

PM asks ministers to work for essentials' price control

STAFF REPORTER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday Sunday asked the newly appointed ministers to take required measures for keeping essentials prices under control during upcoming Holy Ramadan. "Holy Ramadan is nearing, so take necessary steps as the prices of essentials could not go up during this month," she said. The prime minister said this while holding an informal meeting with the newly appointed ministers who came here with her to pay homage to Father of the

Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The meeting was held at the premier's own residence at Tungipara. Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Secretary Mohammad Salahuddin briefed the newsmen after the meeting that he called an informal cabinet meeting. According to Salahuddin, the premier asked the ministers to take measures for Ramadan period especially against the hoarders so they could not stockpile essential items resulting in artificial crisis. She also called

upon the new ministers to conduct drives against hoarding on regular basis, saying, "Keep the price of essentials under control so the common people could lead comfortable life." The PMO secretary said that the prime minister also directed the newly appointed first time ministers to know ins and outs about his or her ministries first. Sheikh Hasina, as well, advised the ministers to maintain highest cautiousness while taking any project and think about it that whether it will be beneficial for the country and its people.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays tribute to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on yesterday Saturday — PID

PM, new cabinet pay homage to Bangabandhu at Tungipara

STAFF REPORTER

The new Cabinet led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today paid glowing tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his mausoleum here, marking installation of her government for the record fifth time and fourth consecutive term. The prime minister first paid homage to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at his grave in Tungipara. A smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services gave a state salute, while bugle played the last

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PM doesn't care about sanctions: Quader

NEWS DESK

Quader also mentioned that the opposition is hoping for sanctions like those in Cambodia. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not care about any sanctions of visa policies, Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said. "They [the opposition] are looking towards their foreign friends to ensure that this government cannot stay in power," he said yesterday Saturday during an exchange of views with journalists after paying tribute at the mausoleum of the Father

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Israel-Hamas war has transformed the region in 100 days

AP

Sunday marks 100 days that Israel and Hamas have been at war. The war already is the longest and deadliest between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel's establishment in 1948, and the fighting shows no signs of ending. Israel declared war in response to Hamas' unprecedented cross-border attack on 7 October in which the Islamic fighter group killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 250 others hostage. It was the deadliest attack in Israel's history and the deadliest for Jews since the Holocaust. Israel responded with weeks of intense airstrikes in Gaza before expanding the operation into a ground offensive. It says its goal is to crush Hamas and win the release of the more than 100 hostages still held by the group. The offensive has wrought unprecedented destruction upon Gaza. But more than three months later, Hamas remains largely

intact and hostages remain in captivity. The Israeli military says the war will stretch on throughout 2024. Here are five takeaways from the first 100 days of a

The offensive has wrought unprecedented destruction upon Gaza. But more than three months later, Hamas remains largely intact and hostages remain in captivity. The Israeli military says the war will stretch on throughout 2024

conflict that has upended the region. Israel will never be the same. The 7 October attack blindsided Israel and shattered the nation's faith in its leaders. While the public has rallied behind

the military's war effort, it remains deeply traumatised. The country seems to be reliving 7 October - when families were killed in their homes, partygoers gunned down at a music festival and children and older people abducted on motorcycles - every day. Posters of the hostages who remain in Hamas captivity line public streets, and people wear T-shirts calling on leaders to "Bring Them Home." Israeli news channels devote their broadcasts to round-the-clock coverage of the war. They broadcast nonstop tales of tragedy and heroism from 7 October, stories about hostages and their families, tearful funerals of soldiers killed in action and reports from Gaza by correspondents smiling alongside the troops. There is little discussion or sympathy over the skyrocketing death toll and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. Plans for postwar Gaza are rarely mentioned. One thing has remained constant.

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AL's joint meeting tomorrow Monday

STAFF REPORTER

Awami League (AL) will hold a joint meeting at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office at 3pm on tomorrow Monday. Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair it, said a press release. AL central working committee members, advisory council members and presidents and general secretaries of party's Dhaka city north, south units and all associate bodies have been requested to remain present in the meeting on time.

Ukraine attacked overnight by 40 Russian missiles, drones- air force

REUTERS

Ukraine attacked overnight by 40 Russian missiles, drones- air force said. These are far harder to shoot down. "It should be noted that more than 20 of all the listed (weapons) which were not included in the number of the downed, did not reach their targets as a result of active countermeasures by electronic warfare," the statement said. There were no details on the targets of the strike. Air defences shot down Russian missiles in at least five regions across Ukraine, according to local officials from those provinces. The large south-eastern city of Dnipro was struck, the local governor said, also without providing detail as to what was hit. Police in the northern region of Chernihiv posted a picture

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Automation of taxation system to generate more revenues: DCCI president

STAFF REPORTER

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) organized a workshop on "Income Tax Act 2023: Corporate Tax Challenges and Opportunities" at the DCCI in the capital yesterday Saturday. About 60 participants from different corporate houses took part in the workshop, said a press release. Speaking at the workshop, DCCI President Ashraf Ahmed said that the number of tax payers in Bangladesh is lower than the expected level. "Country having 170 million people should not have only around four million tax payers," he said. Ashraf also said that the workshop is designed to improve awareness among the tax professionals in line with the new



"Income Tax Act 2023," especially to know the details of corporate tax system. He also mentioned that automation of taxation system will help reduce hindrances and increase tax. "Few initiatives have been taken that would make it easier for businesses to submit their returns," the DCCI chief opined. He further said that the source tax collected according to the clause 163(2) B, which makes Advance Income Tax as the minimum, effectively drives up the corporate tax rate. The keynote paper was presented by

Snehasish Barua, advisor, standing committee on customs, VAT, taxation & NBR related issues of DCCI and partner, Snehasish Mahmud & Co. Wakil Ahmed, joint commissioner of taxes, tax zone-15, Dhaka said that more than 4 lakh taxpayers paid their taxes through e-TIN service in 2023 and the number was only 2,50,000 last year. Murad Ahmed, joint commissioner of taxes, tax zone-4, Dhaka requested the business community to use e-TDS more. Bapan Chandra Das,

