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## Pacers lead Tigers to glory

NABID YEASIN

The 101-run win over hosts West Indies in the second and final Test in Jamaica on Tuesday was the fitting way for Bangladesh to close out the 2023-2025 World Test Championship (WTC) cycle – the best one the Tigers experienced to date.

And, while there have been sporadic flashes of brilliance coming from batters, bowlers or fielders, the one department that often set the tone in the recent wins in the longest format is the Tigers' pace unit.

The convincing victory not only saw Bangladesh bounce back to draw the two-match series but also marked the Tigers' first win in the Caribbean in 15 years.

It was also the third away Test win for Bangladesh this year and the first time that they managed to win a total of four Tests in a single WTC cycle.

In fact, in the previous two WTC cycles, Bangladesh managed to win just a solitary game – a historic victory against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in the second cycle (2021-2023) after going winless in their first WTC foray between 2019-2021.

Winning a Test requires a team to possess the ability to scalp the opposition's 20 wickets – a reality that haunted the Tigers for a long time. However, with the core group of

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Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz takes a selfie with teammates after their 101-run win over hosts West Indies in the second Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday. Having suffered a 201-run hammering in the first Test in Antigua, the Tigers bounced back to level the two-match series 1-1.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

### FACEBOOK POST

## Hindu temples, houses attacked in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least two temples were ransacked and “many” homes and shops of the Hindu people were vandalised at a remote village in Dowarabazar upazila of Sunamganj on Tuesday night, said locals.

Officials said they were yet to assess how many properties had been damaged.

A mob attacked Manglargaon village after local Muslims said a 21-year-old Hindu man posted an image on Facebook around 7:40pm that hurt their religious feelings, said Zahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dowarabazar Police Station.

“As locals demonstrated, saying that they were outraged by the Facebook post, we took the man in custody for his safety. The mob attacked our team and tried to snatch him. They then vandalised the man and several others' houses and shops owned by Hindu people,” he said.

Later, army personnel arrived at the spot and they along with local, political, and Islamist leaders calmed the situation, he added.

Khokan Roy, general secretary of Kendriyo Loknath Mandir in Sunamganj town, said, “The mob ransacked a Loknath temple and stole valuables worth over Tk 15 lakh. They also vandalised almost 100

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## Banks were considered ‘the best place to rob’

### BB governor tells NYT about 15-year AL rule

STAR REPORT

Ahsan H Mansur has said he never witnessed “any country where the highest level of the government, engineering with the help of some goons,” managed “the systematic robbing of the banks”.

“The highest level of political authority realized that the banks are the best place to rob,” the Bangladesh Bank governor told The New York Times in an article titled “How a Country's Economy Was Siphoned Dry”.

Bangladesh's currency was battered by what the new head of the central bank says was the looting of the banks under deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government.

Mansur calculates that about \$17 billion was siphoned from the country's financial system in the 15 years before the fall of the Hasina regime.

Using a web of financial schemes, Mansur said, the perpetrators in the government and at some of the country's biggest companies pulled off what was “effectively the largest bank heist in the history of money”. “Whole boards were hijacked,” said the governor.

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## Over 700 escaped prisoners still at large

### Militants, death row convicts among them, says IG prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 700 inmates, including death row convicts and militants, remain at large around three months after they escaped from different prisons during and after the July-August mass uprising.

More than 2,200 prisoners escaped on and after August 5, and around 1,500 have so far been rearrested, said Brig Gen Syed Mohammad Motaheer Hossain, inspector general of prisons, during a press briefing at Prisons Headquarters yesterday.

The escaped prisoners include 70 militants, death row convicts, and individuals accused in sensational cases, he said, adding that efforts to recapture them are underway, he added.

In response to a query, Motaheer identified 17 out of 69 prisons across the country as at risk of collapse since these are very old with vulnerable infrastructure.

The government is aware of this issue, and the process of rebuilding some of these prisons is already underway, he said.

Since August 5, as many as 174 prisoners linked to militant outfits, including JMB, and 11 top criminals have been released on bail, the IG prisons said in response to another query.

“The release of prisoners is entirely under the jurisdiction of the court,” he said.

