ashura while police personnel will be posted on rooftops along the areas where the procession

branch of Al Qaeda, it said. Part of the money was also intended for imams in Italy, "including one convicted for association with a group linked to international terrorism".

The suspects are alleged to have "created many false accounts, through Imambara Hussaini Dalan area has various companies to set aside large sums of money," the prosecutor's office in Aquila said. The money was used to finance

Nusra organisation, the former Syrian will march, said the DMP chief.