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BNP's movement still on, fresh programme in the works: Rizvi

STAFF REPORTER

BNP senior leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on Saturday said their party is formulating fresh programmes to gear up the movement demanding a fresh election under a non-partisan government. "Surely, we're (thinking of) various programmes...our leaders are sitting almost every day...we'll inform you once our programmes are finalised," he said. Speaking at a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton central office, the BNP leader also said their party is still continuing its movement with various programmes. "We have the political parties with us... we have

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Textile, RMG machinery expo begins in Dhaka Feb 1

STAFF REPORTER

The 18th edition of the Dhaka International Textile and Garments Machinery Exhibition (DTG)-2024 will begin in the capital on February 1. Over 1,000 machinery manufacturers from 32 countries are expected to participate in the four-day show to offer complete machinery solutions for the garment and textile sector businesses. The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) is organising the "Dhaka International Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition" (DTG) since 2004 in association with Chan Chao International Co Ltd, Taiwan and Yorkers Trade & Marketing Service Co Ltd, Hong Kong, according to a

statement from the BTMA. The exhibition, which will take place at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), aims to encourage local entrepreneurs to invest in textile and garment sector and introduce them with state-of-the-art technologies of the textile and garment sector. Overseas manufacturers of textile and garment machineries and apparel accessories are expected to showcase their products in the exhibition. The exhibition will offer a unique opportunity for the local textile and apparel manufacturers to meet their global suppliers of the latest machinery under an umbrella, the organisers said. The exhibition will remain open to all from

Bangladesh reports one more dengue death

NEWS DESK

Another death was reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday Saturday morning, raising the fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to five this year. During the period 25 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Among them, 11 were hospitalised in Dhaka, while the rest were outside the capital. A total of 632 dengue cases have been reported since January 1, 2024. Last year, a total of 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue, making it the deadliest year on record. The DGHS recorded 3,21,179 dengue

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Taiwan ruling party's Lai wins presidential election

INTERNATIONAL DESK

William Lai Ching-te from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has won Taiwan's presidential election, despite China's warnings not to vote for him. Lai, the current vice president, was in a three-way race with Hou Yu-ih from the conservative Kuomintang (KMT) and former Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je from the Taiwan People's Party, which was only founded in 2019. Lai took 40.2 percent of votes cast, partial results from the Central Election Commission showed. Hou conceded defeat on Saturday and congratulated Lai on his victory. He also apologised to KMT supporters for not being able to remove the DPP. Ko also conceded defeat. "I want to thank the Taiwanese people for writing a new chapter in our democracy," Lai said in a victory speech where

he thanked his two opponents for conceding. "We are telling the international community that between democracy and authoritarianism, we



will stand on the side of democracy." The results were counted from 98 percent of polling stations across the island, according to the commission tally, which also showed that Hou had trailed with 33.4 percent of the vote. Taiwan's elections carry an outsized importance because of the territory's

disputed political status. While de facto independent since the 1940s, China still claims the island and its outlying territories and has not attempted to influence its election, in a swipe at China. "The Taiwanese people have successfully resisted efforts from external forces to influence this election," he said. Lai has maintained that he is committed to peace and open to conditional engagement with Beijing, while also boosting the island's defences. Voters also elected politicians to Taiwan's 113-seat legislature in elections closely watched by China and the United States. The DPP has been in power for the past eight years under President Tsai Ing-wen. Some 19.5 million people aged 20 and over were eligible to vote, and voter turnout was expected to be high based on public transit data. Taiwanese are required to return to the location of their household registration - typically their home town - to vote in person, which means the leadup to elections is a

rule out the use of force to achieve its ambitions. In the run-up to the polls, China denounced Lai as a dangerous separatist, said he would be a threat to peace in the region if he won, and called the elections a choice between war and peace. In his victory speech, Lai said the self-ruled island had managed to see off

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Venezuela's inflation rate slows to 189pc

INTERNATIONAL DESK

A vendor waits for customers in a street market at the Jose Felix Ribas community in the Petare neighborhood in Caracas on November 5, 2022. Venezuela's inflation fell to 189.8% in 2023, according to the report released this Friday January 12, 2024 by the Central Bank, a figure lower than the 234% of the previous year. The indicator is slightly lower than Argentina's inflation rate, which registered 211%, according to data released the day before. - AFP photo. Venezuela, which often experiences record inflation, closed 2023 with an increase in bolivar prices of 189.8 per cent, a slowdown compared to the previous year's 234 per cent, according to the Central Bank on Friday. Venezuela, whose economy is almost completely dollarized after years of recession and hyperinflation —

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Red-alert issued as Delhi experiences lowest winter temperature with 3°C



INTERNATIONAL DESK

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert due to cold and dense fog conditions as Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) were recorded the coldest night for a second consecutive day in the winter with minimum temperature dipping to three degree Celsius, reports BSS. The department has recorded the lowest temperature with three degree Celsius in Aya Nagar, the last village of Delhi on the Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road on yesterday Saturday morning, the IMD said. It also recorded the minimum temperature at 3.9 degree Celsius on Friday night which is three degree below the seasonal average.

According to media reports, more than 100 flights to and from Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and 18 Delhi-bound trains have been delayed due to "dense and very dense fog" in Delhi and several parts of the country on Friday morning. The IMD has placed a "Yellow" alert on Saturday and Sunday of dense fog, reports said. The IMD said "cold" to "severe cold day" conditions continued at many places over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan due to very dense fog at many places, severely affecting normal lives. Besides, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also grappling with isolated instances of

dense fog, creating challenging conditions for residents. Delhi continued to shiver on Saturday morning under the grasp of a relentless cold wave, accompanied by a thick layer of fog that has disrupted daily life for residents and commuters alike. To combat the bone-chilling temperatures, streets and public spaces became dotted with small groups huddled together around bonfires to keep warm, reports said. NDTV on Saturday reported that a Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai forced to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Friday night due to low visibility caused by dense fog at the Guwahati airport. However, Delhi's

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Mild cold wave sweeping over northern regions may continue

