

# Raushan now the leader

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Earlier that day, the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party in its meeting formally selected Raushan as the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

The weeklong drama in post-Ershad JP intensified on September 3, when GM Quader sent a letter to the Speaker, requesting her to make him the Leader of the Opposition.

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

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

On September 5, Raushan was declared JP chairperson as the rift between her and GM Quader over the party leadership and the post of opposition leader in parliament deepened.

Flanked by a section of JP leaders and MPs, senior presidium member Anisul Islam Mahmud, also a lawmaker, made the announcement at a press conference at Raushan's Gulshan residence.

Raushan, who was present there, said JP leaders were worried about the party. "They also fear that the party is going to split up like it did in the past. But I want to run the party taking everyone along."

Hours after the press conference by the Raushan faction, Quader held a briefing at the party's Banani office and said action would be taken against those who declared Raushan

the JP chief, adding that according to the party charter, he was still the chairman.

On July 18, JP Secretary General Moshir Rahman Ranga formally announced that Quader was the JP chairman.

Four days later, Raushan in a statement said Quader could not be declared the chairman without any decision made at party forums. She said she did not accept Quader as the chairman.

On September 7, the two feuding factions of the Jatiya Party called truce and decided that GM Quader would remain in his post as party chairman and Raushan would become the Leader of the Opposition in parliament.

Representatives of both factions met at a city hotel to reach an agreement.

Meanwhile, Quader yesterday at a press conference at his Banani office said there was no division in JP at present as their leaders and activists are working together to strengthen the party.

## 3 'robbers' killed

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The law enforcers also recovered a firearm, four bullets and six machetes from the spot.

Three cases were filed with Burichang Police Station in connection with the incident.



Secondary school students shout slogans as they form a human chain demonstrating against what they say is police brutality against protesters, after clashes at Wan Chai district in Hong Kong yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Govt plans

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Management and Nature

Conservation Division, said they forwarded the project proposal to the government in this regard.

"Besides, the issue of monitoring the Sundarbans with modern technology will be in the project."

Rafiqul Islam Khokon, adviser to the Sundarbans Academy, told UNB that the use of modern technology like drone could save the mangrove forest. "It's possible to monitor by using drones what happens inside the Sundarbans."

He added that if the sources of drinkable water and food for tiger could be ensured, they would not come to localities. "And it can be known beforehand through the modern technology whether tigers are entering any locality."

## Nothing's

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Ducsu polls were on March 11 amid allegations of irregularities and vote rigging. The previous election was held 28 years ago.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League-led panel won 23 posts, including that of the general secretary. The posts of vice president and social service secretary were won by Bangladesh Sadharon Chhatra Odhikar Songrokkhon Parishad.

"The Ducsu leaders are now busy promoting themselves using fancy words while the perennial problems persist," said Montasir Mamun, a 4th year student of history.

Talking to The Daily Star, several Ducsu members blamed the top leaders. "The VP is busy uniting his own platform across the country," said a Ducsu member, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, protesting the Ducsu's failure to force the university authorities to take steps, Ducsu member Tanvir Hasan Saikat has been staying at a gono room for more than a week. He submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor on Thursday, demanding adequate residential facilities for students.

"All Ducsu leaders should have raised their voices to address the crisis, but we have failed to do this. This is why I am staying here, leaving my own room," said Saikat, also a former BCL central committee member.

Admitting that they fell short of keeping their promises, VP Nurul Haque Nur said the lack cooperation from BCL-backed leaders and negligence of the authorities were to blame.

"They [BCL] have 23 representatives. We could do nothing without their cooperation," he said.

Nur said the BCL was perpetuating the practice to be able to force students to get behind them.

However, Ducsu Assistant General Secretary Saddam Hussain said the students did not live in the gono room as activists of any organisation.

"The authorities give seats to a student when they are in 3rd year. The BCL helps the students live in the dorm," he said.

## 29 killed in attacks in Burkina Faso

AFP, Ouagadougou

At least 29 people were killed in two attacks in northern Burkina Faso on Sunday, in a region prone to jihadist violence, the government said.

One vehicle transporting people and goods "rode over an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Barsalogho area" leaving at least 15 passengers dead, government spokesman Remis Fulgence Dandjinou said in a statement.

## Another dies of dengue in Rajshahi

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suffered dengue shock syndrome and her lungs were not functioning well.

"She died as we were preparing to take her to the ICU," he said.

Her husband Hasibul Islam, an employee of a pulse mill, said, he married her barely a year ago.

