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Clinical Sinner retains Aus Open crown

AFP, Melbourne

A clinical Jannik Sinner swept past Alexander Zverev to retain his Australian Open title on Sunday and cement his status as the world's dominant player in men's tennis.

The 23-year-old Italian came through a tense final between the two highest-ranked players 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena, raising his arms in the air and looking to the sky in celebration.

In doing so he became the first Italian, man or woman, to win three Grand Slams, surpassing Nicola Pietrangeli.

The emphatic victory

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Palestinians wait to be allowed to return to their homes in northern Gaza, in an area in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip, yesterday, after being displaced to the south by Israel's order during the offensive.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump floats plan to 'clean out' Gaza

Wants Egypt, Jordan to take Palestinians from the territory

AFP, Palestinian Territories

US President Donald Trump floated a plan to "just clean out" Gaza, and said he wants Egypt and Jordan to take Palestinians from the territory, as a fragile truce between Israel and Hamas aimed at permanently ending the war entered its second week yesterday.

A senior Hamas official told AFP that the Palestinian group would oppose Trump's idea to relocate Gaza civilians to Egypt and Jordan.

"I'd like Egypt to take

people. And I'd like Jordan to take people," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, adding that he expected to talk to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

"You're talking about

probably a million and half

people, and we just clean

out that whole thing,"

Trump said of Gaza, whose

population is about 2.4 million, adding that

"something has to happen".

"I'd rather get involved with some of the

Arab nations and build housing at a different

location where they can maybe live in peace

for a change," Trump said, adding that moving

Gaza's inhabitants could be "temporarily or

could be long term".

Trump's new administration has promised

"unwavering support" for Israel, without yet

laying out details of its Middle East policy.

He confirmed Saturday he had ordered the Pentagon to release a shipment of 2,000-lb bombs for Israel which was blocked by his predecessor Joe Biden.

While Israel and Hamas completed their second hostage-prisoner swap under the ceasefire deal on Saturday, a last-minute dispute blocked the expected return of hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to the Gaza Strip's devastated north.

Israel announced it would block Palestinians' passage to the north until a civilian woman hostage who the prime minister's office said "was supposed to be released" on Saturday walks free.

A Hamas source told AFP that the woman, Arbel Yehud, will be "released as part of the third swap set

for next Saturday".

After a 42-day initial phase, the deal's second phase is to see negotiations for a permanent end to the war, but analysts have warned it risks collapsing because of the deal's multi-phase nature and deep distrust between Israel and Hamas.

During the first phase, 33 hostages should be freed in staggered releases in exchange for around 1,900 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

➤ Hamas vows to oppose Trump's bid to relocate Gaza civilians

➤ Israel keeps crossing closed, accuses Hamas of breaching deal

Rift between July uprising leaders, BNP not expected

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said yesterday that "distance or misunderstanding" between student leaders or the forces of the July uprising and the BNP is not expected.

He made the remarks in a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday.

The law adviser's remarks came after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir recently told BBC Bangla that a neutral government would be required for the upcoming general elections if leaders of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement form a new political party while remaining part of the interim government.

In his post, the law adviser hinted at an apparent distance between the students and BNP and said such distance has encouraged and caused leaders and activists of the Awami League to become reckless, which was evident over the past few days.

In the past two days, social media has been rife with rumours of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, advisers, and student leaders going into hiding, he said



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Home adviser acknowledges crime streak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday acknowledged that incidents of mugging and extortion were continuing in various parts of the country, including Dhaka.

"While perpetrators are being arrested, many return to criminal activities after their release. Efforts are on to curb these offences as much as possible," he said while speaking to reporters after inspecting the Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

The adviser said, "There is no shortage of police personnel, but perhaps their motivation for work has declined. We are taking every steps to reinvigorate them."

His remarks came amid a surge of reports on various crimes, including mugging, extortion, and

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1 killed, 10 hurt in AL factional clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narasingdi

A 19-year-old man was killed and at least 10 others were injured in clashes between two factions of the Awami League in Narasingdi's Raipura upazila over the dominance of an area.

The deceased was identified as Alamgir Hossain, a resident of Bashgari village under the same upazila, said Md Adil Mahmud, officer-in-charge (OC) of Raipura Police Station.

OC Adil initially said two people had been killed in the clashes but later revised it to one death. He explained that since the location is remote, locals first reported two fatalities. However, the police team found one body at the scene.

Locals and police said there was a long-standing dispute between Bashgari Union Parishad's former chairman Ashraful Haque Sarkar and the incumbent Chairman Zakir Hasan Ratul.

Both of them are affiliated with the Awami League but none holds any post in the party, said OC Adil.

Quoting locals, police said followers of Ashraful

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Shafiqul terms ex-home boss 'butcher of Bangladesh'

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam has sharply criticised the media outlets that are giving platforms to people like former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, terming Kamal the "butcher of Bangladesh".

"Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal is the butcher of Bangladesh," he said yesterday, referring to the killings of children, students, workers, and rickshaw-pullers.

Responding to a question at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the evening, Shafiqul said no one in the world gives a platform to a "butcher" and interviews a "butcher".

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Ex-army chief KM Saifiullah passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major General (retd) KM Saifiullah, the first chief of independent Bangladesh's army and a prominent sector commander of the 1971 Liberation War, passed away yesterday. He was 90.

The valiant freedom fighter breathed his last at about 8:45am while undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in the capital.

He was admitted to the hospital on January 2 with multiple complications, Lt Col Sami-Ud-Daula Chowdhury, director of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate, told this newspaper.

Saifiullah had been ill for a long time. He suffered from multiple health

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Gold, dollars found in SK Sur's BB locker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday found assets, including 1.05kg gold, in a locker at Bangladesh Bank, belonging to former deputy governor SK Sur Chowdhury.

The assets also include \$1,69,300, and €55,000, and fixed deposit receipt worth Tk 70 lakh, said ACC Director Kazi Saemuzzaman after searching Sur's locker at the BB.

He said BB officials are permitted to maintain personal lockers at the central bank for keeping their valuables. The recovered assets will remain in BB's custody until these are presented before a court.

The ACC carried out the operation following a court order after SK Sur failed to submit details of his assets despite repeated notices.

Saemuzzaman added that the commission is investigating whether these assets were declared in Sur's tax filings.

On January 19, the ACC raided Sur's residence in Dhamondi and seized Tk 16.25 lakh, along with savings certificates and insurance documents worth Tk 4.45 crore. During the operation, information about three flats owned by Sur was also obtained.

The former deputy governor was arrested on January 14 in a case filed on December 23, 2024, for failing to provide a wealth statement to the ACC.

A Dhaka court sent him to jail that day.

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Fortune Barishal's Pakistani all-rounder Faheem Ashraf celebrates one of his five wickets that guided his side to an eight-wicket victory over Sylhet Strikers in a Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The win helped defending champions Barishal seal a spot in the playoffs.

MARTIAL LAW DECREE S Korea's Yoon indicted for insurrection

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's prosecutors yesterday indicted impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on charges of leading an insurrection with his short-lived imposition of martial law on December 3, the main opposition party said.

The charges are unprecedented for a South Korean president, and if convicted, Yoon could face years in prison for his shock martial law decree, which sought to ban political and parliamentary activity and control the media.

His move set off a wave of political upheaval in Asia's fourth-largest economy and a top US ally, with the prime minister also impeached and suspended from power and a number of top military officials indicted for their roles in the alleged insurrection.

The prosecutors' office did not immediately respond to requests for

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