NEWS DESK

Bangladesh Meteorologist Department (BMD) in its weather forecast today said that mild cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur division and the districts of Rajshahi, Pabna, Naogaon, Chuadanga and Kushtia and it may continue. The met office issued the weather forecast for three days commencing from 9am today where it said moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight to morning and it may continue till noon at places until Tuesday morning (January 16). Air navigation, inland river

transport and road communication may disrupt temporarily due to fog, it said. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country until tomorrow morning while day temperature may rise slightly over the country on Sunday. The met office, however, predicted that day temperature may fall slightly over the country on Monday while cold day condition is likely to prevail at places and weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country during the period of three days. The

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US military strikes another Houthi-controlled site after warning ships to avoid parts of Red Sea

AP

The U.S. military early Saturday struck another Houthi-controlled site in Yemen that it had



determined was putting commercial vessels in the Red Sea at risk, a day after the U.S. and Britain launched multiple airstrikes targeting Houthi rebels. U.S. Central Command said the "follow-on action" early Saturday local time against a Houthi radar site was conducted by the Navy destroyer USS Carney using Tomahawk land attack missiles. The first day of strikes Friday hit 28 locations and struck more than 60 targets. President Joe Biden had warned Friday that the Houthis could face further strikes. The latest strike came after

the U.S. Navy on Friday warned American-flagged vessels to steer clear of areas around Yemen in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden for the next 72 hours

aim at targets in 28 different locations across Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen. "We will make sure that we respond to the Houthis if they continue this outrageous behavior along with our allies," Biden told reporters during a stop in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. Asked if he believes the Houthis are a terrorist group, Biden responded, "I think they are." The president in a later exchange with reporters during a stop in Allentown, Pennsylvania, said whether the Houthis are redesignated as such was "irrelevant." Biden also pushed back against some lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, who said he should have sought congressional authorization before carrying out the strikes. "They're wrong, and I sent up this morning when the strikes occurred exactly what happened," Biden said. The Pentagon said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the military action from the hospital where he is recovering from complications following prostate cancer surgery.

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5-member probe committee formed over Karwan Bazar slum fire

STAFF REPORTER

A five-member committee has been formed to probe the fire incident that occurred yesterday Saturday morning at Mollabari slum adjacent to FDC gate in the city's Karwan Bazar area. Fire Service and Civil Defence Director (operations and maintenance) Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury will lead the committee. Other committee members are - Dhaka Division Fire Service and Civil Defence

Deputy Director (Member Secretary) Md Saleh Uddin; Assistant Director (Member) Md Anwarul Haque, Deputy Assistant Director of Zone-1 (Member) Md Tanharul Islam, Senior Station Officer of Tejjgaon Fire Station (Member) Md Nazim Uddin Sarkar. At least two people were killed and several others injured in the fire. The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately. According to Fire Service and Civil

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Citizen welcome to newly elected MP Gama in Naogaon Manda

M. REZAUL ISLAM

Newly elected Member of Parliament SM Brahani Sultan Mamud Gama was given a civic reception in Naogaon Manda through colorful arrangements. On behalf of the Gama election management committee, this reception was organized on Saturday at Kayapara Kamarkuri High School ground of the upazila. Under the chairmanship of Khalilur Rahman Biswas, convener of the election management committee, newly elected MP Brahani Sultan Mamud Gama gave the chief guest speech at the meeting. Upazila Awami League President Md. Nazim Uddin Mondal, Vice



Principal Abdul Latif Sheikh and Manda Police Station Officer In-charge Md. Mozammel Haque Kazi Lecturer Praveen Kumar Das, Mainam Union Awami League Former General Secretary Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, Naogaon Zilla Parishad Member Abdul Majid Tarafdar, Upazila Volunteer League President Emdadul Haque, General Secretary Nausad Ali, retired

principal Fazlur Rahman, former Chhatra League leader Aminul Islam, Mahmudul Haque, Srarnik League leader Jahangir Alam, Upazila Chhatra League General Secretary Ruhul Amin UP Chairman Anisur Rahman, Abdus Salam and other members of the Chairman Forum were present. Earlier, the newly elected MP Gama was received

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At least 10 killed in China mining accident

INTERNATIONAL DESK

At least 10 people have died and six are missing after an accident at a coal mine in central China, according to the local emergency management agency and state media. In a statement on Saturday, the agency said it would continue rescue operations at the mine in the city of Pingdingshan and conduct citywide safety checks. A total of 425 people were working underground when the accident took place, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Pingdingshan's emergency management

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Dog meat: Why is it a sensitive topic in South Korea?

INTERNATIONAL DESK

It is among the most controversial questions a foreigner can ask in South Korea - although the reaction and answer often depends on the age of the person asked. "It's so tiring, I always have to clarify that I have never eaten it. Canine dishes are mostly for the elderly in South Korea, but foreigners often generalise the practice," says Park Eun-young, a consultant in her 30s currently working in Germany, who admits to finding the question offensive at times. "It carries a negative connotation, implying that Koreans eat something highly inappropriate and this culture is barbaric." But the days of fielding questions like these look numbered: earlier this week, South Korea's government passed a new law to ban the breeding, butchering, distribution and sale of dogs for meat by 2027. It will effectively end a centuries-old practice. Historically, cows were highly valued and, explains Dr Joo Young-ha, an anthropology

professor at the Graduate School of Korean Studies, they were so prized a government permit had to be obtained to slaughter them up until the late 19th Century.



And so, other protein sources were needed. For those living in the Korean peninsula, dog meat was one of the best options, enjoyed by people across the class spectrum, although there were always those who avoided it. But much like any other meat, well-loved dishes using the product emerged, such as dog meat soup, called "bosintang", and boiled dog meat slices. Speak to older South Koreans, and many still extoll its virtues as a

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PM, new cabinet pay

post on the occasion. Flanked by the new cabinet colleagues, Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League (AL) President, placed another wreath at Bangabandhu's grave. Later, the premier, who was elected Member of Parliament from the Gopalganj-3 constituency, placed another wreath along with leaders of Kotalipara and Tungipara Awami League. She, as well, joined a special munajat and offer fatha seeking eternal peace of Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu's younger daughter and Prime Minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana also came here in Tungipara with her. The prime minister and her new cabinet colleagues earlier in the morning of Friday also paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan on Dhanmondi 32 in the capital. Accompanied by the new cabinet colleagues, the premier also paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing a wreath at the altar of the National Memorial at Savar on Friday morning, one day after she took oath as the prime minister. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina took oath as the prime minister for the fifth time, the fourth in a row, heading a 37-member council of ministers, four day after the Awami League's landslide victory in the 12th parliamentary election held on January 7, 2024 bagging 222 parliamentary seats out of 298. President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office and oath of secrecy to Sheikh Hasina and her new ministers at Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban at 7.06pm on Thursday. Her council of ministers included 25 ministers and 11 state ministers.