After Shapla started running a fever, she was taken to Puthia Health Complex on September 3, where doctors referred her to RMCH that very day.

"Her condition deteriorated from Sunday," Hasibul said.

During the doctors' scheduled visit yesterday morning, she was referred to the ICU.

Two people, including Shapla, died of dengue in RMCH. The first patient was Abdul Malek, a mason from Chapainawabganj.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said a

total of 716 patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, raising the tally of admitted patients to 77,230.

Of them, 73,942 were discharged from hospitals.

Of the 716 patients admitted in the last 24 hours, 416 were admitted in hospitals in the capital and rest outside Dhaka.

Since January, the government has received information about 197 dengue-related deaths. So far, it has reviewed 101 cases and confirmed 60 as deaths from dengue.

The unofficial number of deaths from dengue, however, is 138.

The number of dengue patients never exceeded 11,000 in the last 18 years since its outbreak in 2000.

It was 10,148 last year, while it crossed the 6,000 mark twice in the last 18 years: 6,232 in 2002 and 6,060

in 2016, according to a DGHS report.

The country saw 93 deaths in 2000, the year dengue outbreak hit the country for the first time. A total of 5,551 people had been infected that year.

Though the number of dengue patients have come down in the last several days, experts observed that there is still a chance that the number may increase, as the city saw rain over the last two days.

According to experts, dengue infections may increase in September and October if rain continues, creating suitable weather conditions for Aedes mosquitoes to breed.

Kinkar Ghosh, epidemiologist at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said that after rain there are chances of an increase in dengue cases.

"But it will remain under control if proper steps are taken and the ongoing drive against Aedes mosquitoes continue," he said.

## N Korea willing to resume nuke talks with US

AFP, Seoul

North Korea said yesterday it is willing to hold working-level talks with the United States in late September amid stalled denuclearisation dialogue.

Negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington have been gridlocked since a second summit between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump in February ended without a deal.

The pair agreed to restart working-level dialogue during an impromptu meeting at the Demilitarised Zone dividing North and South Korea in June, but those talks have yet to begin.

"We are willing to sit face-to-face with the US around late September at a time and place that we can agree on," said Choe Son Hui, the North's vice foreign minister in a statement carried by the official Korean Central

News Agency.

Choe repeated Pyongyang's call for the US to come up with an "acceptable calculation" or risk jeopardising the entire diplomatic process.

North Korea has carried out a series of weapons tests since late July in protest at joint military exercises between Seoul and the US.

Pyongyang has also threatened to pull out of talks with Washington and has blasted senior US officials in recent months.

Kim and Trump adopted a vaguely-worded statement on the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula" at their first summit in Singapore in June last year but little progress has since been made on dismantling the North's nuclear programme.

## Queen approves Brexit delay law

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He ordered the shutdown in an apparent bid to stymie a cross-party block of MPs opposed to a possible no-deal Brexit.

The British leader has vowed to take Britain out of the EU by the latest October 31 deadline with or without a formal divorce deal -- despite warnings that the latter scenario would entail economic chaos.

However, the planned suspension has provoked uproar from opposition MPs and Conservative critics, who have labelled the move a constitutional outrage.

Johnson responded to the proposed law by trying to force the early general election, but fell short in a vote last week of the necessary support of two-thirds of MPs.

Opposition party leaders, who met yesterday, have vowed to keep blocking the snap poll until Brexit has been extended beyond October 31.

"He has got to ask for an extension," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told Sky News.

"We will do everything we can to prevent us crashing out on October 31 and will support an election when it is clear we will avoid that crashing out."

SIGNIFICANT GAPS REMAIN

Johnson met Varadkar yesterday

hoping to lay the groundwork for new divorce terms as he finds himself increasingly cornered just six weeks after taking over from his predecessor Theresa May.

The British leader wants the bloc to scrap a special provision in the deal agreed by May to keep the Northern Irish border open in all circumstances after Brexit, arguing "alternative arrangements" exist.

But Brussels and Dublin have insisted the so-called backstop mechanism must remain in place to guarantee no return to a hard border between EU member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland, which suffered decades of deadly sectarian violence.

They say Johnson is also yet to propose the details of any workable alternatives.

"While they agreed that the discussions are at an early stage, common ground was established in some areas although significant gaps remain," the two leaders said in a joint statement following an hour of talks.

Johnson's decision to prorogue parliament until October 14 and his promise to do Brexit come what may have rattled his ruling Conservative Party.

Twenty-one Conservative MPs including Winston Churchill's grandson were sacked last week for voting in favour of the law aimed at blocking a no-deal Brexit.

