Djokovic wins record-tying 24th Slam

AFP, *New York*

Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets on Sunday to win his fourth US Open and a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, cementing his claim as the greatest tennis player in history.

The 36-year-old Djokovic won 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era and match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most Grand Slam victories.

"I don't know where to start. It obviously means the world to me," said Djokovic, wearing a white jacket with the number 24 on his chest during the trophy presentation.

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Vehicles negotiate the waterlogged New Elephant Road after heavy rains in the capital yesterday afternoon. Commuters had to face traffic jams in many areas of the city due to waterlogging. PHOTO: **ANISUR RAHMAN**

Irregularities in good faith!

Fisheries official uses own car as rental to pocket public money

MD ABBAS

A project director of the Department of Fisheries has used his car as a leased vehicle for his project and earned money from the lease.

SM Ashikur Rahman, the project director of the protection and development of local species of fish and snails in Gopalganj, had refused to use a government-provided vehicle claiming it to be old and risky, according to a complaint.

He later bought a Nissan X-Trail bearing the registration number Dhaka Metro Gha-22-1416 and leased it to a rent-a-car service provider. Ashikur then allegedly helped the firm win a bid so that his vehicle could be used in the project, which is a violation of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules-1979.

The Section 17.1 of the rules stipulate that no government servant shall, except with the previous sanction of government, engage in any trade or undertake any employment or work, other than his official duties.

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MEETING WITH MODI

Biden raises rights issues, free press

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden on Sunday said he raised the issue of respecting human rights with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in discussions on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

He also said that he held "substantial discussions" with PM Modi on ways to strengthen the Indo-US partnership and thanked him for his leadership and hosting the summit in New Delhi, reports NDTV online.

> **"As I always do, I raised the importance of respecting human rights and the vital role the civil society and a free press have in building a strong and prosperous country with PM Modi."**
>
> US President **Joe Biden**

Biden, who arrived in Delhi on his first visit to India as the US president, held wide-ranging talks with Modi and they vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

"I want to once again thank Prime Minister Modi for his leadership and his hospitality and for hosting the G20. He and I have had substantial discussions about how we're going to continue to strengthen the partnership between India and the US building on the Prime Minister's visit to the White House last June," Biden said during a press conference in Vietnam's Hanoi.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Steps taken to rein in inflation

Finance minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal has told parliament that the government has taken different measures that will help control inflation.

"The government has drawn up various plans and is implementing them to control inflation, improve the balance of payments, and stabilise the foreign exchange rate," he said while responding to a question from Awami League lawmaker Mamtaz Begum yesterday.

Kamal said the central bank announced a contractionary monetary policy, raising the policy rate from 6 percent to 6.5 percent to control the supply of taka.

The bank has also announced that the exchange rate of the taka with other foreign currencies, including the US dollar, will be market-based, he said, adding that unnecessary imports were also being discouraged.

Prefinance and refinancing schemes have been introduced for the agriculture sector,

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Oil rigs near Crimea recaptured from Russia

Says Ukraine, seizes helicopter munitions, radar system; UN rights chief criticises Moscow for quitting grain deal

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukrainian forces have regained control from Russia of several gas and oil offshore drilling platforms close to Crimea, Ukraine's military intelligence (GUR) said yesterday.

It said on the Telegram messaging app that Kyiv's forces had retaken the drilling platforms known as the "Boiko Towers" in a "unique operation".

The platforms had been occupied since 2015 by Russia, which seized and annexed Crimea in 2014, and had been used by Moscow for military purposes since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion on Ukraine in February 2022. Russia did not immediately comment on the report.

"For Ukraine, regaining control of the Boiko Towers was of strategic importance and, as a result, Russia lost the ability to use them for military purposes," GUR said in a video posted on Telegram.

"Russia has been deprived of the ability to fully control the waters of the Black Sea, and this makes Ukraine many steps closer to regaining Crimea," it said.

GUR also captured other "valuable trophies" such as helicopter munitions and a radar system that can track the movement of ships in the Black Sea, it said.

> **Ukraine claims limited gains on southern and eastern fronts.**

Meanwhile, the United Nations rights chief Volker Turk yesterday blamed Russia's exit from the Black Sea grain deal as well as its attacks on agricultural facilities for higher food prices that have been particularly damaging in the Horn of Africa.

"The Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July, and attacks on grain facilities in Odesa and elsewhere, have again forced prices sky-high in many developing countries – taking the right to food far out of reach for many people," Turk said at the opening of the Human Rights Council session in Geneva, referring specifically to high malnutrition rates in Somalia amid drought.

Ukraine said yesterday its troops had regained more territory on the eastern and southern fronts in the past week of its counteroffensive against Russian forces.

Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said in televised comments that Ukraine had retaken nearly 2 square km (0.77 square mile) of land around the eastern city of Bakhmut, captured by Russia in May after months of fighting.

Scientists generate electricity from deadly bacteria

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have managed to generate electricity from the deadly E coli bacteria in a "groundbreaking" breakthrough. And the finding could revolutionise both waste management and energy production.

Bioelectronic experts from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) have managed to engineer the bacteria to produce electricity in a variety of settings.

The team used a process known as extracellular electron transfer (EET) to engineer the bacteria to make them highly efficient electric microbes.

This led to a three-fold increase in electrical current generation compared to conventional strategies.

According to the study published in the journal Joule, the researchers were able to create a complete EET pathway within E coli, a feat not achieved before.

Professor Ardemis Boghossian at EPFL said: "We engineered E coli bacteria, the most widely studied microbe, to generate electricity.

"Though there are exotic microbes that naturally produce electricity, they can only do so in the presence of specific chemicals.

Star BUSINESS

Wage growth stays behind inflation

Low and unskilled workers continue to see their standards of living worsen as their wages have not grown in line with the spiraling food and non-food prices.

The wage growth for low and unskilled workers grew 7.58 percent in August, which was 2.34 percentage points below the inflation rate of 9.92 percent, shows BBS data.

August was the 19th consecutive month that inflation outpaced wage growth.

STORY ON B4

Volunteers search for survivors in the rubble in the village of Talat N'Yacoub, south of Marrakech, Morocco yesterday. PHOTO: **AFP**

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

Rescuers race to find survivors

Death toll rises to 2,681; foreign teams join rescue efforts

REUTERS, *Imgdal*

Rescuers yesterday searched villages reduced to rubble for any survivors of Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades, in a desperate race against time as the death toll rose to 2,681 and the scale of destruction became clearer.

Search teams from Spain, Britain and Qatar were joining efforts to find people buried under debris after a 6.8 magnitude quake struck late on Friday night in the High Atlas Mountains, with the epicentre 72 km southwest of Marrakech.

Many survivors spent a third night outside, their homes destroyed or rendered unsafe. The state news agency reported the death toll was now 2,681 with 2,501 people injured.

Footage from the remote village of Imi N'Tala, filmed by Spanish rescuer Antonio Nogales of the aid group Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras (United Firefighters Without Borders), showed men and dogs clambering over steep slopes covered in rubble.

"The level of destruction is ... absolute," said Nogales, struggling to find the right word to describe what he was seeing. "Not a single house has stayed upright. We're going to start our search with dogs and see whether we can find anyone alive."