PM doesn't

of the Nation in Tungipara, Gopalganj. "However, our Prime Minister does not care about any sanctions or visa policies," he added. At this time, Quader also mentioned that the opposition is hoping for sanctions like those in Cambodia. "But our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not worry about these sanctions or visa policies," he added.

Israel-Hamas

While chastened Israeli security officials have apologised and signalled that they will resign after the war, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains firmly entrenched.

Despite a sharp drop in his public approval ratings, Netanyahu has resisted calls to apologise, step down or investigate his government's failings. Netanyahu, who has led the country for almost all of the past 15 years, says there will be a time for investigations after the war. Historian Tom Segev said the war will shake the country for years, and perhaps generations, to come. He said the failures of 7 October and the inability to bring the hostages home have fomented a widespread feeling of betrayal and lack of faith in the government.

"Israelis like their wars to go well. This war doesn't go so well," he said. "Lots of people have the feeling that something very, very deep is wrong here."

Gaza will never be the same Conditions before 7 October were already difficult in Gaza after a stifling blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt following Hamas' takeover in 2007. Today, the territory is unrecognisable.

Experts say the Israeli bombing is among the most intense in modern history. Gaza health authorities say the death toll already has eclipsed 23,000 people, roughly 1% of the Palestinian territory's population. Thousands more remain missing or badly wounded. Over 80% of the population has been displaced, and tens of thousands of people are now crammed into sprawling tent camps on small slivers of space in southern Gaza that also come under Israeli fire.

Jamon Van Den Hoek, an Oregon State University mapping expert, and colleague Corey Scher of the City University of New York's Graduate Center, estimate that roughly half of Gaza's buildings have likely been damaged or destroyed, based on satellite analysis. "The scale of likely damage or destruction across Gaza is remarkable," Van Den Hoek wrote on LinkedIn.

The human cost is equally mind-boggling. The United Nations estimates that about one-quarter of Gaza's population is starving. Just 15 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially operational, according to the U.N., leaving the medical system close to collapse. Children have missed months of school and have no prospects for returning to their studies.

"Gaza has simply become uninhabitable," wrote Martin Griffiths, the U.N.'s humanitarian chief.

It's all connected The war has rippled across the entire Middle East,

threatening to escalate into a broader conflict pitting a US-led alliance against Iranian-backed fighter groups. Almost immediately after the Hamas attack, Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon began striking Israel, triggering Israeli retaliatory attacks. The back-and-forth fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has not erupted into a full-blown war. But it has come perilously close, most recently after a Jan. 2 airstrike blamed on Israel that killed a top Hamas official in Beirut. Hezbollah responded with heavy barrages on Israeli military bases, while Israel has assassinated several Hezbollah commanders in targeted airstrikes. At the same time, Iranian-backed Houthi fighters in Yemen have carried out a series of attacks on civilian cargo ships in the Red Sea. Meanwhile, Iranian-backed militias have attacked US forces in Iraq and Syria.

The United States has dispatched warships to the Mediterranean and Red Seas to contain the violence. Late Thursday, the US and British militaries bombed more than a dozen Houthi targets in Yemen. The Houthis vowed to retaliate, raising the prospect of an even wider conflict. Israel can't ignore the Palestinians. Throughout his time in office, Netanyahu has repeatedly attempted to sideline the Palestinian issue. He has rejected various peace initiatives, dismissed the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority as weak or irrelevant, and promoted policies that left Palestinians divided between rival governments in Gaza and the West Bank. Instead, he has tried to normalise relations with other Arab countries in hopes of isolating the Palestinians and pressuring them to accept an arrangement that falls short of their dreams of independence. Just before 7 October, Netanyahu was boasting of efforts to forge ties with Saudi Arabia. The Hamas attack, along with a spike in violence in the West Bank, have put the Israeli-Palestinian conflict back on centre stage. The war now tops the newscasts worldwide, has prompted four visits by Blinken to the region and resulted in a genocide case against Israel in the U.N. world court. The Saudis have revived the possibility of establishing ties with Israel, but only if this included the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. "The painful developments of the last 100 days have proven beyond doubt that the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people cannot be ignored," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

There's no postwar plan As the war drags on and the death toll mounts, there is no clear path for when the fighting will end or what will follow. Israel says Hamas can play no part in Gaza's future. Hamas says that's an illusion. The US and the international community want a revitalised Palestinian Authority to govern Gaza, and steps toward a two-state solution. Israel objects. Israel wants to maintain a long-term military presence in Gaza. The US does not want Israel to reoccupy the territory. Reconstruction will take years. It is unclear who will pay for it or how the required materials will enter the territory through its limited crossings. And with so many homes destroyed, where will people stay during this lengthy process? "Our lives 100 days ago was excellent. We had cars and houses," said Halima Abu Daqa, a Palestinian woman who was displaced from her home in southern Gaza and is now living in a tent camp. "We have been deprived of everything," she said. "Everything has changed and nothing remains."

Ukraine attacked

of a large crater made by a downed missile. "As a result of being hit by the debris of an enemy missile, several private homes and non-residential buildings were damaged, one building was practically destroyed," the police wrote. No people were hurt but a dog was killed, police said.

Automation of

second secretary, tax education, advertisement and tax legal, NBR also spoke on the occasion and the members of the Board of Directors of DCCI were also present at the workshop.

