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Today, we proudly present **"REFORM & REBUILD"** the fifth and final instalment of our special supplement series. This edition brings you a compelling collection of interviews and articles on the reform efforts reshaping Bangladesh in the aftermath of the July Uprising. **Don't miss out—grab your free copy from your hawkker today!**



Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai celebrates after taking the final England wicket, sealing an eight-run win in their Champions Trophy Group B fixture in Lahore yesterday. Omarzai's five wickets helped bundle out England for 317 after his 41 runs and Ibrahim Zadran's 177 had propelled them to 325-7.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

### Interim govt has UN's full support

Guterres tells CA; will visit on March 13-16

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in a letter to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, has reaffirmed his solidarity and support for the transition process under the chief adviser's leadership.

Guterres, who is set to visit Bangladesh, from March 13 to 16, for the first time since the political changeover on August



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### POLLS CANDIDATES, STRATEGY

## BNP meet today to seek info from grassroots

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is holding an extended meeting today to gather opinions of its grassroots about possible election candidates and its polls strategy.

The party's future direction will be prepared by grassroots leaders, sources said.

Senior leaders also said that this extended meeting has been called to evaluate their movements on the streets over the last 17 years.

They said that they will get an idea from the statements of grassroots leaders about the potential candidates for the election, their popularity, and their connection with the leaders, and activists in their respective constituencies.

Party high-ups said that nominations for the next parliamentary polls will be given to the candidates who were in the movements and contributed to the party.

"The main feature of this extended meeting will be the

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### Mahfuj Alam new info adviser



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser Mahfuj Alam has been given the portfolio of the information ministry to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Nahid Islam.

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## Ukraine can 'forget about' joining Nato

Says Trump; Zelensky insists on 'security guarantees' ahead of Washington visit

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday brushed aside Ukraine's aspirations to join Nato, again repeating Russia's stance that the issue caused the three-year-old war.

"Nato -- you can forget about," Trump said when asked about a potential deal to end the war. "I think that's probably the reason

the whole thing started."

His statement came despite President Volodymyr Zelensky softening his stance on signing an accord on rare minerals.

He said he hopes to visit Washington this week to meet Trump and discuss future US support for Ukraine.

Zelensky, who has come under mounting pressure from US officials to sign an accord

on rare minerals, told reporters -- including from AFP -- that Ukrainian and US officials were working to confirm a meeting with Trump in Washington tomorrow.

He later told a press conference that he will immediately follow the trip with talks with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and other European leaders in Britain at the weekend.

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### Bangladesh scores better in freedom index

Says Washington-based research group

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh scored 45 out of 100 in the Global Freedom Score, gaining five points over last year, according to Washington-based pro-democracy research group Freedom House.

In its annual "Freedom in the World" report, the Freedom House said

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QUL KHWANI

We deeply mourn the sad demise of Dr A.M.M. Shawkat Ali, retired secretary and former Advisor to the caretaker government. Innalillahe wa inna elaehe rajeun. He passed away early morning, on February 23, at United Hospital. His Qul Khwani will be held on Friday, February 28, baad Asr at Gulshan Society Mosque (Road 63). All relatives, well wishers and friends are requested to attend and pray for the departed soul.

Farida Shawkat & Family

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