Motaheer said they have implemented a series of reformative measures to improve conditions at prisons, including better meals

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**The escaped prisoners include 70 militants, death row convicts, and individuals accused in sensational cases**

## Rejoinder, our reply

Jatiya Nagorik Committee sent a rejoinder to our report titled “Nagorik Committee members split over ex-Shibir leader joining,” published on November 26, saying the report was a one-sided portrayal and appeared to align with the divisive tendency to stigmatise individuals.

The rejoinder said as a democratic platform, they follow a transparent process for each and every decision they make including the inclusion of any member, which naturally involves differing opinions.

“Singling out one individual while emphasising their past involvement with Islami Chhatra Shibir unfairly perpetuates a divisive narrative and undermines their right to engage in politics. Not only that, this report attempts to propagate a divisive narrative and undermines an individual's right to engage in politics,” it said.

Besides, the rejoinder said that there was no agenda regarding the inclusion of any members in the general meeting organised on November 22, let alone any vehement

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## MPs begin push to impeach South Korean president

AFP, Seoul

South Korean lawmakers yesterday accused President Yoon Suk Yeol of declaring martial law to stop criminal investigations into himself and his family, as they kickstarted a push to impeach him.

Yoon's declaration of South Korea's first martial law in over four decades was swiftly overturned by lawmakers in a night of drama, but has plunged the country into political turmoil and alarmed its close allies.

The future of Yoon, a conservative politician and former star public prosecutor who was elected president in 2022, now looks highly uncertain.

After jumping fences and tussling with security forces to get into parliament and vote down the martial law overnight, South Korea's opposition lawmakers have filed a motion to impeach Yoon.

The motion says Yoon “gravely and extensively violated the constitution and the law” and accuses him of imposing martial law “with the unconstitutional and illegal intent to evade imminent investigations... into alleged illegal acts involving himself and his family”.

Lawmakers could vote on the motion as soon as the early hours of Friday morning and Yoon's prospects look bleak.

The opposition holds a large majority in the 300-member parliament and needs only a handful of defections from the president's party to secure the two-thirds majority needed to pass the motion.

The main opposition Democratic Party has

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Yoon Suk Yeol

## 12 remanded in cases over violence at Ctg court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday placed 12 accused on a six-day remand in two cases over attacking police and obstructing their duties during violent protests over a former ISKCON leader's arrest.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sarker Hasan Shahriar passed the order after Kotwali police sought seven days to grill the suspects in custody, said Mofizur Uddin, additional deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

The 12 accused are Joy Nath, Runit Das, Nayan Das, Gagan Das, Sumit Das, Aman Das, Bishal Das, Sonu Methor, Suman Das, Rajesh Das, Durlav Das, and Ajay Sutradhar Chowdhury. They were produced before the court amid tight security in the morning.

On Monday, a local court granted police a seven-day remand of eight others accused in another case of attacking the police and obstructing their duty.

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## UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES Student leaders for council polls by early Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination and 29 other student organisations have agreed on demanding elections to student councils at universities and colleges across the country by late January or early February.

The decision was announced last night following a meeting between Students Against Discrimination and other student organisations at the former's office in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

“We have reached an agreement that elections to student councils at all universities and colleges, including Ducus, should be held by the last week of January or the first week of February,” Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, told reporters.

The platform's nine-point demand include banning partisan student politics on campuses.

“For over a decade, campuses were dominated by Chhatra League through a type of authoritarian political culture. This created a sense of fear among a generation about student politics. Also, debates have surfaced across educational institutions since August 5 about whether to allow student politics and in what form,” Hasnat said.

He said the student leaders agreed to address the negative aspects of past politics and reform them to

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Polythene bags, which were used for packaging chemicals, are being washed in the Buriganga, polluting the river. These bags will be recycled. The photo was taken in the capital's Islambagh area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### MASS UPRISING

## Amu, Qamrul shown arrested in genocide case

### ICT sends them to jail

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League ministers Amir Hossain Amu and Qamrul Islam have been shown arrested in a case filed at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) over their involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide during the July uprising.

The three-member ICT bench, led by Justice Golam Mortuza Mazumder, sent the two to jail after they were produced before it yesterday.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to bring Amu and Qamrul before it on December 17.

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