BNP's movement still

issues to talk to them... we will talk to everyone and formulate the fresh programmes, and then inform you." He said that the ruling party is now celebrating by forming a government with illegal entities. "Such a festival of the ruling party will one day be the festival of the people through their (AL's) defeat and through their fall." The BNP leader said that the ruling party is rejoicing by depriving the people of their right to vote by conducting

one-sided elections, just as ferocious and bloodthirsty animals like wolves and lions catch prey and feast on it. "The pleasure they take in preying on people will one day lead to dire consequences for them. On that day the people will be victorious," he warned. Rizvi said people's justified movement for justice and democracy will never go in vain. "It is a record of history and it is a testimony of history. The people are not defeated...evil forces can restrain the wave of people for a while but they won't be able to stop it. He alleged that their party's jailed leaders and workers have been staying in a suffocating atmosphere as the prisons have become Hitler's concentration camps. "The highest level of oppression has been applied there (in jails), taking away all basic human rights of (the prisoners belonging to the opposition parties)," the BNP leader said. He also claimed jailed senior BNP leaders, including its Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas and Amir Khosru Mahmud "The highest record number of people died in custody in a few weeks. Sheikh Hasina's jail is only comparable to the brutal persecution of Hitler's concentration camps," the BNP leader observed. He said the dummy government felt the warmth of illegal power by unleashing the law enforcers against the common people, but the farmers, labourers, day laborers and low-income people are going through serious ordeals due to shivering cold, especially in the northern part of the country. "I call upon the rich people and the leaders and workers of BNP to stand by the helpless people," Rizvi said.

Textile, RMG

12pm to 8pm every day until February 4.

Bangladesh reports

cases and 3,18,749 recoveries last year. Last year's September was the deadliest month for the dengue outbreak, with 396 fatalities and 79,598 cases, according to DGHS data.

Taiwan ruling

busy time for the island-wide rail service. On Friday, the Taiwan Railway Administration predicted a record 758,000 in ticket sales - higher than any previous election.

Venezuela's

which hit 686 per cent in 2021 - is struggling with one of the worst inflation crises in the world. Shaken by a serious economic meltdown, the country saw its GDP contract by 80 per cent between 2013 and 2021.

That figure from the Central Bank is similar to estimates from private organizations, such as the Venezuelan Financial Observatory which predicted inflation of 193 per cent in its bolivar currency. The OVF attributed the slowdown to a lesser depreciation of the bolivar and a policy of 'salary reduction,' since salaries have not increased since May 2022. The Venezuelan government had also tried the bet on cryptocurrencies in 2018, in part due to inflation but also because of the US embargo on oil. But the 'Petro', the state cryptocurrency, will disappear on January 15 following a perceived failure of the currency and a corruption scandal. The only consolation for Venezuela today is that it has ceded the title of worst inflation in 2023 to Argentina, which closed with an increase in peso prices of 211 per cent, after the slow fall of its own currency and a move by the new president, Javier Milei, to devalue it by another 50 per cent after taking office in December.

Red-alert issued

Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 365 at 9:00am, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The IMD said red alert has been issued in Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh and yellow alert, in view of cold and foggy conditions, has also been issued in Rajasthan.

Mild cold

country's maximum temperature was recorded at 26.4 degree Celsius at Teknaf in Chattogram division and today's minimum temperature was recorded at 8.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur in Rangpur division. The sun will set at 5.31pm today and rise at 6.43am tomorrow in the capital.

New committee of

newly elected Secretary General Quader Gani Chowdhury. In the meeting held under the chairmanship of Modabber Hossain, senior vice president of outgoing committee, newly elected president Ruhul Amin Gazi, general secretary Kader Gani Chowdhury, vice president Obaidur Rahman Shaheen, Muhammad Khairul Bashar and AKM Mohsin, assistant general secretary Bachir Jamal, Sadiqul Islam Swapan and Ehteshamul Haque Shawon; Organizing Secretary Erfanul Haque Nahid; Office Secretary Abu Bakar and Publicity Secretary Shahjahan Saju, Executive Council Members Shaheen Hasnat, Arpana Roy, Muhammad Abu Hanif, M Hamidul Haque Manik, Mirza Salim Reza and Abdur Razzak Bachchu, Outgoing Committee Office Secretary Tofail Hossain, Publicity Secretary Mahmud Hasan, Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists General Secretary Saleh Noman, Journalist Union Feni President Siddique Al Mamun, Narayanganj District Journalist Union General Secretary AKM Mahfuzur Rahman, Munshiganj Journalist Union President Kazi Biplab Hasan and General Secretary Mohammad Rubel were present. After assuming office, both the newly elected president and general secretary pledged to restore the dignity of the organization and accelerate the struggle for the rights of journalists. They said that the country's media is going through a crisis period. This crisis is existential. In this situation, we have to work to protect the freedom of

the media. It is to be noted that on December 29, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists--BFUJ election was held.

36 new Covid

Bangladesh reported its first Coronavirus case on March 8, 2020, while its first death was on March 18 that year.

5-member probe

Defence media cell official Anwarul Islam, 13 fire-fighting units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze around 3.40am, which broke out at around 2:25am. Lieutenant Colonel Tajul Islam Chowdhury, director (operations and maintenance) of fire service, said they could not find out the actual cause behind the fire.

US military strikes

The White House said in November that it was considering redesignating the Houthis as a terrorist organization after they began their targeting of civilian vessels. The administration formally delisted the Houthis as a "foreign terrorist organization" and "specially designated global terrorists" in 2021, undoing a move by President Donald Trump

Lt. Gen. Douglas Sims, director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday's U.S. strikes were largely in low-populated areas, and the number of those killed would not be high. He said the strikes hit weapons, radar and targeting sites, including in remote mountain areas.

As the bombing lit the predawn sky over multiple sites held by the Iranian-backed rebels, it forced the world to again focus on Yemen's yearslong war, which began when the Houthis seized the country's capital.

Citizen welcome

with floral greetings by various professional organizations including the Freedom Fighters Association.

It should be noted that in the 12th National Assembly election, the independent candidate of the truck symbol in Naogaon-4 (Manda) seat, SM Brahmani Sultan Mamud Gama, the nominated candidate of Awami League, Adv. Nahid was elected MP after defeating Morshed Babu by a margin of 23 thousand 48 votes.