The dismissals and the defection of one MP to the Liberal Democrats left him without a working majority.

Several members of his government have also quit, including his own brother.

'WE HAVE A PLAN'

A government minister rejected speculation Sunday that Johnson had no real option but to resign.

But he could not say clearly how he intended to keep all his Brexit promises without somehow bending UK law.

"Of course he is not going to break the law," Foreign Minister Dominic Raab told Sky News.

He added Johnson would "test to the limit" of the law in court.

Rebel Conservative MPs insist their strategy to stop Johnson will prevail, however.

"I remain very, very confident we can stop no-deal because in the end parliament is sovereign," said Rory Stewart, a former Tory lawmaker now forced to sit as an independent after rebelling against the government last week.

## Saudi, UAE issue joint call to end south Yemen fighting

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and the UAE Sunday sought to dispel any notion of a rift over fighting in southern Yemen, renewing a call for dialogue between the warring sides.

Yemen's Saudi-backed government was ousted last month from key areas in the south by United Arab Emirates-supported southern separatists, exposing simmering divisions that analysts say undermines the joint campaign against Iran-linked Huthi rebels.

But in a joint statement released by both countries' state media, the Gulf powers sought to appear united, as they "reaffirmed continued support for the legitimate government of Yemen".

The two countries called on the warring parties to immediately cease "all military operations" and "stop media propaganda" that fuels hostilities, the statement added.

## Humans altered dogs' brains

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not just changed dogs' sizes, shapes, colours and behaviours.

It has also altered the way their brains are built.

The research, published in the journal JNeurosci, began with MRI scans from 62 dogs who had visited the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital for neurological evaluations.

All the dogs, representing 33 breeds, were discharged with clean bills of brain health. But their scans provided the scientists with a treasure trove of data.

"The first question we wanted to ask was: are the brains of different breeds of dogs different?" said Dr Erin Hecht, a neuroscientist studying dog cognition at Harvard University and lead author of the study.

Indeed, from Dachshunds to Dobermans, the scientists found well-defined differences between dog brains, even after accounting for things such as the pooches' overall size and shape.

By looking at the areas of the dogs'

brains that varied most across the breeds, the scientists were able to create maps of six neural networks linked to certain functions, such as the sense of smell or movement.

The team found the shape of these networks "correlated significantly" with common traits associated with each breed, as described by the American Kennel Club.

"Brain anatomy varies across dog breeds," Dr Hecht said, "and it appears that at least some of this variation is due to selective breeding for particular behaviours like hunting, herding and guarding."

In other words, not only do the shapes and sizes of canine brains vary by breed, the structures within those brains also are different.

This discovery helps explain what makes a Maltese act like a Maltese, or a boxer like a boxer.

Jeffrey Stevens, director of the Canine Cognition and Human Interaction Lab at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, called the study's use of existing MRI data "clever" and its premise "exciting".

## Former civil surgeon

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light when an inquiry team led by health ministry's Joint Secretary Hasan Mahmud suddenly visited the office on April 9 and wanted to see the newly procured equipment.

On April 24, a team of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) visited the civil surgeon office and found evidence of corruption during primary investigation.

A day later, Rasheda Sultana, divisional health director of Directorate General of Health Services in Khulna, visited the office and told journalists that she had found clear evidence of corruption.

Later on July 9, ACC's Deputy Assistant Director Jalaluddin filed a corruption case against nine people, including Towhidur, Anwar and Fazlul.

The other accused are Jaher Uddin Sarker, director of Bengal Scientific and Surgical Company located in the capital's Topkhana Road, his son Ahsan Habib, his father Abdus Sattar Sarker, his sister-in-law Asadur Rahman, Abu Bakar Siddique and AHM Abdul Quddus.

According to the case statement, the accused attempted to procure medical equipment for Satkhira Sadar Hospital and different upazila health complexes though no

requisition was made by the hospital authorities.

## Suicide bomber killed at Philippine army base

AFP, Manila

A suicide bomber dressed in a traditional Muslim woman's gown died after detonating a bomb outside a military camp in the restive southern Philippines, but no other casualties were reported, authorities said.

Suicide attacks were once very rare in the Philippines, but since July 2018 there have been four, including the latest explosion on Jolo island on Sunday.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for all three previous suicide attacks, which experts have previously told AFP is a worrying escalation of extremism in the Philippines under the group's influence.

According to a military statement, the attacker on Sunday was "foreign looking", wore an abaya gown and appeared to be a woman. However, authorities had not confirmed the attacker's gender.