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# Political feud now comes into focus

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Not only gold smuggling, political rivalry may have also been a key reason behind the murder of Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar, investigators have said.

Two top leaders of Jhenaidah Awami League, Saidul Karim Mintu, the general secretary, and Kamal Ahmed Babu, the welfare affairs secretary, have been arrested. The former is currently on an eight-day remand while the latter is in jail after confessing to his role in the murder.

Referring to Babu's confessional statement made on Friday, investigators say that both AL leaders promised to pay the assailants.

Mintu desired to replace Azim as the lawmaker, they added.

After India and Bangladesh police on May 22 said Azim had been killed, Babu and Mintu visited the slain lawmaker's house and offered condolences to the grieving family members, they said.

The announcement of his death came 10 days after Azim went to Kolkata and remained traceless for over a week.

Besides, Azim made an enemy of his partner



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This year's "noukar haat", or boat market, in Pirojpur began around a month ago in Nesarabad upazila. As people of the marshlands of Barishal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur largely rely on boats for commuting, this market attracts a huge crowd. Each boat here is sold at Tk 3,000-8,000 depending on the quality of the wood used. Over a century old, this market operates only on Fridays and begins just ahead of the monsoon, continuing for four-five months every year. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Rain likely on Eid day

STAR REPORT

The Met office predicts rain in several divisions this week, including tomorrow, when Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated across the country.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds are likely to occur at most places in Rangpur, Mynensingh, and Sylhet divisions on Monday and Tuesday, said a weather bulletin from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) yesterday.

Besides, parts of the Chattogram, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, and Barishal divisions may also experience light to moderate rain or thundershowers this week, it added.

The rainfall activity may gradually increase till Thursday, the BMD bulletin added.

Meanwhile, a weather bulletin from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday

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# No respite for Gazans even ahead of Eid



- Hezbollah launches rockets, drones at Israel days after commander's death
- Crew evacuated as ship hit by Yemen rebels drifts in Red Sea
- Gaza death toll rises to 37,296
- Erdogan says Biden faces a test of sincerity in handling the Gaza war
- US preparing to temporarily remove Gaza pier due to sea conditions

AGENCIES

Israel bombed and shelled Gaza yesterday, witnesses and first responders said, with fallout from the war bringing a resurgence of tensions to the Lebanon border and Yemen.

The bombardment came a day before Eid-ul-Azha as most of the Muslim worldwide prepare to mark the occasion starting from today.

In the ninth month of the Israeli offensive on Gaza, the Civil Defence agency in Gaza City said they recovered 10 bodies from three separate homes after Israeli airstrikes pounded those.

In Rafah, in Gaza's far south near Egypt, witnesses reported clashes between militants and Israeli troops in the city's west, and artillery fire towards a refugee camp

in the city centre. AFP TV images showed streets largely deserted.

The United Nations says about one million people have been displaced from Rafah since early May, when Israel began ground operations in the Palestinian enclave.

Israel's military has also been operating in central Gaza, where on Friday at a hospital in Deir al-Balah city a middle-aged man wept over the body of a younger man. Blood soaked through a white cloth around his neck.

Israel's offensive has killed at least 37,266 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory.

Fears of a broader Middle East conflict have surged again, with Lebanon-based Hezbollah fighters, who are

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## ST MARTIN'S ISLAND Crisis eases after essential supplies arrive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The food crisis on St Martin's Island has eased up after a tourist ship from Cox's Bazar delivered food and other essential supplies to the island early yesterday.

"The marginalised people are now being given the rice that was brought to us under the government's food assistance programme," said Mujibor Rahman, chairman of St Martin's Island.

"The prices of essential food items have now dropped as traders have brought a month's supply of food and necessities," he added.

However, locals are still unable to leave the island because communication with the mainland has been suspended for 10 days.

The chairman said if any medical emergencies arise, the administration will make special arrangements to establish communication with the mainland.

Over the last few days, several trawlers and speedboats had been fired upon from across the border when they reached the estuary of the Naf River.

St Martin's, which can only be accessed by boats through the Naf River

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## Mangoes from 4 continents in one single orchard

Univ graduate Shibli's 'Matri Bagan' in Pabna offers 42 varieties

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

American Red Palmer, Australian R2E2, Japanese Miyazaki, Brunai King Mango, Ivory Coast's Red Ivory, Thailand's "King of Chakapat" and many more – as many as 42 varieties of mangoes from four different continents can be found in one single orchard in Dhulti village of Pabna's Ishwardi upazila.

How? All thanks to young entrepreneur Mehedi Hasan Shibli. A recent university graduate, Shibli has been collecting seedlings of fruits of foreign varieties, especially mangoes, since 2019. As a college student, he had an innate passion for expanding his orchard, which now is a profitable business.

"I first collected 19 varieties of mangoes and cultivated them at my orchard 'Matri Bagan' in 2019. Within a year, the plants began giving fruits, inspiring me to further develop my garden and nursery."

"Within five years, I was able to collect 42 different varieties of mangoes from different countries of four continents [Asia,

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Shibli in his orchard.

PHOTO: STAR

## Tigers' chance to seal Super Eight spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be confident of making it to the Super Eight stage of the Twenty20 World Cup for the first time since 2007 as they square off against winless Nepal in the last match of Group D in the early hours on Monday.

The match will get underway at 5:30 am (Bangladesh time) at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Kingstown, the capital of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side are in pole position to go through to the next round -- behind group winners South Africa -- with two wins out of three. They started the campaign with a crucial two-wicket win against former champions Sri Lanka before going down by four runs against the Proteas -- a result they would be looking back with some regret for some time to come, especially given that the Tigers have never

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Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy (C) would be at more ease with his batting as he leads in runs scored for the Tigers in the T20 World Cup so far. The same, however, can't be said about skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (L) and Tanzid Tamim -- Bangladesh's opening pair in the last two matches -- both of whom will be focused on stepping up in their final Group D fixture against Nepal at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Kingstown on Monday. The Tigers trained at the venue yesterday ahead of the contest.

PHOTO: BCB

## Wild horse species returns to the Kazakh steppes



AFP, Arqalyk

After a few hesitant steps following a long flight from Prague, three Przewalski horses galloped off for the first time into the Kazakh steppe -- the native habitat of this endangered species.

The horses emerged after being locked in containers for 20 hours and are the first of 40 which are to be released into the wild in this vast Central Asian country over the next five years.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a very long time," Albert Salemgareyev from the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan told AFP.

"A lot of work has been carried out in recent months in order for the Przewalski horses to come to Kazakhstan."

The project run by the Prague and Berlin zoo is aimed at preserving this species of stockily built horse with large heads which share a common ancestry with modern domestic horses but are genetically different.