At least 10 killed

bureau said the accident occurred at about 2:55pm (06:55 GMT) on Friday due to a coal and gas outburst at the mine owned by China's Pingdingshan Tianan Coal Mining company.

The emergency agency said it was investigating the cause of the accident. A safety inspection campaign in coal-rich Pingdingshan, in Henan province, could disrupt coal production there and strain coal supplies.

Last November, coal prices in China jumped after the country's cabinet promised to ramp up safety checks as deaths from accidents in the top coal-producing region Shanxi rose sharply. Those in charge of the mine have been taken into custody. Xinhua reported, but did not say how many people were being held. Mining safety in China has improved in recent decades, as has media coverage of major incidents, many of which were once overlooked. However, accidents are still common in an industry with a poor safety record and where regulations are not necessarily enforced. In 2022, 245 people died in 168 accidents, according to official figures. Last month, 12 people were killed and 13 injured in a mining accident on the outskirts of Jixi city in northeastern Heilongjiang province. Eleven people were killed in November in an accident at another coal mine in the same province. And in September, at least 16 people were killed in a coal mine fire in southwest China's Guizhou province.

Dog meat: Why

delicacy which is easy to digest and boosts energy, especially during a hot summer. So it came as a shock to many during the 1988 Seoul Olympics - at that point, the largest international event South Korea had ever hosted - when criticism of dog meat consumption began hitting the headlines around the world. "Initially, many people, especially the social elites were angered, perceiving it as a disrespect to other cultures. However, over time, more people felt shame and became more critical," Dr Joo said. Fast-forward more than three decades, and South Korea is a very different country, not least in how many people eat dog meat. According to a Gallup poll last year, only 8% of people had tried dog meat in the past 12 months, a significant decline from 27% in 2015. Figures provided by the Korean Association of Edible Dog, an organisation representing the industry, also point to a decline. It says there are now about 3,000 dog breeding farms in South Korea, a significant decrease from 10,000 in the early 2010s, but also considerably higher than the government's figure, which puts the number at about 1,100. Meanwhile, pet ownership has surged. Survey data from 2022 suggests one in four South Koreans own pets, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. In December, it was reported that pet strollers had outsold baby buggies for the first time last year, although this could be as much a reflection of South Korea's declining birth rate as its love of animals. And then there is the president.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DHAKA

Memo No. 37.07.2600.009.34.001.23.897

Date: 09-01-2024

e-Tender Notice: 27/2023-2024

(Open Tendering Method)

e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works/goods mentioned below:

Table with 5 columns: SL No., Tender ID, Name of works, Online Tender Publishing Date (On/After), Online Tender Opening & Closing (Date & Time). Row 1: 01, 935035, Construction of Four Storied Academic Building with Four Storied Foundation Including Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification works at BPATC School & College under Savar Upazilla, Dhaka District, 10-Jan-2024, Please visit Tender Notice in e-GP Website.

- i) This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
ii) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
iii) The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.
iv) Further information and guidelines are available in the Procuring Entity Office, National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Zahurul Karim) Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Dhaka. 07/07/2023 09.01.2024

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরতলা জেলা কারাগার (jailsuperborlana@gmail.com) পত্র নং ৫৮.০৮.০৮০০.১৫৫.০১.০৬.২৪-২০৪ তারিখ ১১-০১-২০২৪ খ্রি. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Table with columns for item number, description, and other details.

Afcon 2023: Senegal defend title as Mohamed Salah eyes win with Egypt

SPORTS DESK

Mohamed Salah has lost two Africa Cup of Nations finals with Egypt, against Cameroon in 2017 and Senegal at the 2021 edition. Coverage: World Football at Afcon podcasts on BBC Sounds, commentary on the BBC World Service in Africa and news, round-ups, reports and live text coverage on BBC Sport website. Mohamed Salah will be looking to captain Egypt to a record-extending eighth triumph when the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) gets under way in Ivory Coast on Saturday after finishing as a runner-up with the Pharaohs twice. The Liverpool forward missed out on penalties in the 2021 Afcon final against Senegal, with former Reds team-mate Sadio Mane netting the winning spot-kick. The defending champions are firmly among the favourites to lift the trophy but face threats from across the continent - with the unpredictability of the tournament underlined by the fact the past seven editions have produced seven different winners. Morocco are Africa's top-ranked team at 13th in the world after their historic run to the semi-finals at the 2022 World Cup, while Nigeria can boast the striking firepower of African Footballer of the Year Victor Osimhen. Hosts Ivory Coast are bidding for a first title since 2015 and Algeria will be searching for a vast improvement after crashing out as holders in the group stage two years ago. I cannot recall a stronger field," Senegal forward Mane, who now plays his club football in Saudi Arabia, said.

early 2024 to avoid the rainy season in West Africa. Brilliant goals by Premier League stars heading to Afcon 2023. The switch to being played in the middle of the European season for the second time running has caused a club versus country debate to flare up again, with Salah stepping away from Liverpool's Premier League title challenge after netting 14 league goals so far this season. Reds boss Jurgen Klopp may have joked about hoping the 31-year-old forward returns to Anfield soon, but Salah has no regrets. "I want to win this competition having come so close twice," he said before the North Africans departed for Ivory Coast. "I am so happy to play in this wonderful African tournament and my team-mates and I are desperate to succeed. Every time I step on the pitch I am conscious of my role - I am representing millions of Egyptians. "We know the streets of Cairo and other cities, towns and villages will be empty when we play." Yet Manchester United and Andre Onana have been blasted as "out of touch" after the Cameroon goalkeeper decided to stay with the Red Devils for their Premier League game against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday. The 27-year-old, who has endured dips in form since his move to Old Trafford in July, is expected to miss his country's Group C opener against Guinea on Monday. "For me, this is disrespectful from United and it is really low from Onana to even consider it," former Indomitable Lions defender Sebastien Bassong told the BBC's World Football at Afcon podcast.

were runners-up in 2004. Morocco will face Tanzania, the only representatives from East Africa, and former champions DR Congo and Zambia in Group F. Shock 2012 winners Zambia, managed by former Chelsea and Ghana coach Avram Grant, impressed in qualifying after missing the past three tournaments. "We're going there to fight and to bring pride again to our country, mother Zambia, and to just make sure that we get the best out of this tournament - not only for ourselves, but for our nation as well," Copper Bullets striker Patson Daka told BBC Sport Africa. Media caption, Afcon 2023: Sadio Mane and Achraf Hakimi and scorers of best goals from last tournament Burkina Faso reached the last four in Cameroon two years ago and join Mali among the dark horses for the title, with Tunisia led by the experienced Youssef Msakni, who is set to play at a record-equalling eighth Afcon final. Nigeria are three-time winners yet their hopes appear to rest on the threat of Osimhen, who finished eighth in the 2023 Ballon d'Or after firing Napoli to a first Serie A title in 33 years. However, the West Africans have been hit by injuries to forward Victor Boniface and influential midfielder Wilfred Ndidi, and Super Eagles boss Jose Peseiro has been criticised by supporters for both selection and recent results. "We are capable of winning this tournament because the squad is packed with players who are performing exceptionally well for their European clubs," Osimhen said. Mohammed Kudus celebrates after scoring for Ghana at the 2022 World Cup in Ghana, coached by former Newcastle and Brighton manager Chris Hughton, have also come under fire after enduring a mixed start in 2026 World Cup qualifiers. The Black Stars, four-time continental champions, failed to progress from their group at the 2021 Afcon and have been drawn alongside Egypt in Group B. West Ham's Mohammed Kudus has emerged as Ghana's star man, but fellow forward Andre Ayew is present for his 8th Afcon and could become the first player to score at seven different editions. Stuttgart striker Serhou Guirassy, with 17 goals in 14 Bundesliga outings this season, could help Guinea go far at a tournament likely to spring surprises, with both unfancied Equatorial Guinea and debutants The Gambia reaching the quarter-finals at the 2021 finals. Cape Verde, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau have all become regular qualifiers, but the latter two sides are still awaiting their first victories at the finals. South Africa, 1996 champions, are back and bolstered by a strong core of players from Pretoria-based club side Mamelodi Sundowns, winners of the inaugural African Football League, while Angola, Namibia and Mozambique complete the contenders from the south of the continent.



Alcaraz Motivated to Topple Australian Open King Djokovic

STAFF REPORTER

Carlos Alcaraz says the challenge of toppling 10-time champion Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open gives him "extra motivation" as he aims to end the Serbian's long reign in Melbourne, AFP reported on Saturday. The Spanish world number two missed the Grand Slam last year with a leg injury but is seeded to meet Djokovic in the final in Melbourne. The pair have met five times -- all in semi-finals or finals -- with the veteran leading 3-2. Djokovic, 36, is unbeaten at the year's opening major since 2018 but Alcaraz, who came out on top in a thrilling Wimbledon final last year, said that only increased his desire to win. "It's an extra motivation for me," the two-time Grand Slam champion said on

Saturday. "I'm an ambitious guy. "I always want to play against the best players in the world to see what my level is. Obviously it's a good test, playing against him in the places or in the tournament that he's almost unbeaten. "Yeah, I am looking to reach the final and hopefully playing a final against him. It would be great, obviously." Alcaraz is aiming to become just the fourth man to win three majors before turning 21 after Rafael Nadal, Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander. The 20-year-old chose not play a warm-up tournament before the Australian Open, which starts on Sunday, saying he had to recharge his body and mind. "We discussed with my team, as well, that we need almost four, five weeks of pre-season to prepare well

this season, for the first Grand Slam of the year," he said. "We have no time if I wanted to play a tournament before the Australian Open. In the end we preferred to come here to the Australian Open, straight to a Grand Slam. I think I'm a guy who doesn't need so much competition before a big tournament." The Spaniard is in Melbourne without his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, who has had knee surgery. Instead he will be coached by Samuel Lopez, who worked with former world number one Ferrero during his playing career. Alcaraz admitted losing Ferrero was a blow but said he trusted Lopez. "I believe in him, Juan Carlos, as well," he said of Lopez. "I think I can learn a lot from him as well. Let's see how is going to be. As I said, I trust him 100 percent."



"All the giants are going to be in Ivory Coast and all of them will be plotting to dethrone us. I believe [this] Nations Cup will be the toughest to win." The 24-team format will see the top two in each of the six groups qualify for the last 16, with the four best third-placed sides also progressing to the knockout stages where the overall winners will pick up \$7m (£5.5m) in prize money. BBC viewers in the UK will be able to see 10 games live, including two quarter-finals, both semi-finals and the final on 11 February, while the World Football at Afcon podcast will have discussions rounding up every matchday. The tournament was originally scheduled to be played in June and July last year, but has been shifted to

With forward Bryan Mbeumo injured, Vincent Aboubakar is again expected to lead the line for five-time winners Cameroon after his eight-goal haul won the golden boot at the last edition. Expectations have risen for Morocco after beating Belgium, Spain and Portugal on the way to a historic World Cup semi-final appearance in Qatar in 2022. Morocco are prominent among the favourites - with Paris St-Germain right-back Achraf Hakimi a stand-out talent - but it is almost half a century since the Atlas Lions won their sole continental title in 1976. Quarter-finalists last time out, Walid Regragui's side will also need to overcome whatever mental hurdles they need in order to advance to a first Afcon semi-final since they

Stuttgart striker Serhou Guirassy, with 17 goals in 14 Bundesliga outings this season, could help Guinea go far at a tournament likely to spring surprises, with both unfancied Equatorial Guinea and debutants The Gambia reaching the quarter-finals at the 2021 finals. Cape Verde, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau have all become regular qualifiers, but the latter two sides are still awaiting their first victories at the finals. South Africa, 1996 champions, are back and bolstered by a strong core of players from Pretoria-based club side Mamelodi Sundowns, winners of the inaugural African Football League, while Angola, Namibia and Mozambique complete the contenders from the south of the continent.

SPORTS DESK

Coverage: Daily commentary from 07:00 GMT on Tennis Breakfast on Radio 5 Sports Extra and BBC Sounds, with selected live text commentaries and match reports on the BBC Sport website and app. When asked how it was possible to top a stunning 2023 season, Novak Djokovic started his answer before the question had finished. "Well, you can win four Grand Slams and Olympic gold," Djokovic said with a smile. Knowing everything we do about the 24-time major champion, the likelihood is he was deadly serious about achieving that in 2024, in spite of the humorous delivery. The Serbian great might be turning 37 in late May, and has won almost everything in the game there is to be won, but his insatiable appetite for success is not slowing down. "It's not a secret that I want to break more records and make more history of the game. That's something that keeps on motivating me," said the men's world number one, who won the Australian, French and US Open titles last year. he Serb holding multiple individual records, Djokovic's place in the pantheon of the sport is assured. So what other achievements will Djokovic be targeting in 2024 and the remaining years of his career? Five storylines to watch at the Australian Open Standing alone with 25 Grand Slam titles While it is already hard to argue against Djokovic being the greatest player of all time, he is currently level with Australian Margaret Court in the metric most easily used to determine the best. Djokovic, like all top

players, places the most emphasis on the Grand Slams and fine-tunes a personal calendar, which has been stripped down in his advancing years, to peak at the most important tournaments. That move has paid dividends, with Djokovic winning seven of the 10 majors he has been able to play since the start of the 2021 season. This dominance has enabled him to surpass the tallies of contemporaries Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams, moving him alongside Court and providing an opportunity to stand alone with a record-extending 11th men's singles title at this month's Australian Open. Djokovic is undoubtedly the favourite to win at Melbourne Park again, having not lost a match there since 2018. "Being on Australian soil, I always play my best and feel my best here," said Djokovic, who said he is not feeling any pain after a recent wrist injury. "I really want to start the year in the best possible way. It's important to have the right start and launch into the rest of the season." Novak Djokovic is alongside Margaret Court with a record 24 Grand Slam titles, followed by Serena Williams (23), Rafael Nadal (22), Steffi Graf (22) and Roger Federer (20) Landing the Olympic gold which eludes him The raw emotions shown in his most recent Olympic defeats illustrated how much mental focus Djokovic has put on winning the gold medal which has continued to elude him. Tears streamed as he walked off court after a first-round defeat by Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro at Rio 2016, while he was disconsolate following a semi-final loss to Germany's Alexander Zverev at Tokyo 2020.

If he lands the title at Paris 2024, Djokovic would become only the fourth singles player - following in the footsteps of Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal - to complete a career 'Golden Slam'. Graf became the only player to achieve a calendar 'Golden Slam', winning all four majors and the Olympics in the same year, when she swept the board in 1988. Asked about the upcoming Olympics, Djokovic said: "It is definitely one of the highest goals this year. "It's going to be a very congested schedule, going from the slowest to the fastest surface in sport back to the slowest - clay, grass, clay, then hard court. Obviously, that's a very demanding, challenging stretch of the year." Novak Djokovic reacts during his defeat by Alexander Zverev at the Tokyo 2020. Djokovic won an Olympic bronze at Beijing 2008, finished fourth at London 2012 and Tokyo 2020, but lost in the first round at Rio 2016. Achieving a rare Calendar Slam For so long Djokovic has been trying to elevate himself above Federer and Nadal in the race to be deemed the greatest men's player of all time, and another achievement which would separate the Serb is a calendar Grand Slam. Australian great Rod Laver - in 1969 - is the only man to win the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open titles in the same year since the Open era began. Djokovic has come close several times. Most notably was the 2021 effort when he won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon, falling at the final hurdle when he was beaten by Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final. Djokovic won three majors in three other years - 2011, 2015 and 2023 - and believes he can complete a clean sweep before he retires. "It might seem unrealistic or impossible to some. It might seem arrogant to some. I don't know," Djokovic said. "When I'm fit, when I'm at the peak of my performance, I can win any Slam or any tournament. I know that. I'm not afraid to say that. "That mentality is not changing for 2024 or any next year potentially that I play." Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam titles by year: 2008 (1), 2009 (0), 2010 (0), 2011 (3), 2012 (1), 2013 (1), 2014 (1), 2015 (3), 2016 (2), 2017 (0), 2018 (2), 2019 (2), 2020 (1), 2021 (3), 2022 (1), 2023 (3) Surpassing Connors to lead ATP titles Away from the majors, Djokovic has achieved even more landmarks which make it almost inarguable that he is the greatest man to have played the game. Clinching the end-of-season ATP Finals last year ensured he is the standalone record holder of seven titles. Another key indicator for longevity of success is the world rankings and Djokovic is approaching 400 weeks as the world number one - more than any man or woman in history. There is one significant record he does not hold. American player Jimmy Connors won 109 ATP Tour titles between 1972 and 1989, a marker which has never been beaten. Federer came close with 103 and beating them both could be a target for Djokovic, who has won 98 tour-level events. "I have always the highest ambitions and goals. That's not going to be different for the next year,

Australia women seek pre-World Cup intel from Bangladesh tour

SPORTS DESK

Australia women's team are eyeing their maiden bilateral series in Bangladesh in March as an important tour ahead of the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup later this year which will be hosted in the same country. The Aussies will play an ODI and T20 series against the Nigar Sultana Joty-led team which their national selector Shawn Fledger views as a valuable opportunity to gather information about the playing surfaces in Bangladesh ahead of the T20 World Cup. "We've got a couple of venues in Bangladesh that the World Cup will be played at so that will be part of the investigating during the tour, about how wickets are going to play,"



Flegler told ESPNcricinfo. The Bangladesh tour will give the defending champions a chance to gain first-hand experience of what it's like to play T20s in this part of the world. The Australian women's have travelled to

Bangladesh only once before, way back in 2014 during the T20 World Cup, where they defeated England in the final to lift the cup. Only four members of that champion Australia side - Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry, Beth

Mooney and Jess Jonassen - remain in the current setup. Earlier, Bangladesh captain Joty termed the forthcoming series against the world champions as a great opportunity for the Tigresses to test their mettle.